



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 4:

## TEACHING : THE BIG PICTURE

Part of the research undertaken by Dr Rod Thompson revealed that many teachers in Christian schools did not know enough Scripture to explain the 'Big Picture' of the Bible. Thompson has even explained that such a lack of understanding of all Scripture can minimize our understanding of who Jesus is.

I remember the opposite occurring when some teachers started studying the Old Testament more systematically. They came into my office one day exclaiming: *Now we get it! We can see how it all connects!* But the next explanation was the most encouraging: *So now we can include it more in our teaching.*

Educationalists like Seymour Sarason have seen the impact of similar dynamics within this classroom:

*... for the difference between an interesting and a tedious teacher consists in little more than the inventiveness by which the one is able to mediate these associations and connections, and in the dullness in discovering such transitions which the other shows...* [Sarason p. 112]

Let's see what we can do to help all our teachers understand the Big Picture of God's wonderful work so that they can share more of it with their students.

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Fyson PhD  
Principal Consultant  
The Excellence Centre

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