Re-Visiting the Public Character of Christian Education
Rev Dr Lim Teck Peng

The Task of Character Formation: The Wisdom Books of the Old Testament
Rev Dr Anthony Y. F. Lake

Education in Society and Church: Some Radical and Critical Thoughts?
Dr Tan Jing Hee

Rethinking How We Teach the Bible in Church
Dr Tee Meng Yen & Rev Dr Lim Kar Yong

Vocational Training for Life: A Journey of Love and Joy
Ms Maggie H. L. Ting

A publication of the Centre for the Study of Christianity in Asia, Trinity Theological College, Singapore
Rethinking How We Teach the Bible in Church

Tee Meng Yew and Lim Kar Yong

Preamble

The purpose of this essay is to stimulate deeper discussions on how Scripture is taught — and learned — in churches today. Teaching is necessarily referred here to include its intended product — learning. Teaching and learning, in a church context, can take place in various situations — from the pulpit to Sunday school classes, from annual camps to weekly adult education classes, and from youth meetings to cell group fellowships.

In addition, there are also a wide variety of seminars, workshops and conferences organised by larger churches and Christian organisations dealing with specific topics such as counselling, worship, Bible teaching, etc. Are we making full use of the potential we have in these contexts to cultivate a meaningful and deep understanding of the Bible? This essay will raise questions, explore learning in the world we live in today, what we can learn from educational research, and provide possible exemplars. We hope that this will lead to further discussions, and perhaps more meaningful practice in the process of teaching and learning the Bible in church contexts.

Learning in a Changing World

Try for a moment to respond and reflect on the following: How has the quantity of information and knowledge changed in the world we live in the last 30 years or so?

Now that you have thought for a few seconds, consider this: More information has been produced between 1973 and 2003 than in the prior 5,000 years combined.1 This information explosion is expected to continue, with print and digital technologies functioning as the machine and lubrication for greater information and knowledge generation. Go beneath this explosion, and you will see even more staggering numbers.2 In the English language alone, it is estimated that the numbers of words grow

Dr Tee Meng Yew is a faculty member at the University of Malaya. He researches educational practices, including exploring instructional approaches for learning subject areas that are difficult or impossible to be taught through didactic means.

Rev Dr Lim Kar Yong teaches New Testament Studies at Seminari Teologi Malaysia and Malaysia Bible Seminary in addition to serving as a Pastor at Petaling Jaya Evangelical Free Church, West Malaysia.