

# God's 'brush strokes'

## Christian worldview

For the last eight years I have been teaching at The King's School in Fair Oak, Hampshire. This is a Christian school where we not only promote Christian values, but we also aim to teach every subject in accordance with a Christian worldview, ie a coherent consistent understanding of reality that is in tune with our understanding of God (as Father, Son and Holy Spirit), the Bible and Christian doctrine.

Our goal is to avoid the perpetuation of a false 'sacred' and 'secular' dichotomy. We want students – and their families – to appreciate that the whole universe and everything in it was created by God, belongs to God and can, therefore, help us understand more about Him, His creation and His purposes for each of us. Or, to put it another way, if teaching a curriculum subject (eg science) from a Christian worldview is about revealing God's truth, then anything that falls short of this is actually anti-intellectual, because it obscures true knowledge and true understanding.

## Stewardship

Here is a simple example. If I was teaching about the extraction and use of crude oil, I would begin by asking, 'Who owns this oil?' This approach is designed to stimulate discussion about human stewardship of what God has provided. As Christians we believe that God provides all our needs, which includes raw materials and energy

## *Christian worldview integration is at the very heart of our entire experience as believers*

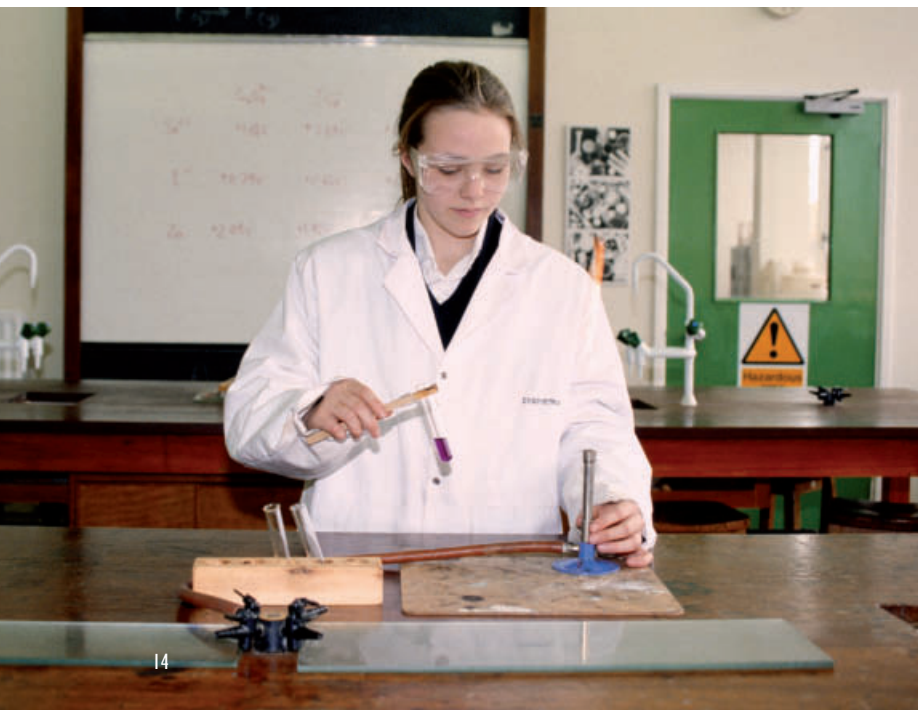
sources. Once this question has been asked it begins to shape how we use this resource. We are stewards of it and we should use it wisely in terms of:

- Availability and allocation – can we share finite fossil fuel reserves with others today in such a way that we can also ensure we have left enough for future generations to use?
- Environmental stewardship – the processes of oil exploration, extraction, refining and transportation create pollution and waste which can harm God's world.
- Human health and well-being – we need to make wise choices about what products are made from the crude oil and how safely they are manufactured and transported.
- Global markets – is it fair that customers have to pay more whenever global demand outstrips global supply?
- Economic stewardship – how can we use money and resources wisely?

## Brush strokes

Another aspect of science is seeing the nature of God embedded in the topics that we study in terms of design, order and purpose. Just as an artist can be identified by her/his brush strokes, God's design, order and purpose can be identified from His 'brush strokes' in science. This point is made by Paul in Romans 1:19-20, 'Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.'

Over the last eight years I have found God prompting me to see His 'brush strokes' in the various topics that I have taught. I have been very aware that these patterns and 'brush strokes' must be genuine and not forced. They can therefore be edifying to the pupils.



# in science

I have included in this article three examples of these brush strokes, one from each of the three main sciences. It is important to stress that each lesson works on two levels. Firstly, it has literal scientific meaning; teaching students about the way the world works using scientific vocabulary. Secondly, it works as an allegory; teaching students about spiritual experience using Christian vocabulary.

## Conclusion

I hope these examples of God's 'brush strokes' will encourage you to 'see' God in the science we teach. After all, I often feel that when I learn something new about science, I am placing my feet in His footprints and am following His ideas.

I would like to conclude by quoting Greg Bitgood ([www.thechristianeducator.org](http://www.thechristianeducator.org)). He writes: 'Christian worldview integration is at the very heart of our entire experience as believers. How do we bring Christ, who is in us, to our lives? How do we see the world, our friends, our jobs, our purpose, in light of the great truths we embrace as Christians. If we fail at this task our students will construct a worldview that separates their faith from reality and weakens the impact that any faith they have has upon the world in which they live. If we succeed, as educators, in presenting our curriculum from a Christian worldview we will enable our students to answer huge questions about life and faith, and how they are intertwined. We will open up God's world to them and enable them to discern the real from the false. We will give our students a framework to study any discipline and bring the truth to the forefront.'

Amen, brother Greg!

■ Michael White

## A SAMPLE CHEMISTRY LESSON

# Catalysts in chemical reactions

| Catalysts in chemical reactions                                                            | Football fans at matches                                                                                                                                     | The Holy Spirit in our lives                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The mere presence of a catalyst improves the speed of the reaction, as it provides energy. | The very fact that the fans are there can help to make the players perform better and win.                                                                   | When we become Christians the Holy Spirit is a constant presence in our lives who can give us abundant life.                                      |
| The catalyst does not take part in the chemical reaction.                                  | The fans do not get involved in the game by getting on to the pitch. They stay in their seats.                                                               | The Holy Spirit does get involved in our lives so that we can do God's will.                                                                      |
| The catalyst can be used again and again, having not taken part in the chemical reaction.  | As the fans do not get involved on the pitch, and do not get injured, they are able to attend the next match quite easily.                                   | The Holy Spirit can always be with us, again and again. Jesus will never leave us.                                                                |
| The catalyst used in a chemical reaction is specific to a particular reaction.             | Normally speaking football fans tend to support one particular team. Some may support one other team, but their energy is given mainly to one specific team. | The Holy Spirit will primarily help all of God's people. However, He does get involved with non-Christians as part of God's plan for His kingdom. |
| There are some chemicals that can 'poison' the catalyst and not make it work so well.      | Fans from other clubs can act as 'bullies' and affect the performance of the fans.                                                                           | The Devil, or Satan, can try to bring us down and make our lives not honour Jesus.                                                                |
| The opposite of a catalyst is an inhibitor. It slows down the speed of the reaction.       | Pressures to perform well, past failures or bankruptcy can affect the ability to play well.                                                                  | Unconfessed sin that forms a barrier between ourselves and God can inhibit our witness and we live joyless lives.                                 |

# Blood is important for life

## Background

In Leviticus 17:11 we read that blood is very important: 'For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar.' In the New Testament it is the blood of Jesus that saves us and cleanses us from all sin. So, blood is important for life to continue, both physically and spiritually.

Blood fulfills three purposes:

- It **PROVIDES** energy to live by means of the red blood cells picking up oxygen.
- It **PROTECTS** us from disease by means of the white blood cells, the platelets and the messages conveyed by hormones in the plasma.
- It **PRESERVES** us by means of the hormones, vitamins and minerals in the blood plasma.





Whether it is literal physical blood or (metaphorically speaking) spiritual 'blood' the purposes are just the same; it ensures that a body is healthy and able to have abundant life.



| Part of the blood | Purpose fulfilled | The human or physical body                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | The Church or the Body of Christ                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Red blood cells   | <b>PROVIDE</b>    | These cells can pick up oxygen and give us energy by means of aerobic respiration.                                                                                                                                                            | In the body of Christ we need the Holy Spirit (or air/oxygen)* to give us the energy that will not get used up and enable us to serve God.                                                                                                                                   |
| White blood cells | <b>PROTECT</b>    | These cells defend us on the inside from a disease that has already invaded us.                                                                                                                                                               | God's people, who are in the body already, will protect us from false teaching in the body by teaching, praying or (perhaps) by some deliverance ministry.                                                                                                                   |
| Plasma            | <b>PRESERVE</b>   | Plasma carries 'chemical messengers', or hormones, around the body to instruct our bodies on how to respond to the outside world. For example adrenalin. Or it might be minerals or vitamins being carried to cells to preserve their health. | Itinerant ministers or Bible teachers can visit and move round the body of Christ, the church, to help us know how to respond to the world outside of us. We can also go to 'Bible Week' conventions where the same thing can happen. This kind of teaching can preserve us. |
| Platelets         | <b>PROTECT</b>    | Platelets stop diseases from actually getting into the body by closing off an opening in our bodies. This will protect us from illness.                                                                                                       | Prophets and 'lookouts' in the Body of Christ are there to alert us to the dangers happening around us. They are able to stop a 'disease' getting into the Church.                                                                                                           |

\* The root word for 'spirit' is 'wind' or 'breath', ie 'air/oxygen'.

# Magnetic attraction

| The Big Bar Magnet and its Field                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                               | The Loving Heart of God and His Kingdom                                                                                                    |                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Iron acts as a shield to the big bar magnet.</p> |  <p>Gold does not act as a shield to the big bar magnet.</p> |                                                          |  |
| The Big Bar Magnet                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                               | The Loving Heart of God                                                                                                                    |                                                                                     |
| There is a magnetic field around the big bar magnet.                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                               | The kingdom of God surrounds His heart of love.                                                                                            |                                                                                     |
| The big bar magnet influences the things that are placed inside the field around it.                                                  |                                                                                                                                               | God's love, plans, purposes and power are felt, known and experienced in His kingdom by His people.                                        |                                                                                     |
| Mini magnets, which are like the big bar magnet, can be found in this field.                                                          |                                                                                                                                               | We are made in the image of God and are naturally attracted towards Him.                                                                   |                                                                                     |
| The big bar magnet is designed to attract the mini magnets.                                                                           |                                                                                                                                               | We are created to respond to God's love.                                                                                                   |                                                                                     |
| Iron around a mini magnet shields it from the influence of the big bar magnet.                                                        |                                                                                                                                               | Sin is a barrier between us and God and stops us enjoying His love.                                                                        |                                                                                     |
| The mini magnet is attracted to the iron casing.                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                               | We are attracted to our sin. It becomes part of us, a false god. It takes the role of God in our lives.                                    |                                                                                     |
| If the iron is removed, and gold put in its place, the attraction is much stronger because the field is felt inside the mini magnet.  |                                                                                                                                               | Salvation removes the sin through confession, repentance and turning to God. Attraction is restored, or we feel and know God's love again. |                                                                                     |
| The attraction is now near the mini magnet and also inside it.                                                                        |                                                                                                                                               | When we become Christians the Kingdom of God is near us and in us.                                                                         |                                                                                     |

Leave the crowd control behind – find a really rewarding alternative!

Teachers of all subjects, from primary to A level, are required for the children of missionaries overseas. TEFL and Special Needs are warmly welcomed.

Applicants need to be committed Christians, ready to live out and share their faith in a cross-cultural context. Staff are expected to trust God to provide their needs. (A basic allowance is sometimes given.)






By teaching missionaries' children, YOU can make a significant contribution to world evangelisation.









info@uk.wec-int.org  
tel: 01753 278103  
WEC International  
planting where there is no church  
www.wec-int.org.uk