

Welcome to this issue of CViE *Education Matters*, for November 2022.

Education Matters is designed to provide parents and those interested in education with current “snippets” and links to information that might be of help in understanding and dealing with educational issues and bringing up children in a society that, on the whole, does not hold any respect for biblical teaching.

As we have previously written, who could have imagined that a ‘document’ with a title “Education Matters” would contain references to matters not faced, with such intensity, by parents in previous generations? Please contact us at enquiries@cvie.org.uk, if there are topics you feel would be interesting to cover in future editions of *Education Matters*.

The Lord grant us the true spirit of prayer to hold fast to the Word of Truth and be able to give an account of the things that we believe to our children, young people and those around us.

In this edition we cover the following:

EDUCATION

- Technical education in England: T Levels
- Remembering the Lord's Hand in the second Battle of El Alamein 1942

ETHICAL AND SOCIETAL ISSUES

- Helping Christians think about the myth of overpopulation
- Reclaiming the rainbow: The misappropriation of a religious symbol
- Help! My Employer Celebrates Gay Pride and Pays for Abortion Travel
- Am I Resting or Just Being Lazy

TRANSGENDER and LGBT+ AGENDA

- Combatting confusion in society's language about gender and sexuality
- How to Talk with Your Kids About Transgender Ideology
- Non-binary Student Numbers ‘Soar’
- How to talk to your kids about Pride Month and sexuality
- How to exercise parental rights in a pro-LGBTQ culture

TECHNOLOGY

- The 12 Most Dangerous Apps for Kids: A Guide for Parents

RECENT BLOG POSTS AT THE CViE WEBSITE

The State of Education: Critical Theory in the Classroom

Journey into Home Education: A Personal Story

Presentation from State Education Meet-Up

On behalf of the CViE Trustees -

With Christian regards,
Michael (Ridout)
Chairman

EDUCATION

Technical education in England: T Levels

This House of Commons Library Research Briefing provides an overview of reforms to the technical education system in England through the T Level qualification. T Levels are two-year technical courses taken after GCSEs and equivalent in size to three A Levels. Launched in September 2020, they offer students practical and knowledge-based learning at a school or college and on-the-job experience through an industry placement of approximately 45 days (20% of the course). T Levels are intended to sit alongside apprenticeships within a reformed skills training system.

This 'snippet' has been included for parents of children considering options after GCSEs, to be made aware of the qualifications in making post-16 education choices. More details can be found at: [Technical education in England: T Levels](#) .

CViE would also take this opportunity to mention our publication "Choosing a Career" which has been written, from a biblical perspective, to help young people as they consider the many career options before them. Copies of the publication can be downloaded from the [CViE website](#) or hard copies obtained from: enquiries@cvie.org.uk

Remembering the Lord's Hand in the second Battle of El Alamein 1942

This item has been included as it is important in the education of children that they are told of the Hand of God and His unfolding purposes in the history of our country and the world.

On October 23, 2022 Henry Getley wrote an article on the 80th anniversary of the Second Battle of El Alamein. The article is a very readable account of the build-up and events of the battle, together with considering the impact that the victory had on the course of World War II. The author notes: "In his memoirs, Churchill wrote: 'It may almost be said that before Alamein we never had a victory. After Alamein, we never had a defeat.'"

On November 6, 2022, Peter Simpson (Minister of Penn Free Methodist Church) wrote a similar article titled "God's hand in the victory at El Alamein". The author considers the events surrounding the Second Battle of El Alamein as a matter of historical interest but also traces out God's gracious hand in response to prayer and the Lord's providential appearances. As the author notes:

"Shortly before the commencement of Montgomery's great counter-strike against the Afrika Korps the nation had held a national day of prayer on September 3, 1942. This day coincided with the German-Italian offensive against the Eighth Army known as the Battle of Alam el Halfa, which lasted from August 31 to September 7. It ended in failure for the German forces, due in particular to their being short of fuel and ammunition. So God's gracious hand can immediately be seen to be at work in response to the nation's prayers. Alam el Halfa was the last offensive push which Rommel would make in the region, and also represented the first success for Montgomery in his oversight of Eighth Army operations – he had taken up command of the British forces in the previous month of August".

Christian Values in Education

More detail can be found here, [Alamein 1942, the turn of the tide](#), and here, [God's hand in the victory at El Alamein](#) .

CViE would also bring your attention to two publications relating to World War II that we produced in August. These were: [The Hand of God in World War II](#) and [The Miracle of Britain's Survival](#). Printed copies of the publications are freely available by contacting enquiries@cvie.org.uk.

We do trust that these booklets will be of help to Christian parents, teachers and others in instructing children about how the Lord appeared for this country in World War II. They serve to teach young people of the Mighty Hand of God in overruling world events. We also hope that the booklets might be of use to home educators and Christian schools in their modern history curriculum. If you can help with the distribution of these publications, please contact us at enquiries@cvie.org.uk - better that the publications are distributed than held in store.

ETHICAL AND SOCIETAL ISSUES

Helping Christians think about the myth of overpopulation

This article deals with the topic of overpopulation, an issue inter-related with the very current matters of environmentalism and climate change. The author considers the arguments that have been put forth regarding overpopulation and then considers the Lord's ordinance of marriage, the importance of the family as the building block of society, and the command to **be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it** (Genesis 1:26-28). The author reminds emphasises Christians of the responsibility to steward the created world and not allow the sin of materialism to go unchecked in their lives, concluding with the following:

"Ideas have consequences. Most tragically, the idea of overpopulation has resulted in global mass murder, including calls for expanding abortion access in developing nations where population growth is higher. It is a myth that continues to be used to justify both abortion and suicide. Christians who believe in the sanctity and goodness of human life should expose the myth of overpopulation for what it often is: A pretext for murder and justification for opposing a biblical view of children, family, and procreation."

Climate change and environmentalism seems to be a 'god' of our age and many are taken up with the creation and not the Creator. As the article reminds us, Christians are to be grounded in the Word of God, to be stewards of what the Lord has provided us, and as His people not to be taken up with worldviews that appeal to our fallen nature. More detail can be found at: [Helping Christians think about the myth of overpopulation](#).

Following from the points made in the above article, Answers in Genesis published a post dating 21 November 2022 as the milestone moment when the world population reached 8 billion people. This post highlights the biblical view of creation and the effect that evolutionary/humanistic teaching has had on birth rates. Such notions have arisen such as, 'Babies are just a choice and not a blessing from God', 'You need to have your career well underway, have travelled, have a house, and be financially "ready" (whatever that means!) before even thinking about maybe having children', 'Babies aren't persons until they are born

and can be murdered if the mother decides she doesn't want the baby', 'Motherhood is drudgery and women should aspire for literally anything other than being a wife and mother', 'Marriage is bad so don't get married' and 'Climate change will ruin the earth so don't bring children into this world because they will just add to the problem or they will suffer from the effects of climate change'. The question arises as to how many professing a biblical worldview have been caught up with the points identified, particularly career before family?

More detail can be found at: [Be Fruitful and Multiply? Earth's Population Hits 8 Billion.](#)

Reclaiming the rainbow: The misappropriation of a religious symbol

This article written by Andrew Sibley (Creation Ministries International) makes interesting personal reading and for discussion within Christian families. The author highlights how the rainbow has been appropriated by the LGBT plus campaign groups and has been adopted onto the so-called 'pride flag'. The author goes on to explain that the rainbow has been, and continues to be, a symbol of God's promise to humankind never to flood the earth again, following the judgment of the great flood and the promise given unto Noah.

There is a short description of how the seven colours of the rainbow is produced by the refraction and reflection of white light inside many raindrops. The light is separated into a distinct band by the water droplets because of the slightly different wavelengths of each colour. How marvelous is the creative power of Almighty God! More detail can be found at: [Reclaiming the rainbow.](#)

Help! My Employer Celebrates Gay Pride and Pays for Abortion Travel

This article deals with the issues faced by Christians working in a non-Christian environment.

The author notes that "Joseph didn't acquiesce to worshipping the Egyptian gods while working for Pharaoh. Just the same, we can often do our work well without falling in line with the secular customs or immoral stances of our workplace".

An interesting thought regarding being in the workplace with non-Christians based around proximity and participation is developed: we have to work with people but we don't have to participate in their behaviour and lifestyle. More detail can be found at: [Help! My Employer Celebrates Gay Pride and Pays for Abortion Travel.](#)

In a similar vein, John Newton wrote the following in November 1776 in a letter titled "The Christian and the World". Although written almost two and half centuries ago, the sentiments expressed are still relevant today in the workplace:

"In our way of little life in the country, serious people often complain of the snares they meet with from worldly people, and yet they must mix with them to get a livelihood. I advise them, if they can, to do their business with the world as they do it in the rain. If their business calls them abroad, they will not leave it undone for fear of being a little wet; but then, when it is done, they presently seek shelter, and will not stand in the rain for pleasure. Just so, providential and necessary calls of duty, which lead us into the world, will not hurt us, if we find the spirit of the world unpleasant, and are glad to retire from it, and keep out of it as

Christian Values in Education

much as our relative duties will permit. That which is our cross — is not so likely to be our snare. But if that spirit, which we should always watch and pray against, infects and assimilates our minds to itself — then we are sure to suffer loss, and act below the dignity of our profession.”

More detail can be found at [The Letters of John Newton](#) - scroll down the index in the PDF to find a link to the letter “The Christian and the World”.

Am I Resting or Just Being Lazy

This article challenges the reader to think about how we use times of rest and observes, “Rest is a gift from God, one we can joyfully receive with thanks. But like it does with most gifts, sin tempts us to misuse it. Instead of enjoying rest the way we were designed to, we’re tempted to over-indulge and drift into laziness”.

Examples of ‘time bandits’ are used by the author to make the point that there are distractors in our lives that cause a slothful spirit. What example does this set when telling others to be careful about the use of technology and not to waste their time?

The author thoughtfully observes that, “While laziness is the indulgence of self, rest is enjoyed for the glory of God and the good of others. Our problem doesn’t always lie in what we’re doing but in how we’re doing it. So consider the fruit—laziness yields selfishness; rest readies us for service. Laziness procrastinates and avoids our responsibilities, rest reenergizes us to undertake those responsibilities”.

More detail can be found at: [Am I Resting or Just Being Lazy](#).

Might we heed the words of the apostle Paul: **See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.** (Ephesians 5:15-16)

TRANSGENDER AND LGBT AGENDA

Combatting confusion in society’s language about gender and sexuality

This article is subtitled “A glossary for the ever-changing terms used in the sexual revolution’ and intended to help Christians understand terminology that is used by the LGBT, transgender and gender identity movements.

The article is comprised of a glossary of terms that are designed to help better understand the radical and ever-expanding language to describe elements of the sexual (and gender) ‘revolution’.

More detail can be found at:

[Combatting confusion in society’s language about gender and sexuality](#).

How to Talk with Your Kids About Transgender Ideology

This article is based on the story of Helena Kirschner, how she was lured into gender transition and how she got out of this downward spiral. The author draws lessons from Helena's experience to address "The question for Christian parents is not whether but how to talk about transgender ideology with our kids". Adolescence is a stage in life that all go through, however, with all today's pressures of social media, body image and the infiltration of the trans-agenda, teenagers are faced with issues that most parents did not experience.

The following extract gives a flavour of the article: "While we Christian parents should seek opportunities to initiate conversations about gender with our kids, we also need to know who else has their ear. Helena Kirschner is just one of a growing number who have exposed how enticing and aggressive pro-trans influencers are online, especially for teenagers."

In an earlier [interview with Rod Dreher](#), Kirschner makes the point that parents ask lots of questions when a child wants to go to a sleepover – 'Where is it?' 'Who will be there?' But a child can be sitting in the same room with a parent, chatting online with a stranger suggesting puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones, and the parent is completely unaware. Helena presses the question, *do you know where your children are?*"

More detail can be found at: [How to Talk with Your Kids About Transgender Ideology](#).

Non-binary Student Numbers Soar

This post on the Answers in Genesis website addresses the outcomes of a survey in Maryland (USA) to understand and support a student's gender identity.

Those involved were part of the public school system (roughly equivalent to the state system in the UK from elementary through to high school). Worryingly there had been an increase of 582% in just two years of those who identified as "non-binary" (identifying as something outside the male-female "binary"). This was likened to a new social contagion and the confusion brought into the minds of children and young people through transgender ideologies was also emphasised. Although relating to the USA, there are reflections for those of us on this 'side of the pond'. The following is something that should be considered by Christian parents either side of the Atlantic:

"But children do not belong to the government nor does government or the school system have the child's best interests at heart. Children have been given by God to their parents (Psalm 127:3) and it is parents who know, love, and care about their child the most. It's parents who will now have to support and help their children through the painful and lifelong consequences of this gender madness long after they've moved on from the school, teachers, and media that have planted the seeds of confusion in their minds."

What is happening in US public schools is horrifying, and we must be aware of it and stand boldly against it for the sake of precious children, made male or female in God's image, who are being sacrificed on the altar of a twisted ideology.

Christian Values in Education

No matter what cultural fads come and go, the Word of God stands forever (Isaiah 40:8) and it says we are made male and female (Genesis 1:27). Peace and happiness will not be found in rejecting God's design for us and our bodies but rather in coming to Christ for forgiveness and new life".

More information can be found at: [Non-binary Student Numbers "Soar"](#).

How to talk to your kids about Pride Month and sexuality

This article, written by a pastor's wife and mother, appeared on the ERLC website earlier this year. It deals with the challenges for parents in bringing children up in a hyper-sexualised society where promiscuity has been glorified but so has homosexuality and transgenderism. The author points out the need to approach the sensitive discussions in an age-appropriate way, observing:

"But we are living in a time that equates truth-telling with hate. Your children are told that in order to love someone who identifies as LGBTQ, you must embrace and celebrate that lifestyle. But, it is not loving at all to tell someone that it's okay to go against God's plan for sexuality. We know from God's Word that our sin itself is what separates us from a holy God and only brings about death and destruction. We best love someone by telling them the truth. We must emphasize the love, forgiveness, and redemption of God, but that cannot truly be realized without a proper understanding of our sin. This is what makes the grace of God so amazing. So, keep telling your kids the truth. And pray for the grace to do it in love".

More details can be found at: [How to talk to your kids about Pride Month and sexuality](#).

How to exercise parental rights in a pro-LGBTQ culture

This article focuses on approaches, from a Christian perspective, to equipping children and parents to engage with schools in holding to their beliefs. The author focuses on the importance of affirming God's design for male and female in creation and that we were created, male and female, as complementary in nature. The author also focuses on the need to teach children the truth of God's Word on matters of sexuality, realising the sensitivity of this. The necessity is that children are confronted with biblical models of gender and sexuality on a regular basis at school. They also point out the need to be an involved parent.

More detail can be found at: [How to exercise parental rights in a pro-LGBTQ culture](#)

TECHNOLOGY

The 12 Most Dangerous Apps for Kids: A Guide for Parents

This article found on the Bark [website](#), written earlier this year, highlights the challenges faced by parents keeping up with the latest apps that their children may be wanting to download. No doubt, since the list was published there have been other apps come on the scene. Whatever the app or piece of software the most important things to know what

Christian Values in Education

potential dangers that users can be exposed to and what precautions can be taken to prevent damage from exposure.

The article provides some thoughts on how to open up a discussion on the apps that children using. It is also suggested that a '[tech contract](#)' might be worth considering. This document, which is created collaboratively, can help set expectations around guidance for your child's online activity - as with any document of this type, it's significance is not the words but the discussion that has gone on in identifying the words to go into the document.

More detail can be found at [The 12 Most Dangerous Apps for Kids](#).

CViE would be interested to hear from parents on the approaches they have taken to manage the online activities of their children, whether by computer, tablet or smartphone, and the effectiveness of these approaches. The intention would be then to anonymized information received and share with others to help them in dealing with this aspect of parenting.

Quick Bytes

The following links are ones that have very recently been published and may be of interest to readers:

[MP champions marriage as best for children and society](#)

A news item from The Christian Institute on how Conservative MP, Miriam Cates, has called on Westminster to recognise the importance of marriage to society. Miriam Cates is a practising Christian who has spoken out on a number of issues including the dangers of the RSE curriculum and championing the right of parents to be able to see learning materials that are being used in to teach this subject

[Parents entitled to see sexualising curriculum](#)

This post from Christian Concern provides a useful reference point the parent around how and what their children are taught in RSE. There is an [encouraging video clip](#) of Miriam Cates questioning Amanda Spielman, Ofsted.

[Laurence Fox on whether parents should be worried about woke classrooms 'indoctrinating' children.](#)

Although this is a secular video and we may not agree with all that is said, it does illustrate the issues faced by parents with children in state education. It probably also reflects the view of the 'man in the street'. (or should it be 'person'!) The letters referred to can be found by [clicking here](#).

[The House of Commons Education Committee](#)

This Committee met on November 22, 2022 and questioned Amanda Spielman, His Majesty's Chief Inspector, Ofsted about a number of issues including home education, safeguarding and transparency relating to materials in RSE (the last two points being raised by Miriam Cates). The transcript of the proceedings are found by [clicking here](#) Q 141-142 relate to home education matters, Q 146-148 relate to safeguarding particularly children

Christian Values in Education

being exposed to political viewpoints and Q149-155 relate to the ability of parents to view material used in RSE.

[The recording of the Education Committee meeting can be found by [clicking here](#). The session was two hours in duration. The clips relating to the aforementioned questions can be found as follows: Q 141-142 (10:09:50 – 10:13:10), Q 146-148 (10:15:50 – 10:22:40) and Q149 -155 (10:22:40 – 10:21:40).]

Association of Christian Teachers (ACT)

ACT have written a letter to Gillian Keegan the newly appointed Secretary of State for Education expressing the deep concern that their members have over “the lack of clarity and the resulting danger to children and themselves with regard to how schools and staff are expected to act on matters of gender identity”. The letter explains very clearly the parlous state in schools over gender identity and the need for government to address the situation. We would urge you to read the letter as it concerns the well-being of children and young people and pray the Lord will appear and overturn the designs of those who would cause confusion in the minds of school pupils and others. The letter can be found by [clicking here](#).

Lovewise

We were very pleased to read that Dr Julie Maxwell has been appointed and, God-willing, will take over from Liz Evans as Deputy Director of Lovewise from 1st March 2023. This we believe has been an answer to many prayers regarding finding someone suitable to take up the role and also the commitments that have been made by supporters to pledge financial support. We would urge you to pray for Julie and her family as she plans to take on this new role that the work of Lovewise might prosper in helping Christian parents and young people together beseeching the Lord that a way might be made for Lovewise materials to be used in schools other settings.

Creation Ministries International (CMI)

CMI have published on their website a programme of free online events that will be taking place over the next six months. The next one is on Friday 2 December 2022, on ‘Tracing Genesis in Ancient Cultures’. Further details can be found at [Creation Ministries International Events](#)

NOTE: Although we make every effort to ensure these links mentioned are accurate, up-to-date and relevant, CViE cannot take responsibility for content and pages maintained by external providers, nor do we endorse all information, religious views or opinions posted on these third-party websites.]