

2010 NAPCE Conference: Highlights and Reflections

James Dekker, Conference VP

During our 2010 convention we were challenged in various ways to rethink the way people live out the gospel today (the church) and we were left with the question: What does this mean for Christian formation/education today? Scot McKnight brought to us pictures of the gospel from scripture and his experience with students today. Mike Erre brought us a picture of what a Christian Ed director has to think about when leading Christian Education in his church (Rock Harbor and now Mariners church). Along with the formal presentations, we experienced a new venue; the Research Mall, where we enjoyed conversations around each other's various research concerns. We were given many different ways to enter the dialogue but one point in particular remains pinnacle for me: A brother from Texas offered a question near the end of Scot's second presentation: "What do you think this (understanding of the gospel) means for us in Christian Education?" Scot wisely suggested that that question was for us to work on. My prayer for us and the future of our field is that we are and will continue to work on this.

Jim Dekker