

Perspective: "You in your small classroom and..."

I read Mark Noll's "The New Shape of World Christianity" (2009) this summer and was reminded how much the make up of the global Christian community has changed since I entered grade one in 1954. He documents the tremendous growth that has taken place in Christianity outside of Europe and North America. He quotes historian Dana Roberts: "The typical late twentieth-century Christian was no longer a European man but a Latin American or African woman."

The demographic mix in your classroom this year, I suspect, will more than ever reflect a multi-ethnic and cultural mix. Globally we also see a transformation take place. In Latin America, Asia and Africa, more and more classrooms are being shaped by a Christian ethos and curriculum. Christian education is growing beyond our wildest dreams in parts of the world where we had thought godless communism, other religions and debilitating poverty would make a Christian classroom a futile prayer.

As your classroom curriculum takes shape this month, find time to inspire your students with the "good news" about the global impact of Christianity. We often despair when we see the in-roads secular society is making in the West; a curricular antidote is the blessing the student may experience as he or she sees the body of Christ grow numerically but also culturally. One exciting aspect you may offer your students is to help them discover how the Christian faith adopts and transforms indigenous cultures to express in new ways the blessings of the Christian faith.

We may think at times that our classroom or our school is what it is all about. As teacher you have the perfect opportunity to show your students the power of the gospel to transform the world. There are a lot of stories to be told. Whether your students are in kindergarten or grade 12, the stories will be compelling. There are many websites that are telling the story. Check our website at: www.christianteachers.ca/crossculturalpartners.cfm; or www.wwcs.org; and www.dunamiseducation.org Most churches have stories to tell as well.

Blessings to you all as you begin to shape the minds and hearts of the next generation. May God empower you with his spirit so you will not grow weary; but will be renewed by His strength. PVH

Membership Renewal & Convention Notes:

CTABC membership renewals and convention registration deadline is today, September 15, 2009. Please email your school's CTABC Membership Renewal and Convention Registration Form to our office asap. (ctabc@twu.ca)

There will be a workshop on **Sexual Identity Issues** that will run through three workshop sessions. We are limiting enrolment to three teachers-counselors per school. Administrators are asked to register teachers through the CTABC Office.

CTABC Annual General Meeting:

Will be held on **Thursday, October 8**. Each school should have a minimum of two teachers attend. AGM materials will be issued September 22 after the September 21, CTABC Board meeting. Those in attendance will have their food served to them and receive a Tim Horton's gift certificate. Those who want a Starbucks instead need to notify the CTABC office at least a week in advance of the AGM.

Prayer Concerns

Pray for the **five Christian schools we support in Honduras**. Our Bridging Cultures program was cancelled due to the political unrest there this summer. We thank God for Heidi Kerssies, Liz Freeman, Brenda Wind and Cheryl Becker for being our representatives in the program this year and regret their desire to serve could not be realized.

Ena Lanting, teacher at Agassiz Christian School, mourns the loss of her husband.

Anne Yeo, who lost her husband to cancer last year, is hoping her brother Benjamin, a teacher in New Zealand, will be able to move to Canada and find a job here. This would be a wonderful support for Anne and her children.

Teacher Exchange:

Bernard Kruik, a grade 4-6 teacher, from Southern Highlands CS, Bowral, Australia is very interested in a teacher exchange with someone in our BC schools. Please contact the CTABC office for more details.

Professional Development for Teachers: A New Committee

CTABC would like to to empower a committee of teachers to advise the board and its members what professional development can look like for the teacher over the next 10 years. We would like to see teacher representation from elementary, middle and high school. If you are interested in being on this committee please contact the CTABC office. To date the following are on the committee: Matt Beimers, representing the Christian Principal's Association; Grace Lo-Voo, the CTABC Board; Evie Loewen and Peter VanHuizen.



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