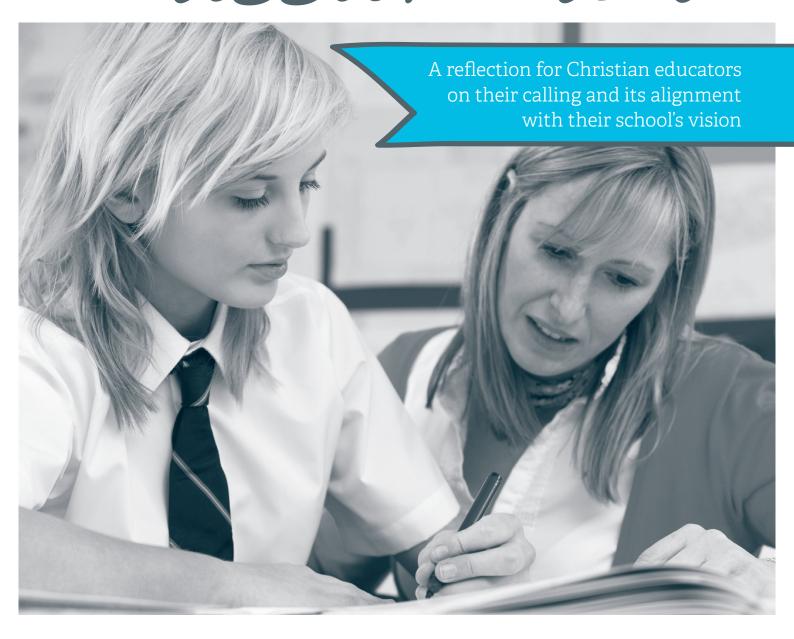
by Geoff Bateman & Chris Parker When Vocation & Chris Parker When Vocation & When Wission Week:



It is important that teachers and educational leaders in Christian schools explore and reflect upon the issues raised in this edition of the Christian Teachers Journal.

ssues of preparation; towards what are we seeking to prepare our students? Issues of perception; what worldview perspective do our students hold about the place of work and vocation in their lives and what are we doing to disciple them into having a full and rich crossshaped biblical view of their contribution to the Kingdom once they graduate? However, it may well be just as crucial that teachers also reflect upon their own work/vocation, and if they are currently employed in a school, to evaluate how closely aligned their calling is to the vision of the school.

This article is more of a reflection tool than an article. It has been designed to be used by the staff at a Christian school, either as a group discussion aid during a staff gathering or as an individual reflection. Either way, we hope and pray that it might be of use to you as you pause as a Christian educator to reflect upon how well your current vocation or calling intersects with the vision of your school to offer biblically grounded, culturally engaged, and academically rigorous education.

Your Vocation How long?

How much experience do you have with Christian education? If you are doing this as a group activity, have all those who have been involved with Christian education for more than 20 years stand up. Then add to those standing those who have 19 years experience, then 18, and so on. Keep going until everyone is standing. We imagine that those who stand last, who joined this year, will be inspired by the depth of experience that stands around them. Those with tired legs from standing will, we trust, feel the obvious opportunity that they have to support, mentor, and inspire (or maybe the inspiration goes back up the time line).

Levels of engagement

The length of time someone has been involved with Christian education will often, but not always, coincide with a progression in their level of engagement. On the diagram below, indicate where you are in the adventure of Christian education that God has drawn you into.

Another way to consider the same issue is to ask how far along the journey are you from being a 'teacher who is a Christian' to a 'Christian teacher'?

Discuss, reflect, and indicate on the diagram where you are currently positioned:

Commitment Engagement

Dedication

Participation

...how far along the journey are you from being a 'teacher who is a Christian' to a 'Christian teacher'?

is a Christian	teacher
Motivations	
Many people find themselves in a Christian school accidentally, then they grow in understanding and commitment to the vision. Other teachers are pas have always seen themselves being involved with education. All teachers come with a suite of motiv for working in a Christian school; convenience, ser call, reputation, Christian community, only option leadership progression, passion for Christian educ List between five and ten of your motivations/rea initially becoming involved in Christian education a reflect on your motivations for why you are contin involved:	I sionate and Christian rations nse of available, ation. sons for and then

Your school's vision

Examples

"Maranatha is a Christian learning community in partnership with home and church where students are inspired to discover and develop their God-given gifts, abilities and character for a life of service to the Lord in contemporary society." Maranatha Christian School

"Seeking the Kingdom of God in Education." Mount Evelyn Christian School

"... to nurture children in a Christ centred learning environment in order to develop their full academic, creative, personal, physical, moral and spiritual potential." Torrens Valley Christian School

"To be Christian communities, learning together to live life as God intended, offering hope for the world." NT Christian Schools

"To provide quality, affordable Christ-centred education in an environment where God is glorified and enjoyed." Nepean Christian School

The vision What is the vision of your school? Do you know it? Would you know where to find it if you were asked? Find your school's vision and write it in the space below. Rewrite your school's vision this time in your own words. Maybe you could choose an age level that you work with and rewrite it for them. Be careful not to change the vision as you rewrite it.

The history

Do you know the history of how this vision and your school came to be? Either look up the history of your school and summarize the main points below, or, invite a founding parent to give a 10 minute summary of the early days to the staff. Knowing at least a little of this history is important. You are part of this history and as such, share in the role of being custodians of the vision.

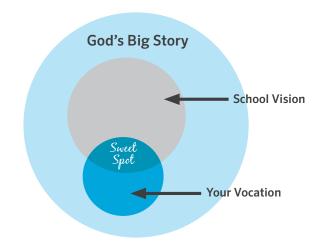
In three to six sentences, write a summary of the early days of the vision of the school.

The intersection

'Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion, dynamism and direction lived out as a response to his summons and service.'

Os Guinness

You have a particular vocation or calling as a Christian and as a Christian teacher. A healthy question to reflect on is, to what extent do my vocation and my school's vision intersect?



See the diagram on previous page: How large is the 'sweet spot' for you?	
Either redraw the Venn diagram for you or write about the nature of the sweet spot in the space below.	
Be honest, what prevents this sweet spot being larger for you?	What might you be able to do to strengthen and increase the sweet spot?
	What do you think the school might be able to do that would result in a greater sweet spot for you both?
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