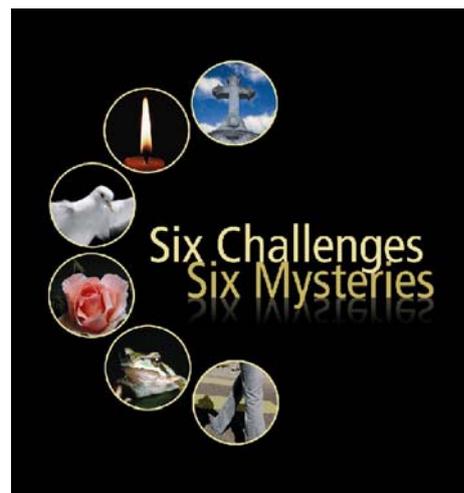


PART ONE

Workshop Manual

INTRODUCTION

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1. The 2004 ACLE Connection

The 2004 charter for the future of Lutheran education is a vision that arose from the 2004 ACLE Conference in Adelaide, South Australia. Following a summation of the conference themes by Norman Habel, it was decided that the six challenges identified in the conference presentations should be transformed into a set of six DVDs. *Six Challenges – Six Mysteries* is the outcome of that decision.

Each of the six challenges is linked with one of the six key speakers at the 2004 ACLE Conference, namely, Geraldine Doogue, Peter Ellyard, Noel Pearson, Bishop Ishmael Noko, Kath Engebretson and Peter Hart. The six challenges do not include a discussion with the speakers, but select some of their key ideas that are relevant to the future of Lutheran education.

The six DVDs take these key ideas and develop them as serious educational challenges for all Lutheran schools. One of the contributions made by Norman Habel in his summation was to link these challenges to specific mysteries, that is, to profound theological insights of the Lutheran heritage.

The 2004 ACLE conference was a genuinely challenging event. The six DVDs are designed to extend this event from the Adelaide Convention Centre into all Lutheran schools in order to encourage fresh thinking and bold planning for the future.

Copies of the ACLE presentations by most of the keynote speakers are available on the LEA website (www.lea.org.au). Please go to: Publications/Australian Conference on Lutheran Education 2004/ACLE Papers.

2. DVD Structure

Each DVD has a common structure designed not only to challenge our thinking about the future of Lutheran education, but also to provide basic ideas that will facilitate workshop deliberation. The common structure of the DVDs is

- **The Introduction.** The specific challenge to be explored is introduced by Norman Habel
- **The Challenge.** The specific challenge is restated as a vision for the future.

- **The ACLE Voice.** A summary of key ideas from a particular ACLE speaker is outlined for consideration.
- **The Challenge Explored.** A brief discussion follows in which key educational questions and issues related to the challenge are explored.
- **School Initiatives.** Selected examples are given of the thinking and/or initiative of schools, staff and students in our system who have begun to face the challenge being explored.
- **The Mystery.** Norman Habel introduces the relevant mystery and its connection with a specific educational challenge.
- **The Mystery Explored.** The relevant mystery is explored briefly to provide a basic insight into its significance for a given challenge.
- **The Closing Challenge.** Norman Habel summarises the ideas of the DVD with a call to take the specific challenge seriously!

3. The Mysteries

Mysteries amaze! The six mysteries are an integral part of our Lutheran heritage. We have preserved the traditional Latin or German terminology used in relation to these teachings to heighten the sense of heritage.

These formulations, however, are much more than traditional doctrines. They are, in fact, mysteries that reside deep in our theology, mysteries that can still amaze us, stir our imagination and revive our faith.

Just as important in this context is the close connection of these mysteries with specific educational concerns of our schools. Every aspect of our teaching in Lutheran schools is grounded in mystery, whether or not we have come to appreciate the connection. Every nuance of learning is related to a mystery in our faith. The more faith informed our staff become, the more deeply satisfying they will find their role as teachers in a Lutheran school.

Ultimately all of the mysteries explored in these DVDs are grounded in the greatest mystery of all, a mystery that can be summed up in the Latin *sola gratia*.

Sola gratia means grace alone! God comes free, by grace. Christ comes free with the gift of eternal life. And faith in Christ is free, a gift of God's grace. This is the ultimate mystery.

All the mysteries explored in these DVDs are also free, all gifts of God:

- The mystery of God continuing to create
- The mystery of the Holy Spirit deep within
- The mystery of the infinite presence in our planet
- The mystery of the cross as the way to live
- The mystery of our God born and crucified
- The mystery of the gospel as our guide

4. The Challenges

Challenges confront! The six challenges for the future of Lutheran education are not intended to be comprehensive, but to focus on specific issues and needs that demand the attention of contemporary Lutheran schools if they are to be true to their mandate. The time available to explore these challenges in a given DVD is very limited and only permits a preliminary presentation of some of the key issues.

Each school will want to explore the various challenges in greater depth to understand the implications of the challenge for its school. Schools will also want to examine their current practice in the relevant areas to ascertain where they need to concentrate their study of the issue and where they need to focus their future planning.

The suggested resources are designed to assist schools at this stage in their study of a given challenge.

5. The Vision

Visions inspire! The ultimate purpose of these six DVDs is to inspire schools to dream about the future and to devise ways of improving the educational, pastoral and spiritual life of the school.

These DVDs are also intended to stir schools to take the lead as educational institutions. By exploring this vision together, schools will develop rich and innovative strategies that can be shared not only in our Australian Lutheran schools, but in the wider context of Lutheran schools in Asia and beyond.

Moreover, these DVDs are for school development, not just for individual staff development. Each school is asked, through the workshops, to draft ideas and strategies for facing these challenges in the future.

6. Workshop Plan

a. Audience

The challenges in the workshops are for all staff and school councils to explore. The ultimate aim is to develop a vision and a corresponding strategy for the whole school in relation to the specific challenges discussed in the workshop.

b. Strategy groups

It is recommended that, prior to the viewing of the DVDs, the school staff and council be divided into strategy groups each with a group leader. Group leaders may wish to read the scripts of the narrative for a given DVD in advance. These narrative scripts are found in Part Two of the Manual.

c. Showing the DVDs

The DVDs are designed to be viewed individually rather than as a cluster of six in one sitting. Some may wish to view a given DVD more than once to catch the nuances of meaning implied.

d. Sessions

After viewing a given DVD, each group discusses the specific challenge in the DVD for an hour or so. The discussion is divided into three sections with specific questions related to the following:

- exploring the mystery
- facing the challenge
- planning a vision and a strategy

e. Recording

During the discussion for a given challenge, each group is asked to record rough notes about:

- a) current school initiatives relating to a given challenge,
- b) its vision for the future in relation to that challenge, and,
- c) possible strategies for implementing the vision.

These notes are collected by the group leader and forwarded to a school planning team.

f. *Planning Team*

A small planning team collates the information and ideas forwarded by each strategy group, refines the material and reformulates the ideas into a succinct and challenging plan.

g. *Consultation*

This plan is shared with the entire school staff and council for reflection, revision and possible action.

h. *ACLE Taskforce*

After consultation, the vision and strategy developed is forwarded to LEA headquarters for collation and consideration by an LEA Taskforce.

i. *Circulation*

The LEA Taskforce shares the results submitted by the various school planning teams and supports schools as they seek ways of implementing their plans.

FLOW CHART OF PROCESS

Select Group Leaders

Show a DVD

Discuss DVD in Strategy Groups

The Mystery-----The Challenge-----The Vision

Forward Ideas to Planning Team

Planning Team edits and refines plans

School Consultation on plans

Plans submitted to LEA Taskforce

LEA Taskforce shares and supports