

Devotions for Christian Educators

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1. *Naturally Supernatural*

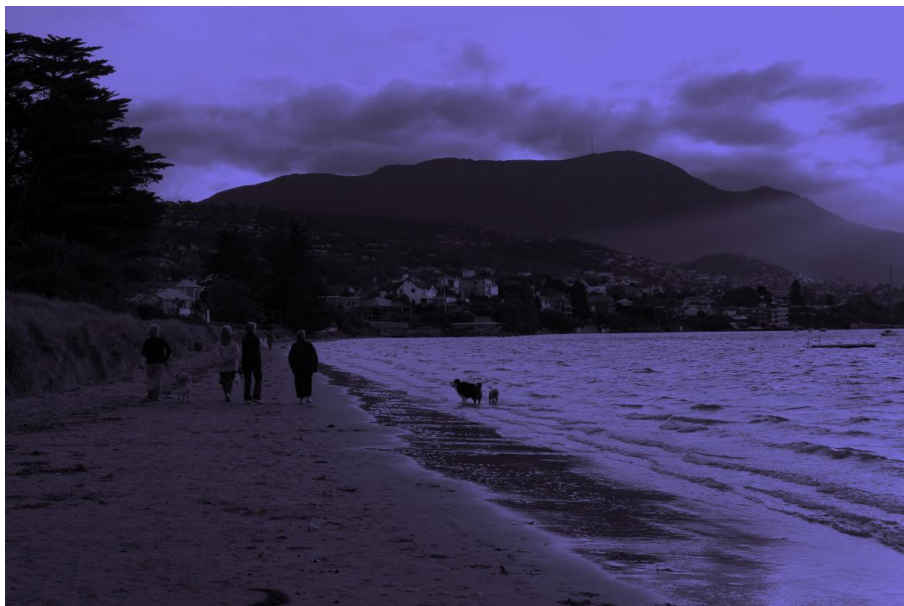
I come from Tasmania, land of the mysterious Tasmanian Tiger and aggressive Tasmanian Devil. It is a place of wilderness of world heritage value, and the rugged beauty is striking. Even in summer the peaks may well be snow capped. The Huon Pine trees growing along the Savage River were small saplings when Jesus was on the earth.

But it only takes the sound of an innocent singing of “Happy Birthday”, or a special smell, or the daydream of something lovely, to remind me that **I am from another place too**. Deep inside I feel that fairy tales must be true. I am a child of Narnia, of Oz, and also of the Looking Glass World and Middle Earth.

Last week I sat in the back of a busy classroom with an adult, and prayed over him for a serious need, professing life over something precious that was dead. Heaven opened and a strong presence of God came down. Nothing would have predicted this routine prayer would have such effect. The people in the room didn't notice that we had pushed through the back of the wardrobe and into Narnia.

We teachers are supernatural beings in a natural world. We are characters of the Second Book of Acts. Our expectation today and this week is that all about us are angelic beings, and overhead heaven watches on. The supernatural is natural in our school.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. NIV



2. The place of love in my classroom and school

If I teach and explain everything well to my students, *but don't love*, I am nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

If I am fluent with the latest best practice in contemporary education, *but don't have love*, I am nothing-my efforts are in vain.

If I have all the latest teaching technology to hand, *but don't love*, I've gotten nowhere.

So no matter what I may say, and what I do, I am quite bankrupt without love.

Love is patient when needing to explain again and again to students who just don't get it.

Love is merciful when others find fault with me.

Love doesn't envy when colleagues get recognition and I don't.

Love isn't proud, and doesn't boast about my achievements.

Love is flexible and allows me to change my plans to meet the needs of others.

Love doesn't shout at students or talk at them.

Love isn't me and my needs first in my classroom.

Love doesn't gossip the failures of students and colleagues.

Love looks for the best in all students and staff members.

Love never dies

All curriculum, textbooks and methods of pedagogy will pass away, but only *love* will remain forever.

1 Corinthians 13:1 *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.* NIV



3. I am thankful:

For the teacher
who bothers me with her annoying manner,
because she helps on the duty roster
and serves the team in lots of other ways

For the litter
that I too often have to pick up,
for it means my students have plenty
to eat, and can afford to buy from shops

For the feeling of tiredness
at the end of the day,
for it means I have been serving
God in ministry and I have employment

For my wage
even if teachers elsewhere get more,
for it means I don't have to rely on deputation
and seek support as do so many Christian teachers elsewhere

For my old textbooks and computers
as it means we have reliable electricity and some ICT facility,
and we do have desks, chairs, books , shelter
and viable facilities when others have minimal

For the sound of my alarm clock
as it means I am fit and healthy enough to be in meaningful work,
and I can go and serve God with my Christian colleagues on team
and I have the privilege of working in a paid ministry vital to the Kingdom

For my critics and detractors
for Jesus worked in the midst of the same,
and because God will use them to bring out the best in me
and somehow work all things for good because I am a believer

I am thankful!

1 Thessalonians 5:18 *In every circumstance of life be thankful; for this is God's will in Christ Jesus respecting you.*



4. Dad, what are you doing now?



This morning as I was getting ready for school, my little daughter kept asking me, "What are you doing now, dad?" After answering her about ten times in ten different ways, in exasperation I started to tickle her saying, "Tickling my favourite princess!" She then laughed, and said, "No, Dad, you are getting ready for school!"

No activity was too small or too insignificant to matter to her. In my education community and church I may be one person of no real prominence or significance, but to her I am the pivot of her world. In my classroom later in the day I realize I too am my heavenly Father's son - and I too should be asking throughout the day, "What are you doing, Dad?" Nothing of my day is too small for God, my Abba Father, and my life ought to be centred on the things my eternal Father is doing.

I am not going to miss out on what Abba Father is doing about me today. Every email and encounter with another person, and every "interruption" and seeming setback, is foreseen and part of His providential will for me.

*Luke 10:21 "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to **little children**. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.*

5. *Lord speak, for I am listening*

I don't expect God to send an angel to my classroom window today to announce, "Hail Teacher, full of grace, the Lord is with thee....etc".

But I confidently expect that within the routines and roller coaster day I face that occurs today on campus He will speak and not be silent. Not knowing what he will say makes the day holy, and the mystery is at what points of my hectic schedule will be selected to communicate. God will speak to me of things like courage, patience, trust, faithfulness, prudence and pride, to name but a few. Will I have the integrity to stand apart from the mockery of a colleague or a particular parent, or one of our students?

Can I manifest patience with that exasperating student, or will my agitation spill out?

Am I going to keep my predecessor on supervision duty waiting or will I arrive on time for my shift?

Perhaps today I will choose not to dwell on lines of thought that are vengeful, cruel or sleazy. I can choose to clasp onto noble thoughts and daydreams.

My seemingly insignificant choices powerfully affect all those around me. I am building up brick by brick, day by day, the Kingdom. My day is significant. My life matters. Today matters. I am **so** loved. He fondly watches over me. He speaks to me within my day.

1 Samuel 3:8 *Lord speak for I am listening.*



6. *The gods of this world*

The gods of the education world, like all gods of this world, are dying, aren't they? Carrying their mortal wounds they stumble about our schools and universities. Which gods? The gods we esteem like the god of developmental psychology who can't help the boy in the front of my classroom. And that god of the senior school exam board who sorts students into graduates and failures, prophesying over lives. The god of the new literacy movement promises that illiteracy will plummet when we embrace the new methodology-we know in the wings its replacement is soon to be released promising the same utopian things for the planet. We should remember too, our cherished god of Christian schooling that sees faith quarantined into chapel and multi-faith Religious Studies classes - the majority of the school week is a baptized secular curriculum hardly different from other schools about us. Where are the cadres of Luthers, Mother Teresas, Wesleys and Romeros promised from such hallowed schools? Where is the transformed and enlightened society all these gods promise?

The reality is, as you well know, these gods are no more worthy of your ultimate trust than the people who created them, those wizards of Oz who hide behind the machinery of philosophy and institutions. Today we walk up the hallways and into our classes to serve YHWH, great and mighty, whose ways are just and true.

Revelation 15:3-4 *"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you.*

Jeremiah 29:11

1 Chronicles 29: 11 & 12

Psalms 27 (esp. V8)



7. *Beside still waters*



Do you race through your day on automatic and miss the smile of one of your students whose day will light up if you give them one minute of focused attention?

Is your pot plant in bud or bloom and wanting to refresh you with its presence and declaration of the goodness of its creator?

Can you enter in abandon a song or story or sports activity today that for a couple of minutes will take you out of the humdrum and delight your inner child? He leads me besides streams of still water. If there is one thing my day seems to lack its stillness, for all is in motion. But *God promises me places of stillness and refreshing in my workday.*

Am I rushing by these places and moments because my predetermined idea of refreshing is the isolation of my sofa at home or my gym session? God is a person of endless variety and creativity. Within the weariness of his demanding daily schedule, where everyone was drawing down on him, Jesus the master teacher found a stream of refreshing.

In the presence of my enemies-the oppressive schedules, the mountain of homework to mark, the endless sequence of demanding students, that technology that is reliably unreliable, God sets out a banquet to nourish me. Today I am going to claim what's mine and look out for the tables prepared for me, the green pastures and the still refreshing waters. I am not going to be an express train and zoom through all His stations. I will stop and savour each one, even though the interlude be short.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

8. Resonance

One day this nuisance girl in my class will come back here on campus with an infant on her hip. She will proudly show off her offspring. Within her mind, unconscious and untagged as being mine, there are lots of life forming, faith building experiences I built within her in lesson after lesson, in classes just like today's.

I will receive an invitation to be part of an assembly in a church in times to come, and watch this lad nervously looking down the aisle for his beloved bride to be. He too will carry an inheritance that has guided him to this place today; I formed much of it in classes like today.

I will hear of that slovenly student graduating from Bible College in years to come. She will touch hundreds and more. Some of the stories and precepts she will share come from my classes.

Surely this boy will bury his dad and then his mum one day in the future. What I share today will steel him with hope to deal with that traumatic loss.

This girl will write encouraging text on line and in cyberspace that will be read around the world. The grammar and imagery she uses has much of its foundation in the rudiments of my lessons today.

I will quicken the pace to my class. What I do today will replicate into realms I can't imagine. It's not just the content of what I say and teach, it's the resonance of all this in my life that these students study day by day, and imbibe. Nothing I do today is mundane; I can't foretell what things I say, and does, that will echo down the generations. I must be about my sacred task.

1 Peter 5: 2- 4
1 Thess 1: 5 - 7
Matt 16: 26 - 27
Psalm 27
Psalm 121
Psalm 28: 7 - 8
Matt 5: 19

James 3:1 Not many of you should assume to become teachers, for your judgment will be more demanding.



9. *The Bible as a Story not just a Holy Book*

There are many genres of literature within the 66 books, and letters of the Bible

Try to match the list below with Bible stories or books:

- Horror (graveyard scenes/witchcraft), demons and devils (I Sam 28:1; Jn 11:31; Rev 12:3)
- War
- Travel log (Acts)
- Romance
- Family saga
- Giants, and dwarfs, and dragons (2 Sam 21:20; Is 27:1)
- Detective (Js 7; 14-24)
- Recipe/cooking
- DIY
- Legal drama
- Laws
- Poems
- Letters
- Power plays and intrigue in government, conspiracy
- Clothing and *haute couture* instructions
- Family sagas
- Biographies
- Pride prejudice and treason
- Building and rebuilding accounts
- Star wars Sci Fi (Rev 12:7)
- UFOs (2 Kings 2:11)
- Wise sayings and proverbs
- Medical dramas
- Fables parables, stories within stories
- Fishing and hunting stories (Mt 17:27)
- Spy (Josh 2:1)
- Generational clash
- Culture wars
- Rags to riches, commoners in the palace
- Boats and shipwrecks
- Races
- Assassinations
- Animal stories
- Farm stories

The Bible is many stories. There is the story before Genesis in heaven where a sector of heaven rebel against God, and the period before angels are created. We are part of the Second Book of Acts, our deeds and biographies are recorded in the book of heaven. The series of stories reel onwards. The bible stories are not in chronological order, time switches in the differing sections.

God has placed eternity in our hearts and a desire to understand the real story of reality (Ecc 3:11). Whether we choose evolution, or scientific socialism, or the Bible story- it is up to us.

Our overarching story is that of paradise lost, of a destruction of harmony in heaven through rebellion that finds expression on earth through the fall. In this

epic battle between good and evil a hero, a saviour is promised. Humans are not alone fighting the occupied planet. Satan may hold key tactical positions of power and influence and wage successful campaigns down the march of history, but those allied to the hero-savior are active and guaranteed that the cause of God will enjoy a triumph. There are lots of plots and sub plots in the saga of planet earth, creation itself cries out in the pain of this titanic struggle of a powerful but mortally wounded foe against a seemingly weaker bride of the hero.

The Author has written in a part for you as a teacher, you have been placed deliberately in the geography and time zone you now occupy. He has gathered around you a select group of students to influence in terms of eternity and now. Your life as well as your words forms the contours that shape the lives about you.

To make sense of today's news in the media and what is happening about your school community these students must understand the overarching story, *the metanarrative*. The Bible is somewhat like all the instruments of an orchestra, all play differing tunes, and adding contributions all manner of colours and dimensions. But a master score directs and shapes each individual instrument and each section into a whole unity which is the symphony. The symphony relentlessly builds towards the concluding resounding finale and the coda a summation of preceding themes, motifs, and emotions.

Our students need help to link their lessons, their lives, the school community and the news of the day, into this structure so they don't absorb the post modern philosophy which sees it all as unrelated and meaningless. Such a view sees reality as personal and denies the validity of our over arching story.

Jesus was the master story teller, he chose this mechanism not song or art or tableaux of law, nor a philosophical treatise to convey the truth. Let's follow his way and get our students to delight in all the genres of literature in the Bible and not lose THE STORY amongst all the stories. And lets not let our students be passive readers titillated by tales, let them understand that with their lives they are writing valiant and proud pages into THE STORY too-a story that is not just written in palaces and high places of power but in the very fabric of our suburbs and countryside



10. Eyes



You believe a lie “When you see with, not through, the eye” William Blake.

Our eyes can be titillated by the advertisers and media, our society, like Isaiah’s, (Is 22:13), is obsessed with the here and now. We live in the now culture. Hard work and self-denial have given way to the quick fix, and the credit card assures our graduates that they can have the good life now. The world wants us to keep wearing its glasses, (Mt 5:29; Lk 11:34). Our students, like us, need to see all through the eye of YHWH so that what is superficial is seen against the backdrop of eternity and His kingdom. Temptations, trials and situations on campus take on a supernatural hue when we are rid of our natural lenses.

What is significant in our classrooms is evident when the eyes of our hearts are open, (Eph 1:18). It takes practice and discipline, to look over the shoulder of Jesus and along his arm to where His index finger is pointing. But you and I have a high calling, and so today I am dedicating my eyes to God for sanctification- so I see what the Master Teacher sees. Shouldn’t your students be singing this song?

*Oh, be careful little eyes, what you see.
There's a Father up above, looking down in tender love,
So be careful little eyes, what you see.*

11. Heroes



Our students are seduced by the life of the Marylyn Munroes of our era. The lives of Hollywood stars fascinate, as do those of pop stars and sporting heroes. Their faces endorse all manner of products and services -and all are saying in a concerted signal that: self promotion, adulation and wealth, are the best that life on planet earth offers. In the face of such a deluge of well-prepared and cunningly transmitted signals on cell phones, across the net and TV, *stands you*. Heaven's resources are at hand to bless your efforts to make Esther's life of glamour and danger engaging, to show how Paul managed through shipwrecks, mobs, assassins and palace intrigues and other unforgettable exploits. The bible has great models of exciting lives and heroes we can promote. The daring acts of Mother Teresa won't sell cosmetics, but you can set up someone who is powerfully indwelt by God's Spirit, to show how tawdry the idols that compete for attention really are. If you are captivated by Wilberforce, Bonheoffer, and Romero, then you can fill the imaginations of your students with inspiring alternatives. The actions of these people when they were teenagers and young are particularly potent. Even the villains like Absalom and Jezebel can inform our high school students, for sometimes the understanding of their misuse of talents and power can be instructive. To create a generation of heroes, we need to share the narratives of heroes who have gone before us, and not vacate the field for our opponents to fill. You are surrounded by a cloud of heroes, and witnesses as you orient your students to the true champions of the history of planet earth,

Hebrews 12: 1 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

12. Devotional thoughts from our K9 friends



Do let yourself be loved, affirmed and petted. Teachers tend to be saviors and carers and always giving out. Don't shrug off that pat on the head or back that God sends your way. If you stare at students and adults long enough, and in a charming way, you will eventually get what you want. When someone puts you down and criticises you, don't indulge in guilt, rather run back into things and throw yourself at life anew. If you can growl at your students instead of biting them, you won't regret over reacting. When a student or colleague is having a bad day, be silent, sit close and affectionately touch. Eat with joy, slurp your drink, take a nap, stretch luxuriously on waking and engage all the new experiences that await you. When loved ones come in through your door always run up to meet them and make lots of fuss. Balaam's ass and the humble ant (Nu 22:30 and Pr 6:6) all instruct us. All good things are in heaven with God, so there must be all manner of dogs up there having a lot of fun- and waiting for us to join in the sessions of eternal feasting. In the last of the *Narnia* chronicles animals like the unicorn are in heaven, and they are even more real and more vivid than they were in the former world. So let's learn from the canines loved by their Creator, they may well be under our feet and on our laps in paradise

13. *Of snakes and lambs*

The snake was able, by crafty persuasion, to make Eve discontent with all that she had in the paradise of Eden. The snake in my classroom wants to make me lose my sense of peace and allure me elsewhere. In other schools I would be: paid more, the photocopier would be more reliable, I would be better recognised for my contributions, I would have less duties, my undisciplined students would face stronger discipline regimes, I would have better professional development opportunities, my annoying boss would be gone.....etc.

From time to time there is a divine call to move on, but the regular pull of greener and more distant fields is not something that originates in heaven. God has placed you in the school that you are in to serve the kingdom faithfully there. It is a laboratory to shape and grow your character. The Author and Director of your life will allow all manner of circumstances to come your way that are not pleasant or easy to handle. In all of this you will reach out and take Spirit empowered responses, or you will compromise and not succeed. The Teacher will allow you a repeat class; you will have to redo *Christian Character 101* again just as happened to Peter, (Jn 21-17).

Your calling is to lead students into righteousness and impart wisdom, (Dan. 12:3). Get on with feeding His sheep, your resources and energies may be few- but a school child's lunch box of fish and bread can be resource enough to feed the masses who demand so much of you. Expect and look for the supernatural to banish discontent from your ministry today.



14. What things bind up our students?



What things bind up our students? There is wrong thinking like, "I am what I own". There are emotional scars that come from a family member who says repeatedly, "You will never succeed at maths; our family is not the maths type". Finishing last in all races and sports events can bind one up in a false understanding that sporting achievement is impossible. In high school the boys might give priority attention and eye contact to other girls, so the notion that "I am unattractive" puts its cords of constraint about a teenager and so creates a root of bitterness that can result in flirting and eventually promiscuity. The teacher's love can embrace the bound student and begin to loosen the bonds. Affirmation, smiles, encouragement and appropriate touch from you today will help the butterfly in the struggle to wriggle free and eventually take wings of liberty. Jesus came to set the captive free (Tim. 2:6)

You the caring teacher can unwind the bindings; your hands can be serving as would Christ's. Part of your sacred task is to pray deliverance for your students of all that holds them back from fully expressing the talents God has placed within them. Go about your campus today contributing as you are able to the liberation of students as have all great teachers of the past. Raise their self image and their expectations, point to the power that the Holy Spirit gives to overcome and to keep overcoming so that a walk, run and leap in freedom is achieved as a matter of lifestyle.

15. Precision



To fly in formation at a great speed requires masses of training and discipline. It also requires teamwork. I can't connect in an optimal way with every student in my class. Gender, ethnicity or just personality differences mean I can only go so far. But there are other teachers who can touch the spirit of this student if I am humble enough to ask for help, and to pray for a colleague to succeed in my place. On staff I can affect some of my workmates at a heart level, others relate to me mostly on a professional level, But we fly in formation and I depend on them to cover my left flank, and I their right one. When we worship and pray together we are one, just as the plane formation seems like one organism until the jets split off into a starburst. I am setting an example for the younger teachers and honouring the more senior ones covering for areas where they are not contemporary. We have as many theologies as we have staff members-but we all fly the same colours and wear the team Guernsey. They are "my tribe" in ministry and I may feel critical of some of their ways within the campus situation but off campus I am their loyal defender, and they mine. Our dream is that all graduates fly in formation with Christ and join the adventure of enjoying our differences within an overall unity.

Romans 15:5-6 *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus.*

16. *Moving horizons- onset of vertigo*



Someday just staying airborne at school seems an impossible task. Good classes muck up, colleagues become grumpy, sickness dogs you, the traffic is awful, technology fails, and things throw you off balance. The horizon moves. Jesus was blindfolded, beaten, whipped mercilessly and dehydrated through blood loss and major trauma to his body. It would be a gross understatement to say he had a severe headache. Yet somehow in an environment seemingly out of control He maintained perspective, unlike the disciples. Well the male ones anyway. The women of his inner circle contributed as they could in the face of serious risk and violence.

The spirit of Jesus can dwell in you today bringing perspective. What are you called to do today? What will matter in one month's time? What is vital to the kingdom interests in your classroom today? Today is not the day to play at being Messiah-you don't have to rescue everyone and solve all problems that present themselves. Jesus didn't heal everyone that was about him, or pass out coins from mouths of fish to all who had a credit crisis. He doesn't require this of you. Your efforts to serve gently and with nobility in the flux of your predicament will work supernatural results today.

Luke 16:9 *I want you to be smart for what is right-using every adversity to stimulate you to creative survival, to concentrate your attention on the bare essentials, so you'll live, really live, and not complacently just get by on good behaviour.*

17. Foot and mouth



Imagine that you are really competent sports teachers. A routine vaulting accident when you are 24 years old leaves you paralyzed from the neck down.

There go all dreams of career, physical prowess and romance. Complications from the condition and operations threaten your life- could you manage?

Tomihiko Hoshino did. He is now Japan's most prominent Christian. In adversity he met the Lord and was released into the gift of painting. A long torturous process, resulted in him using his mouth to efficiently and deftly use a paintbrush, to paint scenes

from creation and add scriptures to them. He now has an electric wheel chair that he operates from his chin- and he is married.

His exhibitions have been visited by millions of Japanese and his witness magnified. His poems and books of paintings have been translated and published worldwide.

So whatever setbacks and challenges face you at school or your teaching institution today, remember that God will enable you to triumph through them, but probably not via the recipe or the outcome you prescribe, for the ways of heaven are far higher and grander than ours.

Romans 15:5-6 *We know that all things work together for good to those who love God.*

<http://www.hoshinotomihirousa.org/>

18. Pit Stop



In the noise and excitement of *Formula One* racing a vital part of the racing car success lies in the pits. This is the place where the cars fuel up and a very quick change of tyres or parts occurs. The support team work with great discipline and skill, the driver wants to exit the pit as fast as possible, so time and professionalism are paramount.

Who is in the pits for you? A spouse, family members, good friends and church members? Your pit crew keeps you in the classroom. At the end of the academic year you get presents and praise for your ministry. Do you thank your supporters earnestly? Are you praying for them and thanking God for your supporters? Maybe you want to put a date in your diary where each semester you find some way to affirm and encourage those who make up your pit crew. Paul wouldn't have been do effective outreach without his helper Timothy, and Jesus had a band of supporters. We are not lone professionals.

Let's bless, nurture and honour those who work in both minor and major ways to frame and fuel our teaching ministry.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

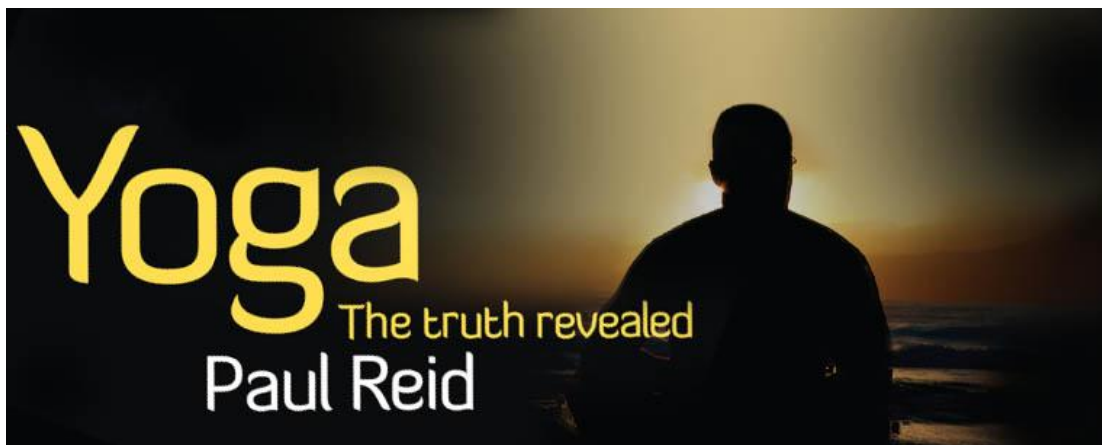
19. *The Power of our Craft*

The gift of teaching is powerful, and counterfeit teachers arise and use the craft. Paul Reid was an accomplished architect, who sat at the feet of a skilled teacher who adroitly used the inspirational techniques of an accomplished teacher. This teacher was able to direct students into destructive choices. He was building bomb shelters for the end times, in northern NSW, Australia, and teaching his pupils the discipline of yoga and its Hindu underpinnings- in many cases with destructive outcomes. The teacher inspired absolute loyalty and maintained rigid discipline. There is great potency in your craft, and you are in a position to influence the destiny of your students for eternity, and not just this age. Your influence can be for good or ill. If students graduate from your class, having experienced more sanctions and criticisms than affirmations, these experiences, perhaps more than the content of your lessons, will have been transferred and with negative impact. You set the temperature in your classroom spiritually and colour the atmosphere. If you have spent time in prayer as part of your preparation, and have a walk in the Spirit, then spirit to spirit education will occur in your classroom- for the ingredients of the supernatural are in place. The converse is when a person has a malign spirit or the teacher's spiritual tank is empty, then the stage is set for less constructive dynamics to express themselves. The good teacher lays down his life for his students, the classroom is not about him holding the limelight and setting up structures to make his way through the day as easy as possible, (Jn 10:11 and Jn 13: 13-17). The pretence of being a "Christian" teacher is far from you though, for you are filled with the spirit of the greatest teacher of all time.

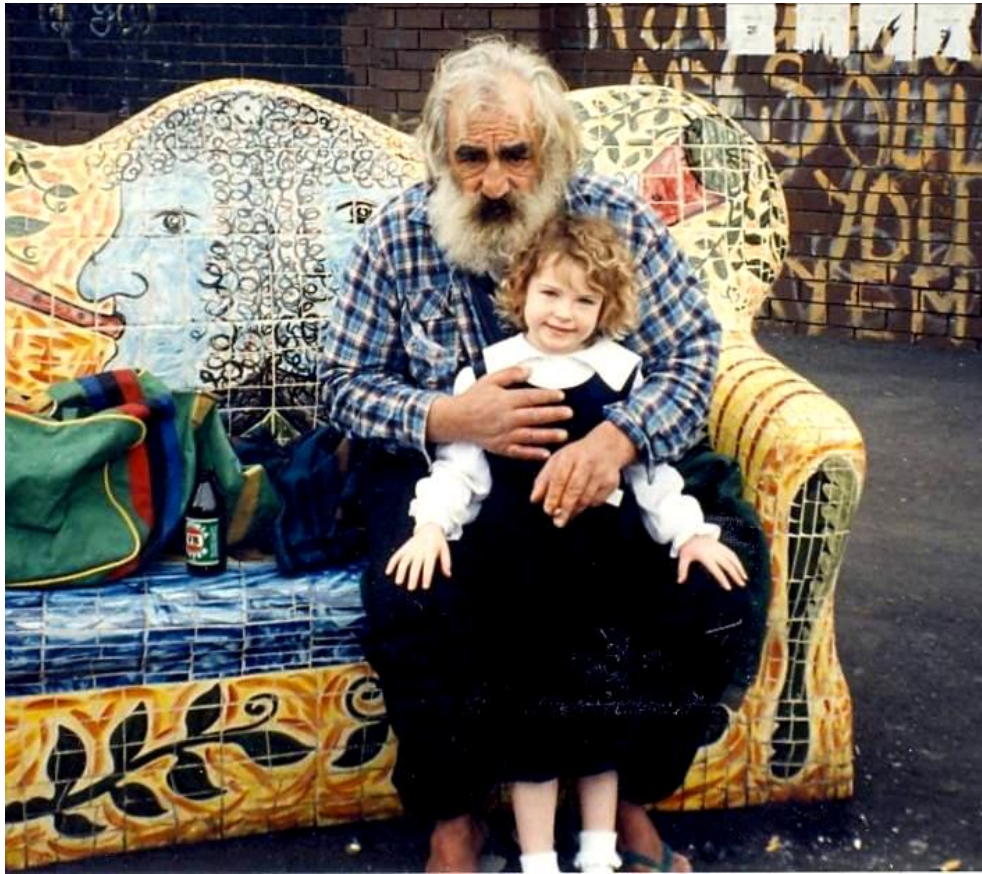
James 3:1 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

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<http://www.yogathetruthrevealed.com/>



20. Angelitta



This little angel doesn't notice the dirty hands of the homeless man. She revels in the moment and the wonder in his eyes. His alcohol scented breath is of no concern. The man's loneliness, and sense of rejection, evaporates at her approach and touch. The spirit of Jesus in her, touches enlivens his soul.

In your classroom are students who don't smell so well, who are rebellious or aggressive, and not so easy to love and affirm. Mother Teresa said Jesus can be found in "the distressing disguise of the poor". It's sometimes the most difficult students who develop prophetic ministries and direct their energies to powerful ministries of service when they grow up. You don't know who God will use in the future, or how- but today you can do something in your teaching that will affirm the less lovely. You will be rewarded for refreshing the insecure and presenting a glass of water, (Mt 10:42). Do something wonderful for God today - be extraordinary every day! Act supernaturally, and the supernatural will respond.

Matthew 10:42 "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward." Matthew 10:42