

# The Beat

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Business and Education Advancing Together

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## Life Lessons Learned the Hard Way

From the book *The Tao of Enron* written by Pastor Chris Seay and former Enron employee Chris Bryan and published by NavPress, we can learn from the failure of a Fortune 500 giant. The book is promoted as "Spiritual Lessons from a Fortune 500 Fallout" and based on the premise that "The hard-learned lessons of Enron can benefit not merely the boardroom, but also the living room."

Knowing that we face a continuous assault on our **Christian Values** we owe it to each other to hold each accountable but also to mentor those who will enter the work force, maybe your mentee will question some of your business practises.

## Above Par?

The Ontario government's recent mass mailing "Overview 2003 Budget" notes,

- "Improved Test Results." Fifteenth to fourth; Ontario English language 13-year-old students moved from 15th place to fourth place in 2001's national math tests.
- "Second place" Ontario students help Canada rank second among 32 countries, ahead of Britain, the U.S. and Germany in key reading components of the 2000 Programme for International Student Assessment.

A laudable achievement!

The April 4, 2003 issue of *The Economist* has a one page article on education in China. University entrance exams are intensely competitive, so much so that parents send their high school age children abroad to give them a head-start over the expected competition, often at an annual cost of U\$25,000, about ten times the average annual income in China.

With the competition so great, are we doing everything we can, as parents, employers, Christian community, to ensure that we keep and increase the edge that the Ontario Government says we are developing?

The Spring 2003 Council of Christian Colleges & Universities Newsletter *CCCU Advance* front cover article "Standing Out" says, "Perhaps one of the best ways to guarantee a job upon graduation is to establish a relationship with a potential employer before even donning the cap and gown. Mid-America Nazarene University (KS), for example, gives nursing students experience at local hospitals within the first two years of the program instead of waiting until the senior year. During "clinicals," which are similar to traditional internships, the students care for their own patients, with an instructor and nurse standing by to answer questions if necessary.

Many nursing students have gone on to work in the hospitals where they performed their clinicals.

Most other vocations and professions lend themselves to similar training/mentor type of introduction to the work place.

We as Christian employers, parents and Christian education supporters would do well to follow the lead identified by CCCU in light of all this global competition.

## Co-Op Job Fair Share

Career opportunities for high school students are endless—the trick is in choosing the right one.

That was the message directed at about 300 Grade 10 students at Pauline Johnson's first Co-op Job Fair Share.

This year, co-op teachers, decided to promote the Co-operative Education Program, particularly targeting Grade 10 career studies students. So as part of the co-op final examination, participating students had to present their experiences in a display at the fair. In the past, they presented their projects only to other co-op students.

The co-operative education program promotes learning outside of school and provides students with work experience. Throughout the co-op placement students also gain time management skills and interpersonal skills that employers look for in job applicants.

Whether students choose to go on to university, college, or directly into the work place, the fair provides them with a variety of career opportunities to explore.

"Co-op makes or breaks your decision on your career," says Evelyn Campbell, a theatre technician at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts.

Taken from  
Natalie Fryc. "Co-op Job Fair Share."  
*The Expositor* 18 January 2003: C4.

The Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS) through Good Resources Open Windows So Many Are Richly Taught (GROW SMART) is Canada's largest producer of Christian Curriculum. Textbooks and teacher resources that are used by 100% of the respondents to an April 2003 survey by the Ontario Christian School Teachers Association (OCSTA). The OACS does a great job of planting the seed, providing the nutrients needed to grow strong healthy (well informed/educated) Christian education graduates.

Two questions:

- Are we as employers doing all we can?
- Are we enabling Christian Education graduates?



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