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Facing The New Quinquennium

The beginning of a quinquennium is an opportune time to reflect on past accomplishments and to face squarely the challenges ahead. Current statistics reveal a steady growth in the Seventh-day Adventist educational system, which now includes 5,600 centers of learning, 39,000 teachers, and 800,000 students. Under God's blessing, ours has become one of the largest church-sponsored systems of education, with a broad international base.

Looking toward the future of Adventist education, we confront serious challenges that require a deliberate and coordinated response. Such a response can be summarized as four major goals:

1. Foster the integration of faith and learning at all educational levels.

Challenge: Secular drift affecting our educational system.

Response:

- Focus on the essentials of Adventist educational philosophy—in order to provide a wholistic education that is Bible-based, Christ-centered, service-propelled, and eternity-oriented.
- Review the process of training, hiring, certifying, and tenuring teachers, to ensure that they thoroughly understand and embrace the essence of Seventh-day Adventism.
- Utilize the resources of the Institute for Christian Teaching for inservicing teachers and administrators, and for developing contemporary curricular materials.

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TEACHER REACTION

Continuing Relevance

Congratulations on an excellent Souvenir Edition of JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION (Summer 1990) that was handed out at the General Conference in Indianapolis. I just now got around to reading it, and enjoyed it very much. It is a fine and useful piece of work that will have continuing relevance for some time.

D. Malcolm Maxwell, President
Pacific Union College
Angwin, California

Please send by air mail a subscription to the JOURNAL. I enjoyed the Summer 1990 Souvenir Edition.

Paul W. Essig
Educational Consultant
Lakshana Adventist College and
Seminary
Mailapitiya, Sri Lanka

Wants More Geography

I have just finished reading your February-March 1990 special issue on geography. I want to tell you how much I appreciated it.

I am recently retired from church

school teaching. Some of my years were spent in schools in the mission field where I taught missionaries' children. I have always been fascinated by geography and have tried to make it interesting to my students.

For about 25 years I have tried to get the church interested in the teaching of geography in our schools, suggesting that we needed our own books on the subject. In fact I even received permission from my conference to get together material for fourth-grade geography. But I was told that the General Conference wasn't ready for it yet. Though my material was stored at the conference office, and then sent to the union office, I've been unable to learn what eventually became of it.

The excuse all these years has been that there is no money for this work, that the upgrading of reading, science, and Bible take precedence. But the children in our schools should be in preparation to be missionaries, to fulfill the gospel commission, to hasten Christ's coming. There is mission work to be done everywhere, and children should be made aware of our worldwide work as a church. This would have a positive effect on mission

offerings, I'm sure.

I feel that geography should be a separate subject, as Dr. Liske has suggested. Children need to learn more about the peoples and cultures of other nations, as well as the titles of rivers, capital cities, and about the production of various resources.

I'm still interested in doing something on this subject, and would be willing to help in any way I can to get geography materials into our schools.

Mildred Berggren
Retired teacher
Avon Park, Florida

Popular With Teachers

In my work at the union and conference level of educational administration, I have grown to appreciate the JOURNAL even more because of the improvements that have been made by the editors. Its ease of reading with a slant to being more practical has made it more popular with the elementary teachers.

Delano Gilliam
Associate Superintendent of Education
Florida Conference of SDA
Orlando, Florida

EDITORIAL

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● Provide support for the development of denominational textbooks and other teaching materials for both Adventist and non-Adventist students.

2. Strengthen human resources and institutional development.

Challenge: Shifting school enrollments, overworked staffs, and insufficient funding for education.

Response:

- Build up the financial base and invigorate the marketing of denominational schools in order to attract students and make them available to more Adventist youth.
- Recognize the critical role played by Adventist teachers, through professional upgrading, adequate remuneration, sabbaticals, awards for excellence, ministry of teaching credentials, and other means, to ensure academic quality.
- Actively pursue foundation grants, alumni support, endowments, and other sources to renew and expand school facilities.
- Seek financial and academic accountability as well as regional coordination to ensure the most efficient use of the church's resources.

3. Involve Adventist educators and students in the global mission of our church.

Challenge: Billions of unreached men and women around the world.

Response:

- Ensure that each student is led to accept Christ as his or her Saviour, is encouraged to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and is given the opportunity and training to share Christ's love with others through active service and witnessing.
- Use our schools to train, conduct research, and initiate penetration of unentered areas of the world.
- Cooperate in providing faith nurture and outreach training to Adventist students attending secular schools and universities.

4. Promote international upgrading and networking in Adventist higher education.

Challenge: Provide an opportunity for advanced training to more Adventist workers worldwide.

Response:

- Strengthen the bond between undergraduate and graduate education to provide a rational academic progression on a regional basis.
- Develop ways of providing distance education courses and degrees to a larger number of Adventists through a network of existing colleges and universities.

—H.M.R.

At the General Conference Session in July 1990, Dr. Humberto M. Rasi was elected World Director of Education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.