

THE ISAAC ARMITAGE LECTURE

20 JULY, 2012

Dr Darrell Bock

Response by Milton Cujes, Head Master, Trinity Grammar School, Sydney

I would like to thank Dr Wright for the invitation to proffer a response to Dr Bock's lecture. In so doing, I am mindful that you have come this evening looking forward to hearing one lecture, not two!

- Hence, I shall endeavour to be succinct.

I should also declare at the outset two other points. First, that my attempt at engagement with Dr Bock's thoughtful and in many respects, challenging, words will be from the perspective of a journeyman Head Master rather than that of a theologian or academic.

Secondly, now that I

Much of what we see in today's society presents an ex

The linking of spiritual formation with discipleship is apposite. The reference to an experienced mentor as often being helpful and encouraging in spiritual formation is no doubt our common valued experience for which we all give thanks. It also brings to mind the truism about education – that students learn faculty, not subjects – emphasising yet again the importance of having Christian men and women on our staff. Men and women who see their vocation as Christian teachers, who model a Christian lifestyle in the performance of their daily School duties, that attracts our students to ask them what is it that makes them different. A lifestyle that prepares the way for that life-changing conversation with a student which can at times occur in the most unexpected circumstances to “give a good account of the faith that lies within them”

Dr Bock’s four key elements of spiritual formation, Biblically-derived, attested and presented, provides us with

- the Who – (the spirit as the agent of formation)
- the “What I en _____

time no less challenging, stirring us to take up our responsibilities in serving God and our fellow man.

viz.

- How effectively are we acknowledging

own continuing faith journey. This is best achieved in a community environment where we can share our own doubts and certainties, successes as well as shortcomings in our day to day experiences as frail human beings made in the image of God.

In responding to this challenge we will further the growth and development of our Christian communities and thereby be even more effective in meeting the needs of our students by promoting their spiritual formation. We will be fulfilling our potential as God's people working in His service, guided by the self-sacrificial example of Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit so that in all things we can truly say,