

Christian Values in Education

Dear Christian Values in Education Supporter,

We would take this opportunity to reflect on the past year and update you on recent developments within CViE.

Watch and pray

The work of CViE, in the Lord's goodness, mercies and provision, has continued for another year. Over the past year, we have endeavoured to raise awareness of issues impacting on the education of children especially as God-dishonouring ideologies and practices seem to pervade society - particularly regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

Nonetheless, it has been encouraging to report on the work of Miriam Cates MP, which has included her raising concerns over improper barriers to parents' access to material used in the delivery of Relationship Education (RE) and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) within schools. The government [has acknowledged](#) the need to address this issue.

A recent instance raising alarm was reported in an article in *The Times* on Wednesday, 14 December 2022, regarding parents, Calvin and Nicola Watts, who send their children to a Church of England school in Tenterden, Kent. The parents were alerted to a video that had been shown in class to their eight year old child without their knowledge or consent. The video unashamedly promotes gender identity theory and was based on a book "It Feels Good to Be Yourself" and was read by Nana Ceecee. It is disturbing to think that such material is available for use in primary schools, especially 'Christian' ones. We would not normally advocate watching this type of material but in some ways, it may be a 'wake-up call' to consider the question, often asked by CViE: "Do we know what our children are being taught and exposed to?" The video can be found by [clicking here](#).

For those wishing to know more about situation, the Christian Legal Centre are supporting Calvin and Nicola Watts regarding this matter and more detail can be found at: [CofE school accused of child abuse following secret trans indoctrination](#). This includes a response from the school in question.

As Christians, we are encouraged to be salt and light, and the question arises, 'do we have a prayerful concern over these matters?', especially the confusion that is being sown in the minds of young children and the damage that this may cause to their spiritual mental well-being. Or, have we lost our savour and our witness grown dim (Matthew 5:13-16)?

An encouragement, to some extent, has been the recent announcement by Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education, that the Schools Bill 2022 will not be proceeding to its 3rd reading. The Bill included proposed legislation regarding academies and proposals that would impact upon those who choose to home educate. Although the Bill is not proceeding, there are still strong indications that plans to 'register' children of Home Educators are being/will be pursued. There is a very helpful summary of the current situation on the HE Byte website and more detail can be found at: [Demise of the Schools Bill Finally Confirmed](#).

Do pray for Christian parents that wisdom might be granted in making educational choices for their children and that they might be given help to stand for those things they believe.

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Also we would ask you to prayerfully remember those who are involved in delivering education, that help might be given for the challenges faced, and those in Parliament, like Miriam Cates, that they might be helped to bear their cross in raising concerns and speaking out against the dangerous ideologies that children are being exposed to. (Luke 14:25-33).

Book review

We have also attached a copy of a book review that may be of interest to teens and young adults. The book is published by Christian Focus Publications in their Track series and is titled "Track: Technology - A Student's Guide to Technology".

If the Lord will, CViE hope to publish further reviews of books in this series during the forthcoming year.

Trustee update

Some of you may know that it was announced at the CViE National Conference in September 2022 that Michael Ridout be stepping down as the Chairman at the end of the year. Michael, if the Lord will, is hoping to help CViE by continuing to contribute to our written publications such as *Education Matters* and the Newsletter; as well as remaining a Trustee for the immediate future.

We are pleased to announce that the CViE Committee have agreed the following appointments with effect from January 1, 2023:

Chairman:	Dan Sayers
Vice-chairman:	James Skelton
Treasurer:	Graham Cottingham

We are also pleased to inform you that Mark Seymour has been appointed as a Trustee and took up his duties in December 2022. Mark has a wealth of experience in school management and governance within a multi-trust academy together with being a parent and an itinerant minister.

The Lord grant Dan, James, Graham and the Trustees all needed help in continuing the work of CViE during the forthcoming year.

On behalf of the CViE Trustees,

Wishing you the Lord's blessing at this season of the year,

Tim Wills
Business and Development Manager

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

BOOK REVIEW

Track Technology: A Student's Guide to Technology

John Perritt

From CViE

In the author's own words, the purpose of this book is to provide a "biblical framework" or "theological grid" equipping young Christians to see and avoid many of the dangers and pitfalls that come with the modern technologies. These technologies have so quickly become an essential and ever-present element of 21st century life. Recognising that technology continues to develop fast, the author has sought to keep this book relevant by applying the "timeless truths of scripture" rather than focusing on specific technologies and tools for managing use. The result is a concise and readable book divided into nine bite-sized chapters with summaries of the main points at the end of each chapter as well as questions encouraging reflection from the readers on their own spiritual situation. As would be expected from the author's credentials, the book is well-suited to engage its intended audience, however, it is also set well in the context of other literature on the subject.

The argument throughout the book is that technology is not the problem - indeed the "Creation Mandate" in Genesis 1:26-28 makes an "anti-technology" position unbiblical. Instead, technology is a gracious gift from God that does much good in the world including acting as an instrument in the saving of lives. Rather the problem is the misuse of technology which is itself a symptom of the underlying malady in human nature brought about by the Fall. This malady has left men and women with an innate need to worship something, to seek favour and fulfilment and to fill the vacuum left by separation from God. Addiction to technology, looking for approval on social media, as well as other vices such as looking at pornography, are a direct result of this malady. The physical results of such addictions are discussed including mental health issues, constant tiredness due to an inability to switch off, dependence and mental changes. Throughout the book the author advises students not to "mindlessly indulge" in technology exhorting them instead to seek in Christ the rest that technology can never provide.

The author has, perhaps wisely given the quick development of technology, chosen not to mention the tools available to the individual in terms of limiting time, restricting content and recording hours spend on technology. Having laid a scriptural foundation and demonstrated the importance of these matters it is left to the individual Christian to examine themselves prayerfully and put in place wise precautions for themselves and their dependants. Although not mentioned specifically the scriptural principle of moderation is clearly recommended to the reader. As a young person, like many others familiar with the temptations of technology and the guilt and other effects that follow, I thoroughly recommend this book to all users of modern technology. However, ironically it will likely be the prevalence of technology that decreases its readership as the younger generation (myself included) are to our detriment more often drawn to a screen than a book. Perhaps one of the most regrettable effects of addiction to modern technology is the resulting neglect of the rich heritage of spiritual literature available in the English language.

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Book details: John Perrit, Track Technology: A Student's Guide to Technology (2020)
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The book is available from the [Publisher](#), bookshops and is stocked by [Christian Bookshop Ossett](#)