
TEACHER REACTION

A Real Winner

The article, "What Makes a School Christian?" by John G. Kerbs (December 1987-January 1988) was a real winner. He puts in writing what I have been trying to say for more than 40 years as an educator.

Many tend to think of student work programs in terms of funds to pay the school bill, when indeed it is Christian education in the highest sense, and it requires the most consecrated Christian personnel to implement it. The work supervisor should be the same quality Christian as the best Bible teacher.

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Read With Interest

By a happy accident I have come across the February-March 1987 issue of THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION dealing with science. I must say that unlike the small book that tasted sweet in John the Revelator's mouth but which became bitter in his stomach, the journal is both sweet in my sense of appreciation as well as leaven to my faculty of understanding. I wish our children

in Uganda who are exposed to a wrong approach to science learning could be corrected and saved!

All the articles in the issue are extremely educative and faith-promoting. The layout and photography are all well planned. It is indeed a scholarly paper representing the church in the field of education and expressing well-considered views in the academic world.

I am a high school teacher and principal taking care of a fast-growing church-related secondary school operated by parents on their own initiative because of the value we place in Adventist Christian education.

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Horrific Message

I read with interest Dorothy Watts' article, "Contracting: A Way to Increase Student Learning" (February-March 1988). Behavior and scholastic outcomes are directly connected to goals we set. They give us clear targets, and we won't know if we've hit the mark without them.

Several of the social behavior outcomes trouble me, particularly the one that says, "Jesus will be pleased." It would be natural for young students to assume that if their behavior did not meet the teacher's criteria, Jesus would then not be pleased with them. Or worse yet, Jesus might reject them altogether.

I don't think that she intended that horrific message. Fortunately, Jesus accepts me regardless of my behavior and what others may think

of me. I celebrate in His redemptive unconditional love. Should this not be our motivation to be one with Him?

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● *Pleasure is not necessarily a synonym for love and acceptance. Further, the antonym for love is hate; for acceptance, rejection; for pleasure, pain. It does not follow, therefore, that because Jesus is unhappy with a choice we make that He rejects us. Rather, He is hurt or sad.*

While I believe God loves and accepts me "just as I am," totally and unconditionally, I do not believe that this love negates the pain or pleasure that result from my choices. Jesus wept over the unwise choice of the Jewish nation. There is joy in heaven over one sinner who chooses repentance.

Contracts encourage choices that lead to success. I believe that God joins the parents, teachers, and all who love the child unconditionally, in rejoicing when a child succeeds. --Dorothy Eaton Watts.