

Of Interest to Teachers

The Educator's Need-to-Know Numbers

By A. Allan Martin

Whether you are an academy chaplain working with students on campus or a conference or union director of education supporting teachers and coordinating student events throughout a large geographical area, having the right tools at your fingertips is vital to making a positive spiritual impact on young lives. Those tools may be resources, or answers to your questions, or someone to call in a crisis. These "power tools" for ministry to students are just a touch-tone away!

Where to Get Answers to Your Ministry Questions: SDA PlusLine: (800) SDA-PLUS

Looking for a speaker for a retreat? Trying to remember the name of that excellent student Bible study? Need the address for that summer camp in North Dakota? The SDA PlusLine will more than likely have the answer, and if they don't, they are eager to hunt down the answer for you. Director Rich DuBose and his staff are tops in tracking down the information and assistance you need.

How to Improve Your Serve: YouthNet: (800) 331-2767

Are your students eager to serve others? A wide range of service opportunities, both domestic and international, are now available at this one-stop "service shopping" number. YouthNet brings together student missions, group work camps, taskforce, and other service opportunities, networking organizations like Maranatha, ADRA, Habitat for Humanity, Service Station, and many more, providing you and your students with a diverse array of life-changing opportunities.

Training to Stick Your Neck Out: Center for Youth Evangelism: (800) YOUTH-2-U

Help your students take the lead. Equipping youth and teachers to take spiritual risks for Christ, the Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE) provides methods, resources, and leadership in training for effective youth-to-youth evangelism. Youth Summit, Giraffe University, and the Giraffe Society are among the various exceptional services provided by CYE.

The Best of the Best Resources: Youth Specialties: (800) 776-3480/Group Publishing: (800) 447-1070

From mixer games to talk sheets to clip art, Youth Specialties and Group Publishing are the gold medalists in providing you with youth ministry resources that are relevant, practical, and appealing to young people. Youth Specialties excels in materials geared toward junior high and senior high students, while Group Publishing offers strong resources for elementary and college/career. Both organizations also sponsor excellent youth ministry training events/conventions, which are spectacular in equipping and energizing you and your peers.

When You Have a Crisis on Your Hands: Minirth Meier New Life Treatment Centers: (800) NEW-LIFE

Along with the term papers, the banquet nights, and the pizza feeds, your work with students also carries the important responsibility of assisting young people and their families through times of crisis and extreme stress. Minirth Meier New Life Treatment Centers (MMNLTC) have facilities throughout the country and are known for their Christian approach to crisis intervention and mental health. MMNLTC can also provide you with referrals for other helping resources depending on the problems you encounter.

Your ministry to your students is so important! These five "need-to-know numbers" will give you more support in your efforts to touch young lives. If you are interested in more numbers that may help you, there is a directory called "Toll-Free Directory: Hotlines and More" available online in CompuServe's Adventists On-line Forum, which provides toll-free hotlines, 800 help lines, info lines, youth/young adult ministry resources, and more. To become a member of the Adventists Online Forum, call (800) 260-7171. If you simply would like a copy of the directory, call SDA PlusLine, (800) SDA-PLUS, and they can help you obtain a hard copy of the directory.

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Scarce, Outdated Textbooks Impede Learning, Teachers Say

A lack of up-to-date textbooks interferes with learning in America's elementary and secondary schools, according to a national survey of teachers that was released in March 1996.

Sixteen percent of the teachers who responded to the survey said they did not have enough textbooks for their students, and 46 percent of the teachers reported that they were unable to assign homework because there were not enough textbooks for the students to take home.

The survey, conducted by the Association of American Publishers' school division, along with the National Education Association, included 878 teachers. It found that 25 percent of the teachers reported using textbooks that were more than 10 years old. Slightly more than half the teachers said their students were exposed to outdated information as the result of using outdated textbooks.

According to the publishers' association, the U.S. spent more in the past year on fast food, alcohol, tobacco, cosmetics, and pet food than it did on textbooks.

The survey also revealed that teachers rely heavily on professionally prepared classroom materials. Forty-one percent of the respondents said they use textbooks every day; only nine percent said they never used them.—Reported by *Education Week* XV:24 (March 6, 1996).

Community Service and Volunteerism

Giving of one's time or money is a measure of the responsibility a country's citizens take for the welfare of their community. Higher education seems to positively affect the individual's participation in this area.

According to research by the U.S. Department of Education, having some post-secondary education was clearly associated with increased levels of volunteering and giving. Adults aged 25 and older with some post-secondary education were twice as likely as those with less education to report both volunteering their time and making charitable contributions in the past 12 months (63 percent versus 32 percent, respectively).

Among respondents with some post-secondary education, about one-fourth (22 percent) were identified as generous volunteers (having volunteered at least four hours each week in the past 12 months), compared with 12 percent with no post-secondary education.

Within income levels, adults with some post-secondary education were much more likely to re-

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port volunteering than were those with no post-secondary education. This was especially apparent for low-income groups (less than \$20,000 a year), where adults were nearly twice as likely to report volunteering (54 percent) as were those with no post-secondary education.

Differences were also seen between men and women, although the trends followed the general population. In general, women with all levels of education ranked higher in volunteerism than men, although the percentages of some variables were much closer in comparisons of men and women with some post-secondary education.—From "Indicator of the Month: Community Service and

Volunteerism," U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Research and Improvement, March 1996.

Women's Progress in Education

Over the past two decades, women have made substantial educational progress in the U.S. The large gaps between the education levels of men and women that were evident in the 1970s have essentially disappeared. Although females still lag behind males in mathematics and science achievement, high school females outperform males in

reading and writing, and take more credits in academic subjects. In addition, women are more likely than men to attend college after high school, and as likely to graduate with a post-secondary degree.

A summary of the findings in this area by the U.S. Department of Education reveals the following:

- Females are more likely than males to come to school prepared to learn and to participate in school activities.
- Females are generally younger than males in first grade and are less likely to fall behind or require special educational services once enrolled.
- Differences in the academic performance of males and females appear as early as age 9, and

POSTER CONTEST

Adventist Risk Management, Inc. (ARM), proudly announces its sixth annual poster contest for all North American Division SDA schools.

Theme: Any safety-related topic, which may include fire, bicycle, playground, sports, falls, water, vacation, pedestrian, lifting, seat-belt use, electrical, roller-skating, etc.

Divisions: K-2; 3-5; 6-8; 9-12.

Identification: Each poster must have attached to the back an identification sheet with the student's first and last name, grade, school, school address, teacher's name, and the local conference printed legibly. Identification sheets are available from Adventist Risk Management (see address below).

Prizes: The awards for each division are as follows: First, \$100; second, \$75; third, \$50.

Rules: Each poster must be original artwork (limited to red and black colors) and must be submitted on 8.5" x 11" white paper. The artwork must be clean and dark (to copy well) and may include a safety slogan. Computerized graphics will be disallowed.

The contest is limited to students currently enrolled in an SDA school in the North American Division. Entries will not be returned, and become the property of Adventist Risk Management, Inc., and may be used at a later date. ARM will not be responsible for any loss or damage. Schools will be notified if one of their students is a winner.

Entries will be disqualified if (1) they use brand-name items, registered trademarks, or copyrighted figures; (2) they are not original drawings or have been published (i.e., computer-drawn images); (3) they are not safety-related; (4) a student submits multiple entries; (5) they lack a completed information sheet; (6) they are postmarked after the deadline; or (7) they are not on white 8.5" x 11" paper.

Judging: All accepted entries will be reviewed by a panel of art professionals, safety specialists, and/or educational personnel. Judges' decisions are final.

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Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by February 7, 1997. Send all requests for identification sheets and finished entries to Safety Poster Contest, Adventist Risk Management, Inc., P.O. Box 8007, Riverside, CA 92515,

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TUCKER DOBBINS
GRADE 1 WINNER DIVISION: K-2
DUPONT PARK SDA SCHOOL • ALLENGHENY EAST CONFERENCE

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Continuing Education Materials Still Available

Teachers who desire continuing-education credit for denominational recertification or for professional enhancement can still take tests on the following topics:

"An Introduction to the Teaching Principles of Jesus" Parts I and II, by Reuben L. Hilde
 "Individualizing Instruction, K-12" Parts I and II, by Benjamin E. Bandiola

"A Practical Approach to Career Education" Parts I and II, by E. J. Anderson
 "Integrating Learning, Faith, and Practice in Christian Education" Parts I and II, by George H. Akers and Robert D. Moon

"Learning Theories and the Christian Teacher" Part I by M. D. Hodgen; Part II by Elisabeth Wear

Denominational History: "Tell It to the World" Parts I and II, by C. Mervyn Maxwell; test and objectives by Joe Engelkemier

"Inspiration/Revelation: What It Is and How It Works" Parts I, II, and III, by Roger Coon

"Teaching the Exceptional Child" Part I by Marilyn G. Parker; Part II by Desmond Rice

"Light in the Shadows: An Overview of the Doctrine of the Sanctuary" Part I; and "Walking in the Light: An Overview of the Doctrine of Salvation in Christ" Part II, by Frank B. Holbrook

"Light for Living—A Study of the Seventh-day Adventist Health Message" Part I; and "Light for Living—Choosing a Healthy Lifestyle" Part II, by Joyce W. Hopp

"Hermeneutics: Interpreting a 19th-Century Prophet in the Space Age" Single-part article, by Roger W. Coon

Bible Doctrines: "The Christian Understanding of God and Human Existence" Part I; and "The Mission of the Church, Eschatology, and the Sabbath" Part II, by Richard Rice

Study material costs U.S.\$2.50 for each part (a two-part article costs \$5.00; a three-part article, \$7.50). To obtain the study material, or to request additional information, write to THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 U.S.A.

For each test, send U.S.\$25 in the form of a check or money order (payable to La Sierra University) to NAD/PAC—Prof. Activity Credit, Lolita N. Davidson, Ed.D., 26249 Mission Rd., Redlands, CA 92373 U.S.A. Telephone: (909) 796-4739.

persist through age 17.

- Female students are no less likely than male students to have their parents involved in education.

- Both female and male students are following a more rigorous curriculum than they were a decade ago.

- Female students are as likely as males to take advanced math and science classes, and are more likely to study a foreign language.

- Women and men still tend to study different fields in college, although differences have narrowed for undergraduates and in some fields for graduate students. Women's majors tend to fall in the life sciences and psychology or sociology, rather than the physical sciences, mathematics, computer science, engineering, political science, or economics, subjects more likely to be studied by men.

- Females in the U.S. generally have higher educational attainment than their counterparts in other nations.

- Employment and earnings rates rise with educational attainment for both males and females, but earnings are lower for females than males with the same education.—From "The Condition of Education 1995: The Educational Progress of Women," National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

New Booklet Helps Parents Help Their Kids With Homework

Families play a vital role in their children's education. To encourage family participation in education, the U.S. Department's Office of Educational Research and Improvement has produced a new booklet, *Helping Your Child With Homework*.

The booklet discusses (1) how homework helps children learn; (2) what the right amount of homework is; (3) how to show children that education and homework are important; (4) how to monitor assignments; (5) how to provide guidance on homework; and (6) when to talk to someone at school to resolve problems.

Children who spend more time on homework, on average, do better in school. Good assignments, successfully completed, can help children develop self-discipline and responsibility and encourage a lifelong love of learning.

The 41-page, illustrated booklet includes a detachable checklist outlining the most important things parents can do to help children with homework. It is available at 50 cents a copy from Consumer Information Center, Department 310C, Pueblo, CO 81009. ☎

A Quarter-Century of Change in U. S. Education

	Then	Now
Enrollment	51.3 million	51.7 million
Public	46.0 million	45.9 million
Private	5.2 million	5.8 million
Teachers	2.1 million	3.0 million
Average teacher salary (adjusted for inflation)	\$36,500	\$37,846
Guidance counselors	49,000	83,000
Principals	91,000	121,000
Public schools	89,372	82,785
School districts	17,995	14,881
Pupils per teacher	22.3	17.4