

OSPEL, NEWSLETTER

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Christianity Everyday is a training package that we offer to churches, to equip people for thinking in a Christian way about issues of public interest. So far this year we've worked with congregations at Epping and Wahroonga, and we invited congregations in the inner west of Sydney to an event that was held at Christ College in May. In the next few weeks we'll be participating in a retreat weekend on the Central Coast, as well as spending some time at the PY Senior Winter Camp.

The core material of *Christianity Everyday* is an introduction to apologetics, with an overview of different worldviews. It can be combined with one or more topical sessions over a weekend or several evenings or afternoons. The workshops are flexible and can be tailored to suit the needs of your congregation or Presbytery. At present we can speak about Information Technology; the Sexualisation of Culture; End-of-life and Beginning-of-life issues; Asylum Seekers and Refugees; Science & Christianity; and Engaging the Media.

Send us an email to get more information or to book a training event for your church: contact@gsandc.org.au

Newly-published Resources

"Christ Among the 'Gods': Responding to Religious Plurality Today" is a new set of resource papers that aim to help Christians engage with a society that is increasingly "multi-faith". The first two parts were published in May, and the final part will be available in June. Visit the Resources (Freedom of Religion) page of the GS&C website to download your copy.



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Banned Books: Engaging with the Culture in our Public Schools

Lose gracefully, or fight it out? Opinions were divided when the NSW Department of Education and Communities recently identified three books as unsuitable for use in Special Religious Education classes. The "ban" was lifted, and an apology given for lack of consultation, on May 20 but we suspect that pressure will continue to be applied against SRE in NSW public schools. How ought we engage with this issue, especially during the period when SRE (along with the secular ethics alternative) is under review? John McClean has written about the ban and the alternative responses, reminding us that we need to be ready to respond in future, at the same time praying for those in our churches who are working with the DEC review panel. See our website for more: http://www.gsandc.org.au/resources/sre-innsw.html