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Dear Friend,

Welcome to *TEC Connects*. Your monthly newsletter! You will find that it is filled with educational information, helpful hints and tips, events, news and even some product offerings. Our focus is *connection* and we want to bring value to your passion for Christian Education so please, please share your feedback and suggestions with us. Perhaps you have a great event, photo, story or quote you would like to share with us... please do send them in. We also love to hear your questions and comments, so stay in touch.

We hope you enjoy this month's *Connects*!

info@theexcellencecentre.org

THE CHIPPED CUP

by Tina Lamont

A relatively new source of inspiration is my *Facebook Feed*. Admittedly, there is so much advertising and sales promotion and I am aware that I am a victim of targeted sales marketing. However, occasionally I receive snippets of motivation and stories that encourage me. Here is my attempt to recount a recent inspirational story I came across.



A retired professor was mentoring a group of undergraduates. One student asked, "Sir, how does one acquire happiness?" The Professor answered, "Before I answer that question let us have a drink together. Do you all drink hot chocolate?" The students all eagerly agreed and the Professor went to his kitchen and brought back cups of delicious hot chocolate on a wooden tray. The cups ranged in sizes, colours and shapes. Some of the cups were exotic, some fine bone China, some were plastic mugs and some had chips and cracks. He invited his students to take a cup from the tray. The students eagerly took a cup and as you would expect the best China went first and the chipped or cracked cups went last. They drank every drop, as the hot chocolate was very good.

Then the Professor asked, "Did you enjoy the hot chocolate?" The students replied with positive affirmations such as, delicious, superb, amazing and so good. The Professor then proceeded to address the students. "Life is like that hot chocolate. We all get to partake in life. Some of you wanted to have the best China cup and maybe thought it would taste better. Sometimes, we strive so hard to have the best of everything and we think that will make our life better. We strive for the best job, the best house, the best car or even the best wife or husband. The striving to get the best or be the best can produce incredible stress and worry. It does not add to our quality of life or give us the "*perfect peace*" scripture talks about. Hot chocolate in the chipped cup tastes the same as hot chocolate in the fine bone China cup. Our western society wants us to think that the best adds to the enjoyment of life. In reality, the struggle can produce a lot of stress or worry.

So let us not stress on *getting* or *being* the best but trust in the one who knows what is best for us. Life can be like hot chocolate, enjoy it, for this is where joy or happiness is found. You cannot chase it since you already have it. Hear what the Bible says:

"So I commend the enjoyment of life because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun." Ecclesiastes 8:15

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THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MOVEMENT

By Graeme Irwin, Executive Principal, St Philip's Christian College, Newcastle, Australia.

There is a strong tradition and history of Christian Schooling in Australia. It is always good to honour those founding fathers who paved the way for this movement. Recently a gathering was held to honour one such founding father, Bob Frisken. Staff and students, from the early days of Christian Community Schooling, described the faith adventures that were undertaken together. Many educational leaders of today gave testimony of the impact that Bob's life has had on their calling and work. Here we recount one such speech from the night, Graeme Irwin, Executive Principal of the St Philip's Christian College group of schools. The start of his talk is below, and you can read all of it by going to the website – enjoy!

SPEECH:

It is good for the soul of the Christian School Movement that we honour the fathers and founders of the movement.

Jeremiah 17:7, 8 says, “Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.”

Bob, we honour you as someone who has put their roots deep down into Christ and has produced much fruit. Bob, we honour you this evening because you have played a major role in the pioneering work that now sees more than 300 Christian Schools across Australia.

More....

Bob Frisken is currently the President of New Hope International, a network of Christian schools which aims to bring hope to the people of the world, by promoting Christian schooling and integrated community development. For the past 40 years Bob has championed the Christian Schools Movement in Australia, to read more about Bob go to our [website](#).

TEC NEWS

TEC NOW OFFERS 3 ADDITIONAL NESA ACCREDITED COURSES

We are deeply pleased to be able to extend the service of TEC to its partner schools. The initial five courses that are accredited have been extended.

Courses currently available include:

- *Workable Routines in the Classroom*
- *Managing Challenging Behaviour*
- *Religious Backgrounds*
- *Differentiation Strategies for ASD Students*
- *Feedback to Improve Student Performance*

With the addition of:

- *Teaching for Problem Solving and Critical Thinking*
- *SMARTER Goals for Improved Teaching and Learning*
- *Policies, Safety and Care*

All from a Christian perspective.

Please check out our [website](#) for further details or speak to a consultant today
Ph: +61 2 96510712

DAVID SMITH FROM CALVIN TO VISIT

The banner features a dark red background with a white geometric pattern of intersecting lines. At the top, the text "SCHOOLS LEARNING TOGETHER" is written in white. Below this, the name "DAVID SMITH" is prominently displayed in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath the name, the date "Wednesday 23rd August" is written in white. In the bottom left corner, a black diagonal banner contains the text "Last Chance' Free seminar" in white. In the bottom center, there is a circular portrait of David Smith, a man with grey hair. To the right of the portrait is the Calvin College logo, which includes a red shield with a white 'C' and the text "Calvin COLLEGE 1876" below it.

SCHOOLS LEARNING TOGETHER

DAVID SMITH

Wednesday 23rd August

'Last Chance'
Free seminar

Calvin
COLLEGE
1876

TEC is honoured to bring you Dr David Smith, *Academic & Author*, from Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He will be leading a seminar on “Teaching and Christian Practices: *Reshaping Faith & Learning*.” This will be held at Pacific Hills Christian School, 3.30 – 5.30 pm with afternoon tea will be included. We hope you will join us. RSVP to info@theexcellencecentre.org

To read more about this event [click here](#).



3:30 pm, PHCS with Special Guest Dr David Smith.
“Curriculum Challenges for Christian Educational Leaders”

To read more about this event [click here](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING



23 August

Schools Learning Together Seminar:
Dr David Smith, Sydney

25 August

[Equipping Leaders Evening Sydney](#)

25 October

Schools Learning Together Seminar:
Dr Don Roy, Sydney

10 November

Aspiring Leaders Retreat 1, Sydney

17 - 18 November

Mentor the Principals, Sydney

There is much happening in the life of TEC so keep a watch on Facebook and on our website

www.theexcellencecentre.org

CONNECT WITH TEC



**Blog posts by Dr
Ted Boyce:**

[God's Revealed plan
in Human
Relationships](#)



We're building a global
community and
sharing the Gospel
through Social Media.

- Motivation
Monday



[How to Exercise
authority Wisely](#)

[Being Careful in What
We Say](#)

[Three Great Surprises](#)

[The Need For Self-
Acceptance](#)

- Verse of
the Day
- News & Info
- Quotes
- Upcoming
Events
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