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Character Builders

“True education does not ignore the value of scientific knowledge or literary acquirements; but above information it values power; above power, goodness; above intellectual acquirements, character. The world does not so much need men of great intellect as of noble character. It needs men in whom ability is controlled by steadfast principle.”¹

Shaping the character of a student is most challenging. In writing to teachers of this effort, Ellen White speaks of it as the most important work ever entrusted to human beings. Going further, she notes, with urgency, the pressing need for young men and women who are best equipped in character to meet the momentous issues of our time.

In the book *The Elements of Teaching*,² the authors speak of the authenticity of character that is essential to good teaching. The absence of authenticity of character will, over time, be evident to students.

“Knowledge or technique ungrounded in character is of little effect with students; on the other hand, knowledge anchored to a teacher’s irreplaceable passion for a subject, or technique linked with personal experience, attracts and gives assurance to students.”³

Character, the authors state, must be true and consistent.

Lent to the Lord

I have often thought of the accounts of Hannah; the youthful Samuel; and of Eli, the judge-priest and his notoriously wicked sons, Hofni and Phinehas, written of in 1 Samuel. Hannah desired for Samuel nothing short of a godly character and spiritual upbringing. Hannah entrusted Samuel, we’re told, to Eli in order that Samuel be lent to the Lord and minister before Him.

Both she and Elkanah, her husband, must have known of the corrupt nature of Eli’s sons. Nevertheless, they commended Samuel to Eli, a servant of the Lord, believing that Eli’s instruction would benefit Samuel’s spiritual growth and character. Eli, whose ineffective response to his own sons’ errant ways demonstrated his moral shortcomings, would nonetheless assist in the development of a faith-

By Hamlet Canosa

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CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS

The JOURNAL’S editorial secretary has recently married, and her E-mail address has changed. Please send messages to Chandra Goff at goffc@gc.adventist.org. The phone number and address where she may be contacted remain the same: (301) 680-5069; JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.

Guest Editorial

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ful judge who would soon take his place.

The story offers to educators a myriad of lessons. In the ministry of education, we are called to faithfully serve our Lord as character-builders of students entrusted to us by parents. As parents offer their prayers to God for their children's spiritual growth, in much the same way Hannah did, our commission is to faithfully partner with the Lord and parents in shaping a noble character in each child who enters an Adventist classroom.

If we, as educators, are of noble character and seek to instill the same in each of our students through the pursuit of true education, our church, our world, and our future will be brighter and better. ☞



Hamlet Canosa is Vice President of Education for the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Columbia, Maryland, and a member of the JOURNAL'S Advisory Board. He previously served as Vice President

for Education in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He has been a principal of both day and boarding academies and has teaching and administrative experience on the elementary level in large and small schools. Mr. Canosa has taught college and graduate-level education courses. This editorial is slightly adapted from one that appeared in the Columbia Union Visitor and is reprinted by permission.

REFERENCES

1. Ellen G. White, *Education* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Publ. Assn., 1903), p. 225.
2. James M. Banner, Jr., and Harold C. Cannon, *The Elements of Teaching* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997), pp. 110-119.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 111.

News About the JAE Web Site

The JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION Web site (<http://education.gc.adventist.org/jae/>) has been up and running for more than a year now. By late September 2003, the departmental site had more than 5,200 hits, the majority of which are probably visits to the JOURNAL homepage.

CIRCLE and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division are working together to scan back issues and get them indexed so visitors to the JOURNAL'S Web site can use the search engine to find things they're interested in and download them in PDF format. Most photos and sketches have been removed, so they download quickly. Articles from 1991-2002 have been archived, including the continuing-education study materials.

Other items at the site include information on continuing-education credit for denominational recertification, links to Adventist educational institutions and administrators worldwide, as well as other education-related sites such as CIRCLE and the Adventist Education Forum, guidelines for writers, how to subscribe, topics we'd like to receive, and information about copying and reprinting from the JOURNAL.

Visit the JOURNAL Web site often!

Student Healthy Lifestyle Contest 2004

The 2004 Student Healthy Lifestyle Contest is well underway. Students from Adventist schools and churches in the North American Division are invited to participate. The contest's main emphasis is to encourage youngsters in grades 1-12 to commit to a healthy lifestyle and to become more aware of the dangers of using tobacco, alcohol, or other harmful substances.

Prizes range from \$100-\$250 for grades 1-8, and \$100-\$500 for grades 9-12. Awards are shared by the teacher and student. Young people compete with their peers (grades 1-4, grades 5-8 and grades 9-12), and can select one of four categories to enter: Posters, Essays, Videos, and Computer Generated Graphics or Skits. All entries must be original. Adult friends or parents may assist in some brainstorming or collecting source materials, but the actual work must be entirely that of the student. Quotes must include full source information.

Entries should be sent to the local conference department of education and postmarked by March 10, 2004. Full and complete rules, entry forms, and instructions appear on the North American Division Health Ministries Web site (<http://www.nadadventist.org/hm>).

Click on the link for the Student Healthy Lifestyle Contest.

Even though this contest is primarily designed for Adventist schools, educational administrators are encouraged to invite students from public schools to join in. In 2004, the Baltimore, Maryland, city schools will be participating— with a potential pool of 96,000 students.

Scientific studies have shown that young people who make a commitment to live drug free by signing a pledge card are more likely to resist peer pressure to use drugs. Participating in the Healthy Lifestyle Contest is a great way for your students to reinforce their commitment to healthy living and making lifelong positive choices.