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CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

We are basing this semester's Care Conversations on the TEC Leadership Matrix.

Building relational trust is the bedrock of a Christ-centred community. Jesus modelled relational trust as He invested in the lives of others. Trust is a value of the kingdom and is established on the basis of love. Embedded deep within our humanity is the desire for authenticity in our relationships – trust enables the exchange of authentic relationships. A community shaped by love and trust invites people into a purposeful place where they can serve in truth and depth of conviction.

Yours in Christ,

Series 14:

COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL FORMATION

REFLECTION BY BRIAN COX

Consultant in Leadership & Education

Number 5:

T R U S T

BUILDING RELATIONAL TRUST

The aim of Biblical Christian Leadership includes moving communities of people towards Christ-exalting purposes. Leaders help to discern God's purposes and to encourage a team of people to work interdependently towards those purposes.

"...it's important for leaders to concern themselves not only with the mission they seek to achieve through others, but also with the relationships between those who are involved in achieving that mission."^[1]

Jesus did not simply instruct His disciples; He lived His life with them. He loved them and trusted them and a culture of love and trust therefore developed.

Paul understood that love. He understood the need for deep connection; the need for truth lovingly communicated. His love meant a willingness to be both

vulnerable and bold. He understood the love, care and intimacy of Jesus. Thus, His leadership reflected that same love.

“Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.^[2]”

Biblical Christian communities are special. We are not bound together by common interests and similar personalities. We are unified by a shared devotion to Jesus Christ. Our fellowship has the full force of the Triune God enabling it. ^[3]

Leaders must lead their communities to understand the depth and strength of these relational truths.

In practice, when leaders understand that the strength of relationship within the school community is enabled and sustained by the covenant power of the Triune God, trust develops.

Wise leaders will share some authority. They will provide opportunities for collaboration and consultation. They will steer the community rather than drive it.

Wise leaders will seek genuine feedback from community members and adjust practices in the light of considered contributions.

Mike Ayers suggests that leaders build trust in four ways; I’m suggesting five.^[4]

Character: This is a trust of consistency. Leaders act with integrity because they have moral character as a consequence of their relationship with Christ. They are believable, faithful, fair and sacrificial.

Care and Concern: Leaders have a high regard for the Body of Christ and the rich fellowship enabled by Him. Leaders who care, listen and encourage, and have awareness of needs within the community, call the community to prayer and sharing how those needs might be met.

Competence: Leaders must be capable, credible and be seen to draw upon God’s wisdom. They are dependable because they have God-given gifts and

use these gifts to lead the school effectively. Competence builds confidence and trust.

Communication: Truth and authenticity are essential as well as encouragement and critique. This leads to constructive improvement.

Celebration: I believe that celebration unifies, encourages and helps us to express our gratitude to God for His grace and blessing in the life of our school community.

Praying that our school communities will be places of strong relational trust.

Brian

[1] Mike Ayers *Power to Lead* (p185) 2015

[2] 1 Thessalonians 2:8

[3] Ephesians 2:11-22 (esp v 18)

[4] Mike Ayers *Power to Lead* (p 194-5) revised explanations by BC

Brian Cox

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So in Christ we, though many,
form one body, and each member
belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5

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