

ACS Leaders Retreat

24 & 25 July 2019

KEYNOTE SPEAKER PROFILES



Dr Beth Green

Dr. Beth Green is Visiting Professor for Research Integration and Educational Formation at Tyndale University College and Seminary in Toronto. Beth is a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts and a Senior Fellow at the faith-based think tank Cardus. She has a doctorate from the University of Oxford and is also a graduate of Cambridge and London Universities.

Dr. Green has an international reputation for her expertise in religious school ethos; leadership and management; teaching and learning and social theory in education. She regularly publishes her empirical research in international journals including the British Journal of Sociology and Education and the Cambridge Journal of Education. Her consultancy regularly takes her to Europe and Australia where she advises on effective approaches to measurement, professional development, and pedagogy in the religious school sector.



Professor Trevor Cooling

Trevor Cooling is Professor of Christian Education at Canterbury Christ Church University, UK and Deputy Editor of the International Journal of Christianity and Education. He is also Chair of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, the body that oversees the teaching of this compulsory subject in all schools. His work involves him working with teachers from a wide range of Christian and government schools with teachers of many different faiths and none.

He is widely published in both Christian and general education literature and regularly speaks on subject relating to Christianity, religion and education in the UK and internationally. This will be his tenth visit to Australia. His passion as a teacher and academic over many years has been to see Christians making a distinctively biblical contribution to education in their country in both government and independent schools.



Mr Mike Potter

Mike Potter grew up in Adelaide, Australia, but in 1977, when he was 16, his family moved to South Africa and then Malawi to work as missionaries. It was here that Mike started his love affair with the African continent.

He returned home to complete a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education at the University of Adelaide and began his teaching career in 1983. In 1987 he and his wife, Dani, moved to Nairobi Kenya to take up teaching positions at a British Preparatory School, and where they lived for over twelve years.

In 2000, the Potter family returned home to Australia when Mike was appointed Principal of Tyndale Christian School, located in the northern suburbs of Adelaide, South Australia. In 2015, Tyndale acquired two regional schools in South Australia and Mike was appointed to the new position of Head of Schools. The three schools currently have a combined cohort of just over 2,000 students.

While in Kenya, Mike and Dani began a long term association with Testimony Faith Homes, an orphanage that cares for hundreds of destitute and abandoned children, and New Life Homes, a rescue centre for HIV+ and abandoned babies. Since returning to Australia, Mike and Dani have developed a "missions/community service" programme that now encompasses a number of countries, regional destinations and local charity organisations.

Mike has been a regular keynote speaker on mission, poverty, social justice and dealing with grief and loss at conferences throughout Australia. He is passionate about God, young people, the growth of Christian Schooling, issues of social justice, and ministering to those who are searching for hope while walking on the road marked with suffering.

In 2013, Mike authored his first book, "We Have a Voice" – a call to Christians to re-discover the "compelling story" that they have and then share it with the world in a way that will "draw men to the light".

His quieter passions include birding wherever and whenever he can, and photography. Mike and Dani have five children – Leah (married to Danny), Ben (married to Rose), Haylee (married to Matt), Daniel and James, and one grandson – Patrick Jake.