

# Going Deeper: Distinctives of an Authentic and Intentional Christian School

SHAUN BROOKER

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10 My God with his lovingkindness will meet me: God will let me see my desire upon mine enemies.

11 Slay them not, lest my people forget: Scatter them by thy power, and bring them down, O Lord our shield.

12 For the sin of their mouth, and the words of their lips, Let them even be taken in their pride, And for cursing and lying which they speak.

13 Consume them in wrath, consume them, so that they shall be no more: And let them know that God ruleth in Jacob, Unto the ends of the earth.

[Sē'lāh]

14 And at evening let them return, let them howl like dogs, And go round about the city.

15 They shall wander up and down for food, And tarry all night if they be not satisfied.

16 But I will sing of thy strength; Yea, I will sing aloud of thy lovingkindness in the morning: For thou hast been my high tower, And a refuge in the day of my distress.

17 Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing praises: For God is my high tower, the God of my mercy.

Lament over Defeat in Battle, and Prayer for Help.

For the Chief Musician; set to Shushan Eduth. Michtam of David, to teach; when he strove with Aram-naharaim and with Aramzobah, and Joab returned, and smote of Edom in the Valley of Salt twelve thousand.

60 O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast broken us down; Thou hast been angry; oh restore us again.

<sup>1</sup>Acc. to Sept. and Vulg. My strength  
<sup>2</sup>Or, them that lie in wait for me. <sup>3</sup>Or, Make them wander to and fro. <sup>4</sup>That is, The little of testimony

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2 Thou hast made the land to tremble; thou hast rent it: Heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh.

3 Thou hast showed thy people hard things: Thou hast made us to drink the wine of staggering.

4 Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, That it may be displayed because of the truth. [Sē'lāh]

5 That thy beloved may be delivered, Save with thy right hand, and answer us.

6 God hath spoken in his holiness: I will exult; I will divide Shē'chem, and mete out the valley of Sūc'cōth.

7 Gīl'ē-ād is mine, and Mā-nās'sēh is mine; Ephraim also is the defence of my head; Jū'dāh is my sceptre.

8 Mō'ab is my washpot; Upon E'dōm will I cast my shoe: Philis'tī-ā, shout thou because of me.

9 Who will bring me into the strong city? Who hath led me unto E'dōm? Hast not thou, O God, cast us off? And thou goest not forth, O God, with our hosts.

11 Give us help against the adversary; For vain is the help of man.

12 Through God we shall do valiantly; For he it is that will tread down our adversaries.

Confidence in God's Protection.

For the Chief Musician; on a stringed instrument. A Psalm of David.

61 Hear my cry, O God; Attend unto my prayer.

2 From the end of the earth will I call unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed:

<sup>1</sup>Another reading is, me. <sup>2</sup>Or, lawgiver  
<sup>3</sup>Or, Unto. <sup>4</sup>Or, Who will lead me &c.  
<sup>5</sup>Or, Will not thou, O God, who hast cast us off, and goest . . . hosts? <sup>6</sup>Heb. salvation  
<sup>7</sup>Or, smiteth

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PSALMS 60.2—62.6

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

3 For thou hast been a refuge for me, A strong tower from the enemy.

4 I will dwell in thy tabernacle for ever: I will take refuge in the covert of thy wings. [Sē'lāh]

5 For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: Thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.

6 Thou wilt prolong the king's life; His years shall be as many generations.

7 He shall abide before God for ever: Oh prepare lovingkindness and truth, that they may preserve him.

8 So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, That I may daily perform my vows.

God alone a Refuge from Treachery and Oppression.

For the Chief Musician; after the manner of Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

62 My soul waiteth in silence for God only: From him cometh my salvation.

2 He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my high tower; I shall not be greatly moved.

3 How long will ye set upon a man, That ye may slay him, all of you, Like a leaning wall, like a tottering fence?

4 They only consult to thrust him down from his dignity; They delight in lies; They bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. [Sē'lāh]

5 My soul, wait thou in silence for God only; For my expectation is from him.

6 He only is my rock and my salvation:

<sup>1</sup>Or, a rock that is too high for me. <sup>2</sup>Heb. tent. <sup>3</sup>Or, given a heritage unto those &c.  
<sup>4</sup>Heb. is silent unto God. <sup>5</sup>Or, as otherwise read, Ye shall be slain &c. <sup>6</sup>Heb. be thou silent unto God



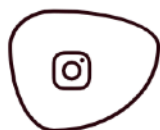




# WEBSITE: [www.christianeducation.org.nz](http://www.christianeducation.org.nz)



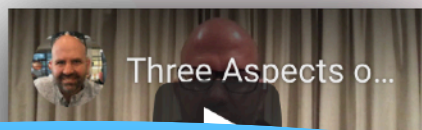
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## Christian Education

Musings of someone who believes in the power of Christian Education to equip and transform.

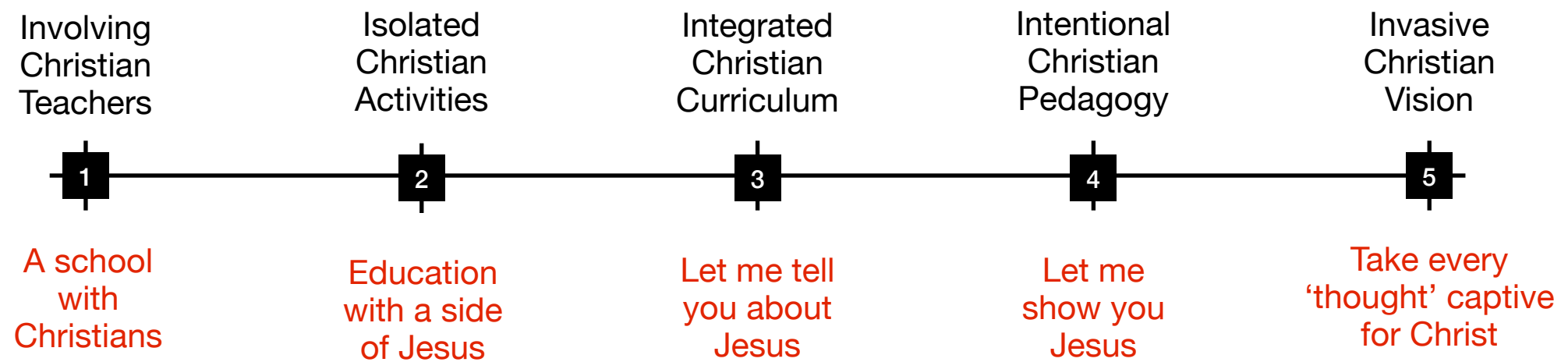
Shaun Brooker



Welcome to ChristianEducation.org.nz. Here you will find my scattered thoughts in three areas of my passions, Christian Education, Learning with Technologies and Leadership. I have been involved in Education for a little over 20 years and am very passionate about it. I am the principal of Hamilton Christian School in New Zealand. Although some of the content of this website will be specific to



# School Stages





## THE BIG QUESTIONS:

1. What stage do we want our school to operate from?
2. What stage do our students, staff, parents, board experience from our school?

Pre	Imitate Christian School
1	Involve Christian Teachers
2	Isolated Christian Activities
3	Integrated Christian Curriculum
4	Intentional Christian Pedagogy
5	Invasive Christian Vision



# STAGE: Pre

## DISTINCTIVES:

- **Christian name, but just Education**
- May have Christian staff and some ad-hoc Christian activities and/or experiences
- No intentional Christian direction

## QUESTIONS:

- Why? ...what is there to gain?
- What does this model of 'Christian School' teach students about being Christian?
- What are the parents' expectations?

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# STAGE: 1

## DISTINCTIVES:

- **Education *by* Christians**
- Employ Christian Staff/Teachers
- No intentional direction about Christian purpose
- Often an emphasis on being 'nice'

## QUESTIONS:

- How can the experience of each student be more consistent across the school?
- How is the Gospel integrated across the school?

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# STAGE: 2

## DISTINCTIVES:

- **Christian, *then* Education**
- Education with a side of Jesus
- Students spend time in devotions, prayer, worship, scripture and then do Maths and Science
- Dualistic in nature

## QUESTIONS:

- What does this approach teach young people about the Christian life?
- Does the way our students experience 'Christian activities' match what we want them to experience?

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# STAGE: 3

## DISTINCTIVES:

- **Educators explaining Christian**
- Intentional focus on students exploring truths of their Creator and His design through curriculum
- Generally a school-wide mandate on curriculum design
- Ongoing review
- “Do as I say, not as I do” or “Let me tell you about Jesus”

## QUESTIONS:

- How will young people understand the life of Christ if it is not modelled to them?
- What do the actions of our teachers speak to our students about living sold out for Christ?
- How did our students *experience* Christ today?

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# STAGE: 4

## DISTINCTIVES:

- **Authentic Christian Educators**
- “Let me show you Jesus”
- All aspects of faculty relationships with students are considered from how they can grow closer in their walk with Jesus
- Discipleship is more important than discipline

## QUESTIONS:

- How was love experienced by everyone in my class today?
- Do I truly believe that God in His sovereignty, placed each student in my class/school?

*\*Outstanding examples of this can be found in Christian teachers at non-Christian schools*

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# STAGE: 5

## DISTINCTIVES:

- *Intentional and Authentic Christian Education*
- School policies, procedures, pedagogical and curriculum expectations are in harmony
- All aspects of the school are considered with a perspective of what would represent Christ fully
- Intentional consideration of what is 'Old Covenant' and 'New Covenant' law.

## QUESTIONS:

- Should homework look different in a Christian School?
- Do your school policies look more like Jesus or a Pharisee wrote them?
- Who would be in your school if Jesus was the enrolments officer?

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Stage	Stage Name	Simple Descriptor	Christian Education?
Pre	Imitating Christian School	A school with a Christian name	<b>Christian</b> name, but just <b>Education</b>
1	Involving Christian Teachers	A school with Christians	<b>Christians</b> <i>who</i> <b>Educate</b>
2	Isolated Christian Activities	Education with a side of Jesus.	<b>Christian</b> , then <b>Education</b>
3	Integrated Christian Curriculum	"Let me tell you about Jesus." ("Do as I say, not as I do")	<b>Educators</b> Explaining <b>Christian</b>
4	Intentional Christian Pedagogy	"Let me show you Jesus."	Authentic <b>Christian Educators</b>
5	Invasive Christian Vision	Taking every 'thought' captive for Christ.	Intentional and authentic <b>Christian Education</b>

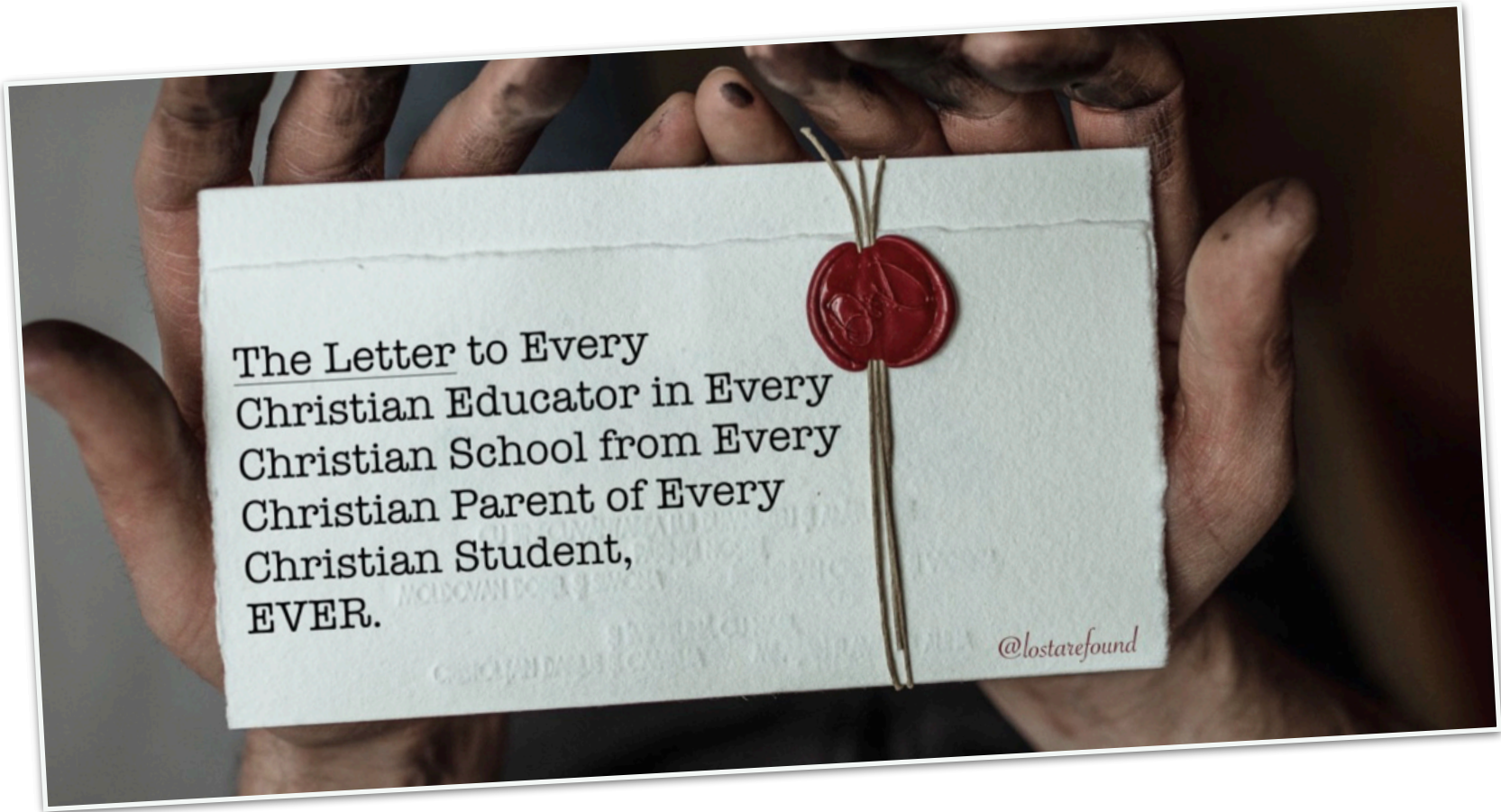
## THE BIG QUESTIONS:

1. What stage do we want our school to operate from?
2. What stage do our students, staff, parents, board experience from our school? Is this consistent?
3. What needs to happen for the students, community and staff to experience our target stage?
4. How would our school look if Jesus was the enrolment officer?
5. Are we expecting our teachers to express new covenant truths to students while they operate under old covenant policies?
6. Does our school focus on creating a curiosity for the Scripture or just telling students about them?
7. Do students see Christ in us, in us all? Or do they only hear about Him from us?
8. Do families see Christ through us when things go bad?

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# The Letter.



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Distinguished  
Educator



principal@HamiltonChristian.School.nz  
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