

# Twenty Five Ways to Enhance the Educational Ministry of your Church

## Vision

1. Develop an educational vision statement for your church and persuade everyone to embrace it and play their part in its fulfillment.
2. Invite a staff member from the Anglican Education Commission to participate in an Education Evening or Afternoon at which the church's education ministry can be celebrated.

## Current Practice

3. Conduct an audit of the educational 'activities' of your parish:
  - ∞ What do you do?
  - ∞ Who does it?
  - ∞ What is its purpose or intended outcome?
  - ∞ What is it achieving?
  - ∞ How could it be done better?
  - ∞ Who is praying for it?
4. Conduct an audit of the people within your congregation who are involved in some way or another with teaching and learning – such as being a student, a teacher (paid and unpaid), an SRE teacher, a lecturer or trade instructor, a support person in a school or college, a parent or grandparent of school/college/university student, an educational leader, a private tutor, a Sunday School teacher, a youth group leader or a bible study leader etc.
5. Get all the people mentioned in #4 together to share their experiences with one another and to pray for each other. You will be amazed what this will do.
6. Conduct an audit of all the educational providers within your parish boundaries. Find out all you can about them and establish which members of your congregation have a connection already with these institutions and the people who teach or learn within them. Identify where the strongest connections are as well as those with which the parish has no connectivity.

## Pray in an Informed Manner

7. Gather data from some of these institutions so you can pray in a regular and informed manner, privately and publicly, for them. Make it known that you are praying for them.

## Schools

8. Cultivate strong relations between the parish, parish members and the schools and colleges within your parish. This may best be done through the parishioners who already have such connections.
9. Invite parents, teachers and students from the schools to visit your church on a 'get-to-know what goes on here' basis. Having children visit the site with their parents breaks down barriers and may eliminate some ignorant superstitions.



10. Look for practical ways in which members of the congregation can support and assist these schools in their work. For example, the school might benefit from specialist advice and skills, which a parishioner can provide. The Youth Group might be able to help at a school-working bee. Parishioners with particular expertise may volunteer to give talks to students, teachers and parents. Parishioners may be happy to act as assistants at examination time. Run a holiday club for K-6 children and promote heavily in local schools.
11. Donate books to the school libraries.
12. Pray for the teachers in your congregation on a regular basis. Demonstrate that the church views them as missionaries and appreciates the challenges they face Monday to Friday.
13. Help parents to deal with the issues related to the access, which younger family members have to the Internet.
14. Urge parents to use their established connection with non-believing parents at their child's school, to bear witness to the gospel of Christ.
15. As a church, become an active supporter of the Christian ministry that is happening in the schools and colleges within your parish and/or in which church members are involved.

#### **Parenting**

16. Match experienced parents with novice parents so that through their mentoring the latter will grow in their parenting skills and understanding. Conduct parenting courses e.g. Focus on the Family.
17. Take an informed and visible stand in your local community in support of biblical principles in relation to parenting, teaching and learning.

#### **Teaching**

18. Emphasise within your preaching the importance of vocation and draw upon members of the congregation to assist parents and their children in their career planning.
19. Encourage Christian young people to become teachers.
20. Equip teachers, especially those who may be the only Christian in the staffroom or the school, to be faithful servants of Christ.
21. Through your teaching and preaching, equip the teachers in your congregation to teach Christianly.
22. Likewise, equip all those involved in teaching and learning, to know how to think Christianly, recognise worldviews and be able to critique them, including a biblical worldview.

#### **Other Areas**

23. Create a library of good Christian education materials within your church.
24. Arrange for the authors of Christian books to be invited to conduct seminars in the schools – or on church premises to which school staff and students could be invited.
25. Model good environmental practices so that you can assist others to do the same.

