

The Prairie Page

Living

Thoughts from Gayle

As part of my reflective practice as I move toward retirement, I'm going to select a few of my favourite or meaningful Page Posts to republish. Enjoy the journey with me!

The following quote is a "two for one" with two of my favourite authors/thinkers in one piece. I first was introduced to Frederick Buechner when I received one of his books as I did my "profession of faith" as a young adult. His interesting use of language often gets me thinking about familiar things in new, unique and more nuanced ways. Skye Jethani may be a more familiar name to you: he was a speaker at our Teachers' Convention about ten years ago or you may know him through his numerous books ("With" is a favourite of mine), The Holy Post podcast or his daily devotional, With God Daily.

Frederick Buechner observed that, "The Gospel is bad news before it is good news." The bad news is the discovery of our true sinful selves, and that the only escape from this prison of sin is death. Rather than a new strategy for fulfilling our desires, the Gospel first invites us to surrender them. This is why Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "When Christ calls a man he bids him, 'Come and die.'"

This invitation to self-denial is noticeably absent in much of popular Christianity. In our self-absorbed culture, any God that expects personal sacrifice on the level of Jesus cannot be seen as benevolent.

Jesus isn't interested in negotiating. He knows that death, the surrendering of our sinful selves and its desires is how we can take hold of an even greater joy. He knows that we must first accept the bad news before we can receive the good news. We must walk the painful path to our cross before we can walk the glorious path out of the tomb. (Skye Jethani)

Learning

Celebrations of Learners

Congratulations to the following TTT 101 participants for completing the TTT 101 program this year: Here are the names that have completed TTT 101 this year so far:

- Edmund Nederveen (Providence Christian School, Monarch, AB)
- JonJon Valencia (Edmonton Christian School)
- Christy Reed-Shange (Central AB Christian High School, Lacombe, AB)
- Nadyne Alaric (Immanuel Christian Elementary School, Lethbridge, AB)
- Lydia-Jo Butcher (Ponoka Christian School)
- Brianna Wiatr (Ponoka Christian School)
- Zachary McFarlane (Ponoka Christian School)
- Justin Moltzahn (Gateway Christian School, Red Deer, AB)
- Pat Harthorn (Providence Christian School, Monarch, AB)
- Bryna Figursky (Central Alberta Christian High School, Lacombe, AB)
- Amy Martin (Rocky Christian School, Rocky Mountain House, AB)
- Alixx Tanner (Meadowlark Christian School, Edmonton, AB).

TTT leads, please let Jeremy (jhorlings@pcce.ca) know if other teachers at your school have completed the TTT 101 requirements for this school year.

TTT Masterclasses

CACE is offering TTT Masterclasses for experienced TTT teachers again this summer. There are a variety of options in these short course format classes - The Biblical Story, Learning Targets, some grade level options and one for TTT leadership on "Reframing and Renaming School Events." For more information and to register, go [HERE](#). The registration deadline is June 27.

Teacher's Convention 2026

Plans are coming together!

- **Dates:** October 22-23
- **Location:** Calgary Christian School
- **Keynote Speaker:** [Mark Buchanan](#): author, speaker, pastor, professor
- **Registration:** Opens September 1, 2026

Leading

End of the Year Reflections

As you lead your staff through the end-of-the-year activities, consider setting aside some time for them to reflect upon the year. Here are some questions to consider: How has your Deep Hope impacted the teaching and learning in your classroom? How might you revise your Deep Hope next year? List three highlights from the year. Describe one "game changer" (an unexpected event that shifted your priorities). What didn't go as well as expected and what will you do differently next time?

Summer Time Reading

I recommend picking up a copy of [God Walk: Moving at the Speed of Your Soul](#) by Mark Buchanan. Mark will be the keynote speaker at our Teachers' Convention, but I think this book would be a great summertime read for leaders. Coming off the demands and stresses of the school year, it could be a formative part of your summer restoration. [This video](#) gives a quick overview to whet your appetite.

PD for Next Year

As you think about your PD plan for next year, consider using Dave Mulder's book, *Always Becoming, Never Arriving: Developing an Imagination for Christian Teaching*. As a reminder for those who weren't able to attend, Dave was the speaker at our Teachers' Convention in the fall and this book is an insightful, encouraging and easily-accessible resource that would make a great book-study with your teachers.

Job Postings

A reminder that PCCE schools can post job openings on the PCCE website, as well as [SCSBC's](#) and [Edvance's](#), free of charge. To post on the PCCE site, contact our office (office@pcce.ca).

Looking Ahead

October 5 - 7, 2026: Christian Schools Canada Leadership Conference

October 22 - 23, 2026: PCCE Teachers' Convention

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