

CURRENTS

UPDATE ON THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHRISTIAN PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION OF BC

What I Have Come to Know

by Karen Erler, Assistant Principal, Pacific Christian School

How should one answer the question: What have you learned in your 34 years of teaching? I definitely had to stop and take stock when this question was posed, and I am finding that it isn't easy to arrive at a definitive answer. Often, we are not totally aware of the knowledge and expertise we are gaining through the course of our daily interactions with students, parents and colleagues. So, what have I come to know after being involved in education for more than three decades?

As I think back over the years that I have been working as a teacher and as an assistant principal in Christian schools, there have been many reasons to celebrate, as well as many challenges to face. Curriculum revisions have come and gone, staffing decisions have been easy or complex depending on the year, and student and family issues have been wide-ranging. As I have interacted with parents, students and colleagues, I have recognized that constant change and adjustment is a necessity. Through it all, I have been struck by one refrain over and over: "I can't do it in my own strength." Without daily communication with my heavenly Father in order to seek His wisdom and strength, I cannot even attempt to take on the challenge of supporting staff members as they seek to educate students. So, rather than sharing the educational wisdom that I have acquired, I would like to share two verses that I have turned to time and time again.

One of my favourite verses for the past many years has been John 14:27. *Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.* (NASB) Such a beautiful promise of "otherworldly" peace! I can tend to worry about issues and concerns, and try to manage as best I can, but I don't need to do this. God has promised me a peace that the world does not understand, a peace that I cannot manufacture myself. If I allow myself to rest in His love, He will sustain me with His joy and peace. As we all know, this is easier said than done; taking on the worries that we see all around us is very tempting to independent North Americans. However, as Sarah Young

explains in her book, *Jesus Calling*, "Most of the situations that entangle your mind are not today's concerns; you have borrowed them from tomorrow. In this case, I lift the problem out of today and deposit it in the future, where it is veiled from your eyes. In its place I give you My Peace, which flows freely from My Presence." (p. 138) I have learned that it is vital to seek the peace of God that passes all understanding.

Another verse that has influenced me greatly over the years has been 1 Corinthians 15:58. *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.* (NASB) This wonderful promise was given to me at a "sending off" service when I was a young adult moving away from my hometown. I find its truth so encouraging. Our work is not for ourselves, nor is it for those around us. If I focus on working for others, or myself, I can become overwhelmed or even resentful at times. Lord, it is too much! However, if I work for the Lord and recognize that He is in control, my attitude changes. As Bible commentator, John Darby, explains it, "We labour although there are difficulties, with entire confidence, knowing what will be the infallible result. The path may be beset by the enemy; the end will be the fruit of the counsels and the power of our God, exercised on our behalf ..." I have learned that it is essential to focus on working for God and not for those around me.

As I approach retirement in two months, I feel incredibly blessed to have been part of the Christian school community for 32 years. My mentors and colleagues have taught me so much about working together in order to educate. When challenged to share what I have learned, effective pedagogies, inspiring inquiry-based activities, conflict resolution strategies or other educational truths didn't come to mind. Instead, I felt called to affirm that I have always needed, and continue to need, God's peace as I navigate through the uncertainties of life, as well as His assurance that my steadfast work will not be in vain as I do it for Him.

Christian Schools Canada Conference

Save the date for the 8th Christian Schools Canada Conference from September 21 to 23, 2016

Every second year, our fall CPABC conference is incorporated with the biennial Christian Schools Canada conference. This conference rotates through the three regions of CSC and is hosted this year by the Prairie Centre for Christian Education.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to come together with your colleagues in Christian education from across the country and beyond for professional development through keynote messages, workshops, discussions, networking and worship that will strengthen and inspire you in your work and your life.

The keynote speaker, Andy Crouch, is a well-established author and enthusiastic, highly sought after presenter. Through the sessions, Andy will be using original materials to explore the theme of *Power TRIP*.

Follow this link to a short video from Andy highlighting the focus of his message: <https://goo.gl/gSjjFC>.



Did we mention the spectacular location? The Banff Centre is nestled in the heart of the Canadian Rockies.



For more information and to register, visit the conference webpage: christianschoolscanada.com/september-2016.

Membership Update

Membership dues support the programs offered by the CPABC, including the CPABC/SCSBC leadership certificate, mentorship program, school visits, planning for leadership conferences, and meeting with administrators to encourage and support them.

Although dues payment was down initially, the situation has improved and a strong majority of dues have been collected, either by PayPal or cheque. Thank you.

If you have chosen not to pay membership dues this year and have registered for the CPABC conference in May, please accept this friendly reminder to pay the higher non-CPABC membership rate for the conference. If you forgot to do this, you will be invoiced for the difference. Alternatively, it's not too late to pay your 2015/16 CPABC membership dues of \$125.

If you have questions about membership and/or fees, we would love to hear from you. Please connect with any of our CPABC board listed at www.cpabc.ca/directors.html.

Justice Institute Courses

Three current courses offered by the Justice Institute specifically for educators were co-designed by the Teacher Regulations Branch and the Justice Institute. A number of our members have participated in these courses and they come highly recommended.

One of the courses, *Reinforcing Respectful Professional Boundaries* is now open for registration and is offered August 31, September 1, and September 2, 2016. If you are interested, visit the JIBC website at www.jibc.ca/programs-courses/schools-departments/school-health-community-social-justice/centre-conflict-resolution/courses/innovative-strategies-k-12-teachers.

This course, as well as JIBC courses *Creating a Positive Learning Environment* and *The Mindful Educator in Managing Conflict*, are open to everyone and designed to provide certificate holders with skills to help them avoid patterns of behaviour that can result in disciplinary action at the regulatory level.

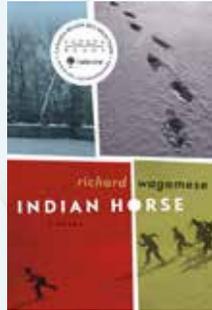
Books to Consider Reading...

In light of the new BC Ed Plan, the following are books that can stimulate conversation.

Indian Horse

by Richard Wagamese

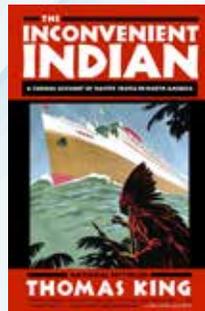
Winner of the Canada Reads People's Choice award and the First Nations Communities Reads program; "Wagamese pulls off a fine balancing act: exposing the horrors of the country's residential schools while also celebrating Canada's national game." ~ James Grainger, Quill & Quire



The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America

by Thomas King

"...a riveting, sweeping narrative that illuminates, horrifies, stupefies and educates. This book is a must-read for anyone who wants to better understand the enormous divide that persists between many aboriginals and non-aboriginals." – Edmonton Journal

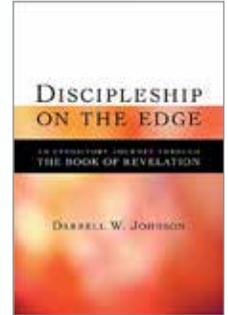


The following are books written by our spring conference keynote speaker, Darrell Johnson.

Discipleship on the Edge: An Expository Journey Through the Book of Revelation

by Darrell Johnson

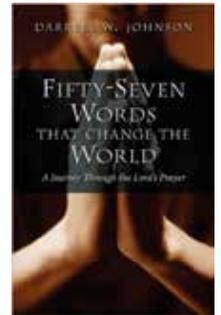
Paying careful attention to the original context of Revelation and the circumstances surrounding its composition, Johnson shows that the book is not a "crystal ball" but rather a "discipleship manual."



Fifty-Seven Words that Change the World: A Journey through the Lord's Prayer

by Darrell Johnson

In eight stirring meditations, Johnson shows how the Lord's Prayer sums up the essence of Christian faith and, when prayed in faith, draws us into the Triune God's work of transforming the world.



Farewell to Outgoing CPABC Executive

Karen Erler

Thanks to Karen Erler for her two years of service on the executive. Karen was instrumental in developing a package for new CPA members, to be implemented this coming fall, and also worked to find ways to support and encourage our membership. Karen is retiring from Pacific Christian School and will no doubt find many ways to use her gifts for service to God.

Jeanette Berkenbosch

We also thank Jeanette Berkenbosch, who is finishing her second term on the executive. Jeanette has served as secretary for the past five years, taking minutes, sending out meeting packages and coordinating the copy for the newsletters. The CPA will deeply miss Jeanette's organizational skills and secretarial contributions. She consistently kept the CPA on task and always knew what needed to be done, even before we did. We are very thankful for her years of dedicated service.

Enlarging the Tent by Kevin Visscher

Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. (Isaiah 54:2; NIV)

Christian education has been growing steadily over the years here in BC and we have been blessed and challenged by the growth. The CPABC will be exploring how its members can support and mentor school leaders in China. What an opportunity for our leadership to "enlarge the place of your tent". If you are a school administrator looking for a new challenge and are interested in serving to mentor a leader in China, talk to the CPABC. God has richly blessed us as leaders in BC to share our expertise, experience, and passion for serving Christian education. Maybe it is time to "stretch our tent curtains wide".

The CPA Executive Goes on the Road

On April 18 and 19, the CPA executive (minus Danny Nagtegaal and Steve Onsterg) took their meetings on the road. We were able to spend time visiting Nanaimo Christian School and Duncan Christian School. We were able to get a tour of the schools, hear their principals share about the innovative and diligent ways in which they are serving their communities, and take the admin teams out for lunch and to pray for them. It's always such a blessing to be able to see our members at work. We also had opportunity to meet with Ed Noot, Executive Director of SCSBC, over dinner and to discuss some exciting opportunities for partnership and collaboration between our two organizations. It was a good time of conversation, fellowship and delicious food.

