



CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

In this next series of *Care Conversations*, we look at some quotes from Emeritus Professor Seymour Sarason (who has since passed on). He established the Yale Psycho-Educational Centre, and wrote numerous books and articles.

The quotes over the next five weeks are taken from an interesting little tome called *Teaching as a Performing Art*. We will reflect on these quotes in relation to some perennial tensions of classroom teaching – are we there to engage the students, to entertain them, to control them? And what Biblical principles can we use to think about these aspects of teaching life more deeply and clearly?

Happy teaching.

Sincerely,

Dr Tina Lamont

Director TEC

The Excellence Centre

Series 5:

TEACHING AS A PERFORMING ART

REFLECTION BY
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Number 2:

TEACHING FROM THE HEART

When Peter preached the first sermon, as described in Acts 2, he taught from his heart. This appears to be a new thing for Peter, who at other times seemed to be bold, but not subtle, and missing some of the deeper things of Christ's teaching.

The impact of Peter's teaching was amazing – *When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"* (verse 37). Peter had 'presence' – the presence of the Holy Spirit. Such presence is not unlike what we enjoy from any good performer:

A performing artist is one who uses him or herself to convey an emotion, or situation, or imagery, intended to be meaningful and stimulating to an audience. The 'message', whatever the medium, is for the purpose of evoking in others the response 'I understand and believe what I am seeing and believing. You have not left me cold, you have engaged me.' (Sarason p.6)

People certainly understood and believed Peter – how about our teaching?

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Fyson PhD
Principal Consultant
The Excellence Centre

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