

## RECONCILIATION MEETING AT THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

(29/9/99 – EKB)

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Proprietors** to resolve issues of conflict.

### Issues that needed to be resolved:

- Firstly “.....the proprietors and the board of trustees **need to urgently establish a more effective means of negotiating agreements** on matters concerning the special character of the school.”
- Secondly “The board should establish a clear memorandum of understanding with the proprietors and should negotiate protocols that would enable the trust to undertake its proprietor’s duties without interfering in the management of the school. The board may require external support and mediation.”

### Background to the involvement of E. Ken Bassett.

1. Request by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees to act as a “mediator.”
2. Inquiry by E.K.B. with a lawyer as to the process of “mediation” and the realisation of personal inadequacy.
3. Considered declining the opportunity but after much prayer decided to be available to assist from a Christian minister’s point of view.

### Understood general Vision of the school.

“To provide a loving Bible based education for children that would help them lead faithful, fruitful lives for Jesus Christ.” – Founder of the School.

### Bible Reading: *2Cor 5:18-20* on **reconciliation**.

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God was pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

### Pastoral Comments by E.K.B.

1. **The Cross of Jesus Christ** provides the way of reconciliation between God and mankind.
2. **At the Cross God extends mercy** to those who are his enemies and opposed to Him and His law of love.
3. **Quoting from the reading**, “not imputing their trespasses to them.”
4. **Reconciliation is achievable** between groups of people when they follow the example of the Cross.
  - a. Extend mercy and forgiveness to one another.
  - b. Refuse to hold one another in judgment, or speak critically of the other.
5. **This provides ground for bridge building where:**
  - a. Open, honest statement of differing views can be shared, without anger or fear.
  - b. Mutual understanding of the other party’s views can increase.

c. By God's grace an acceptable compromise can be adopted.

6. **Where there is no immediate resolution** it is wise:

- a. To agree upon a time of reflection and consideration before the issue is revisited for further discussion.
- b. to pray together for the Holy Spirit to bring clear revelation of God's answer to this impasse.
- c. To continue to refuse all judgmental and critical attitudes.
- d. To renounce all personal self interest and choose to serve Christ in the vision, (above).
- e. To invite qualified advisors who can bring expertise to bear on the issues concerned.
- f. To be patient and to have faith in God and His Word. He is able to do more than we can imagine possible.

7, **Each time a School Newsletter** is produced, send it out to the churches in the locality and ask them for congregational prayer support for the School, pupils, staff and Trust Boards.

Finally E.K.B. prayed for the Board of Trustees and the Proprietors Trust that God would enable them to renounce all self interest and critical, judgmental attitudes. That they would work together to fulfil the vision in openness, honesty, humility, faith and wisdom.