

## **MEI equips students ‘for life and forever’**

It would be fair to say that those of us who are involved in independent schools - and more specifically, Christian schools - believe that we offer a superior education to that of the public system. Having said that, based on my experiences in the public system, I would have to admit that this is not always the case, and in fact, public schools often provide an equally good, and sometimes better education than that of many independent schools.

What then distinguishes MEI from those in the public domain? Why should parents consider sending their children to MEI? The answer to these questions begs another question: “What can we offer that public schools cannot?” Popular thought (including those of Christians) would have us believe that Christian education is a withdrawal from society; that our students are being culturally isolated, and constrained from the kind of learning that will adequately prepare them for their adult years. On the contrary, students in Christian schools are not only free, but encouraged to investigate all issues from alternative worldviews because Christian education is committed to the discovery of truth. Unlike their peers in most public schools, students at MEI are not submerged in fragmented learning—learning the facts of history and laws of science, but discouraged, if not prevented, from pursuing the “why” questions. Christian education actively explores the “why” as it relates to origin, morality and destiny— questions that are at the core of our being. Furthermore, MEI has an ‘inclusive’ admissions policy, which opens our school doors to anyone who wishes to explore these truths with us, and allows our students to test their ideas with students who may have a different worldview.

A fundamental purpose of MEI is to graduate young men and women whose minds have been renewed in a way that makes them God-centred, rather than self-centred, in their decision-making. In my 26 years at MEI, nothing has impressed this upon me more than my experiences with our Service-Learning Program at the secondary school. Over the last 10 years, hundreds of students have experienced short-term service opportunities, and the ways in which their lives have been changed, both at school and following graduation, convince me that a good education is much more than just the sum of those activities conducted inside the four walls of school classrooms. Whether it is through service projects, team sports, performing arts opportunities or field trips, Christian teachers impact the lives of their students outside the classroom in ways that are not possible in public schools. They provide not only life skills but also opportunities for students to prepare for an eternal life. MEI’s motto is: “Equipping students for life and for-ever.” This is what distinguishes MEI from schools in the public domain.

- Dave Loewen, Principal, MEI Chwk