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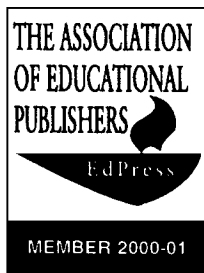
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Working Together to Enhance Teaching and Learning

TIMOTHY D. GREEN

“People learn from each other and sharpen their thoughts as steel sharpens steel”
(Proverbs 27:17, *Clear Word*).

“Two people are always better off than one because they can work together and enjoy each other’s company. If one of them falls, the other can help him up. But I pity the man who walks alone, because when he falls, he has no one to help him” (*Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10, Clear Word*).

Throughout the Bible, various texts describe the importance of collaboration and the benefits of working together toward a common goal or outcome. As educators, it is important to heed this advice and to search for opportunities to collaborate. The benefits gained through collaborative experiences are tremendous!

Educational collaboration is occurring around the world in a variety of milieus. The 21st century is an exciting time for education, but it presents many new challenges that influence teaching and learning. As educators, we are being asked to adopt a variety of innovations—new pedagogy, curriculum, assessment practices, and technology, to name a few. Collaborating to reflect on teaching, to develop curriculum, to share resources, and to examine and improve what is done in the teaching and learning process will help us deal with these challenges.

Many Adventist educators face an additional challenge—teaching in small, isolated schools. For these teachers, collaboration is vital because it enables them to access expertise and resources that are not available locally. As they apply what they have learned, their students will also benefit from being exposed to different students, teachers, ideas, concepts, and experiences.

Collaboration can involve a variety of groups in addition to K-12 schools—higher education, church constituencies, the community, and parents—to name a few. Articles featured in this issue depict successful collaborative efforts between these groups.

You will read about pre-service teachers collaborating with K-12 teachers to develop technology curricula for classroom use; pre-service teachers who collaborate with a 6th-grade classroom to conduct a multicultural simulation; an education professor and his students who collaborate with K-12 classrooms in virtual expeditions on the World Wide Web; ideas for K-12 teachers to use in collaborating with parents; a college in India collaborating with K-12 classrooms to provide training for future teachers; an elementary school working with the local church constituencies to develop a computer lab; and a collaborative effort to develop an international Adventist learning organization.

As coordinator for this special issue of the JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION, it was my goal to provide examples of the collaborative possibilities in different educational contexts. I hope the ideas presented will inspire readers to explore a variety of collaborations and to write follow-up articles on what they have learned. I would like to express my appreciation to those educators who took the time to share their collaborative experiences and to assist in achieving the goals for this issue of the JOURNAL. ✍

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Dr. Timothy D. Green, the Coordinator for this special issue of the JOURNAL, is an Assistant Professor of Elementary Education at California State University Fullerton. The editors express enthusiastic thanks for his collaboration in the planning and production of the issue.