



## Professional Development seminar for teachers Suva, Fiji, January 7-11 2013

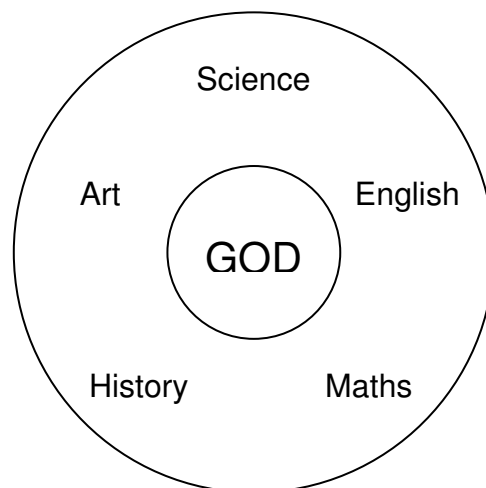
Isaiah 42:19

Behold I will do something new,  
Now it will spring forth  
Will you not be aware of it?  
I will even make a roadway in the wilderness,  
Rivers in the desert.

What is the new development in Christian Education for Fiji?

GOD IS the curriculum.

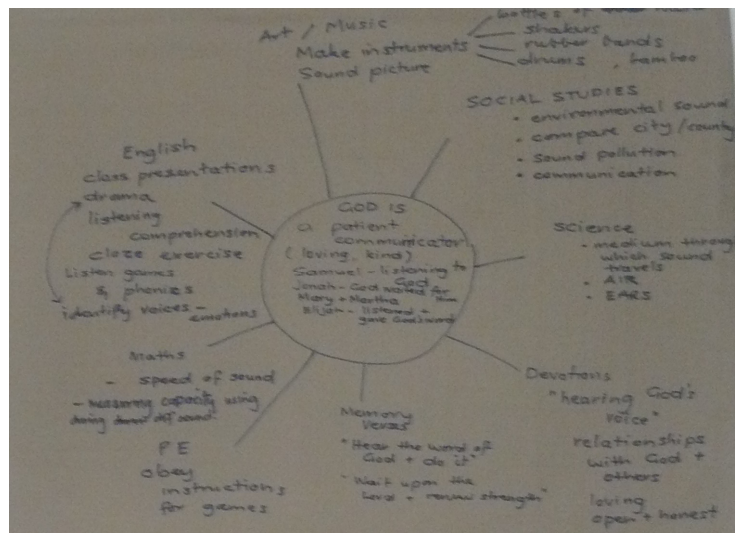
A concept originating from Youth With A Mission Hawaii, some keys to placing God at the centre of the curriculum were presented by Australian primary teachers from Beacon Media January 7-11. Taking the character and nature of God as the starting point, teachers at the seminar worked on topic-based units, where all subject matter taught reflected the character and nature of God. Bible stories and memory verses were integrated into the lessons, rather than being taught as 'separate' Bible study lessons.



An example of work from one group was taken from the Grade 4 Fijian Science curriculum.

**Topic:** "Sound and the ear"

The group linked this topic with the attribute of God: "God is a patient communicator". They showed the connection between listening to God and listening to sound; the role of communication in society as well as in the Christian life.



Sunday School teachers also attended the seminar, and these teachers were able to take an in-depth look at placing the person of God first in their lessons. This means getting to KNOW God and not just to know about Him. An example of work from the Sunday School teachers' group was a lesson on "The Good Samaritan" which showed the attribute of "God is Love".

The seminar focused on practical application and the teachers had opportunity to explore Science, Mathematics and English through practical activities. Teachers also enjoyed practical application in Drama and Puppetry sessions.





In the “Character Development” session we looked at how getting to know God and HIS character had an outworking in the lives of students. Starting with God, e.g. to understand that ‘God is love’, causes us to want to obey Him because we love Him and He loves us, and not to take pride in our own personal efforts at ‘being good’. In this session the teachers worked together in groups to decide how the values in the Fijian National Curriculum could be founded upon the character and nature of God, and which Bible passages applied.

We pray that this seminar has shed a new light upon the possibilities of Christian Education, not only for Fiji but even for other Pacific island nations. We also pray that the work begun this January will grow and extend to all those who wanted to be present but were unable to attend.

If you would like to be on our contact list for notification of future opportunities, please contact:

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