

News Notes

SDA Elementary School Honored

Pacific Union College Elementary School has been honored as one of 270 outstanding elementary schools in the United States, the U.S. Education Department announced recently.

In commenting on the first national recognition of exceptional primary schools, Education Secretary William Bennett said, "They provide their young students with a solid foundation for later life."

The 210 public and 60 private school winners were selected by educators and private citizens. Each will send representatives to a Washington awards ceremony this fall. Awards were based on how schools use resources and meet students' needs, with special emphasis on reading and math achievement.—Reported by *U.S.A. Today*, July 1, 1986.

Chilean School Stresses Outreach

The SDA secondary school in Concepcion, Chile, has a strong outreach program. An average of 80 people each year have been baptized through the efforts of its students and faculty.

Among the many missionary activities of the institution is training elementary students to give Bible studies. The teachers hold religious meetings with more than 200 students each Sabbath. Early in 1986, 261 high school students and 194 in the upper primary grades requested Bible studies in preparation for baptism.

This year the school administration purchased a new property for the primary course, leaving the secondary school in another building. Thus it was possible to open up 300 vacancies at the secondary level. In three days, thanks to the good reputation of the school in the community, all openings had been filled.

Brazil School Expands Facilities

In view of plans to transfer the theology course from Northeast Brazil College to Bahia Adventist Academy, the latter institution, which has been in operation only since 1980, has

been increasing and developing its campus. The following buildings have been completed: kitchen and cafeteria, first stage of the girls' dorm, first stage of the theological seminary building, and the secondary classroom building. The boys' dorm, teachers' homes, and houses for married students are still under construction.

A School Funding Ruckus in Newfoundland

Dissatisfaction is growing with the religious schools of Newfoundland—Canada's only totally denominational educational system.

Under a unique agreement, eight religious denominations are provided with total state funding for the four province-wide religious school systems. Newfoundland is thus the only province in Canada that lacks a true public school system.

Critics charge that the system (1) is plagued by an expensive duplication of services, (2) sanctions and promotes religious discrimination, and (3) leads to numerous abuses of human and political rights.

For the 145,000 students in hundreds of communities across Newfoundland, there are different schools, school boards, and teachers for Roman Catholics, Pentecostals, and Seventh-day Adventists, as well as so-called "integrated" schools for members of the Anglican, United, Salvation Army, Presbyterian, and Moravian churches.

These schools are called "integrated" because until 1969, each of them also had its own school system.

Parents have charged that the church-operated schools discriminate against nonmembers in the selection of courses. Duplication of services has also been a continuing problem.

Newfoundland's school boards exert a powerful influence over the policies of their schools. One teacher with the Roman Catholic system was fired when he joined the Salvation Army and was married in that church. Other teachers have been fired for

living in common-law marriages, divorcing, and generally not living what their employers consider a morally proper life.

The Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the validity of religious tests for separate school teachers, ruling they are a legitimate prerequisite of employment. However, in Newfoundland teachers have no other alternative than to work for a denominational system.

Frank Kearney, executive director of the Catholic Education Council that directs the oldest of the four systems, is a strong proponent of the religious schools' approach.

"Denominational schools are part of Newfoundland's strong religious traditions and history," he says. "If I send my children off to a Catholic school, I know they will get the same teachings as in my home. They enhance the triangle of harmony between the family, the schools, and the church."

Kearney agrees, however, that some modification will have to be made in the denominational schools. "Newfoundland is becoming more and more a part of the North American culture; more people are coming in from outside," he says.—Reported by the *Toronto Star*, April 2, 1986.

Top Educators Honored

An unprecedented event in the history of Seventh-day Adventist education occurred on June 21, 1986, when the General Conference Department of Education awarded four Medallions of Merit and seven Citations of Excellence to educators from the Far Eastern, South Pacific, and Southern Asia divisions. Presented at the conclusion of the Asia Pacific Administrators Seminar in Singapore, the awards recognized outstanding service in the field of Adventist education.

Honored with the Medallion of Merit—the Adventist educational "Congressional Medal of Honor"—were Drs. Gerald F. Clifford and Raymond K. Wilkinson of the South

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Pacific Division as well as Drs. Alfonso P. Roda and Amos Simongkir of the Far Eastern Division. For more than three decades, the contributions of these candidates have been worldwide in their scope and influence.

Medallion of Merit recipient Dr. Clifford was presented by Dr. George Babcock, General Conference Associate Director of Education, who emceed the awards ceremony, as "perhaps the only person in the denomination who has served as education director of two different world divisions" (Trans-Africa and South Pacific). Dr. Clifford was honored for his outstanding contribution in developing organizational structure and administrative policies in the South Pacific Division as well as his vision in the direction and thrust of Christian education.

Another recipient of the Medallion of Merit, Dr. Raymond Kenneth Wilkinson, was honored for his 32 years of distinguished service to education in the mission fields of the South Pacific Division. He has given outstanding leadership in school administration at every level. Dr. Wilkinson has spent the past four years as the first college president of Pacific Adventist College. His consistent Christian life and dedication under trying circumstances have won him high regard from generations of students and many fellow educators.

Recipient of the Medallion of Merit Dr. Alfonso P. Roda has given nearly 20 years of outstanding leadership to Philippine Union College. He won the Board of Regents accreditation for PUC and has been instrumental in the development of a connecting graduate school. In addition, Dr. Roda acted as the primary organizer in the relocation of Philippine Union College to its present Silang campus.

Dr. Amos Simongkir, director of education for the Far East Division, was honored for his many years of exceptional leadership in a number of educational roles. Elected to his current position as the FED director of education in 1982 after serving as a teacher, academic dean, and college

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Left to right, Dr. M. E. Cherian; Dr. Maria Tumangday; Pastor Harold Irvine; Dr. Gerald Clifford; Dr. George Babcock; Dr. Raymond Wilkinson; Dr. Alfonso Roda; Dr. Amos Simorangkir; Dr. Kim Chong Wha. Not pictured, Dr. Senzo Nagakubo and Dr. Ella Hadad.



Pastor V. I. Varghese of the Southern Asia Division receives the Citation of Excellence from Dr. C. B. Rock, General Conference vice president, as Dr. George Akers, world director of education, looks on.