

DIALOGUE

Nurturing the Minds of Adventist College and University Students

Adventist youth are among the most ambitious Christians in the pursuit of advanced studies, seeking to develop their God-given talents and preparing for a fulfilling life of service. Currently, around the world, some 102,000 students attend Adventist colleges and universities, and close to 250,000 study in public institutions of higher learning.

Each year, the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its members make a large investment to operate more than 100 colleges and universities, providing Christian education and a nurturing context to our students. However, there are many young adults unable to study in our school system. In some cases, there are no Adventist institutions of higher learning in their country. In others, the programs in which they are interested are not offered. Frequently, family and financial factors lead them to enroll in secular colleges and universities.

Adventists who study in public institutions of higher learning face serious challenges to their faith convictions. The influence of prestigious but unbelieving professors, the subtle power of secular ideologies, the questionable lifestyle espoused by many on campus, required academic activities or exams on the Sabbath—all these factors challenge their faith. And yet, they are children of Adventist homes, motivated and bright, whose abilities, skills, and eventual degrees would strengthen our institutions and support our mission. In fact, most of the faculty and leaders in Adventist colleges and universities have obtained their graduate degrees in such institutions and emerged with a



strong faith commitment.

Aware of the risks and potential of these thousands of Adventist students, three General Conference departments—Chaplaincy Ministries, Education, and Youth—joined forces in 1987 to support public campus ministry in cooperation with their counterparts in the world divisions and unions. Through the Committee on Adventist Ministry to/with Adventist College and University Students (AMICUS), church leaders seek to meet the spiritual, intellectual, and social needs

of Adventist students on secular campuses worldwide.

These three departments have assumed complementary responsibilities in this ministry. Chaplaincy Ministries provides training for campus chaplains and pastors in university centers and develops appropriate materials. The Education Department publishes *College and University Dialogue* in four interdivision languages (English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish). The Youth Department helps foster the creation of student associations in university centers, training students for outreach, and organizing student conventions.

A Special Journal

College and University Dialogue was launched in 1989 as a network journal (1) to nurture an intelligent Christian faith; (2) to deepen the readers' commitment to Christ, the Bible, and Adventist mission; (3) to articulate Adventist responses to contemporary issues in the arts, humanities, philosophy, and the sciences; and (4) to offer practical models of Christian service and outreach. *Dialogue* is published three times a year in four parallel language editions, has

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a circulation of 30,000 copies per issue, and is read in more than 100 countries. Copies are provided free to full-time Adventist students in public colleges and universities who request it. *Dialogue* is also available through paid subscriptions to those who are no longer students. Several complimentary subscriptions are sent to the libraries of public colleges and universities, when requested by the librarian.

Most of the essays published in *Dialogue* are written by Adventist faculty from our own colleges and universities or those teaching in public institutions. The articles address relevant issues in areas such as bioethics, creation and evolution, devotional life, relating to believers of other faiths, environment responsibilities, health and lifestyle, screening the media, the reliability of the Bible, preparation for marriage, etc. Each issue includes interviews with successful Adventist professionals, first-person stories, and reports on activities by Adventist student associations.

Dialogue has fostered a lively exchange of ideas between readers and authors, as well as with the editors. In addition, the “Interchange” section, which lists names and e-mail addresses of Adventist students and professionals, has connected thousands of them around the world. In a few cases, it has even resulted in marriage!

Readers’ comments about the journal have been positive:

- “*Dialogue* is both attractive and relevant. Each issue provides a critical filter and intellectual ammunition that we need as Adventist university students to confront the secular ideas that are prevalent in educated circles of society.”—*Jorge Ble Castillo*, Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico.
- “As a Seventh-day Adventist pre-medical student on a secular campus, I face similar challenges to the ones mentioned by the Adventist physician from Singapore profiled in your recent issue. It is my conviction that we deny God the privilege of using us to exalt His name and character by

compromise on principles. Thank you for publishing in *Dialogue* this modern story of steadfast faith.”—*John H. Kelly, Jr.*, Hedgesville, West Virginia, U.S.A.

- “I am the only Adventist student in my university, and at times I find myself struggling with feelings of loneliness. However, *Dialogue* is a welcome friend that keeps me in touch with thoughtful Adventists in other parts of the world. Each issue enriches me intellectually and spiritually. Thank you!”—*Andrea de Stael Ladislas*, Vaureal, France.
- “As a medical student about to complete my program, I thank the editors of *Dialogue* for including in the journal articles dealing with health issues. They provide me with ideas that I can use in my lectures on drug abuse prevention, sexuality, proper nutrition, and similar topics.”—*Joseph Lee*, Malaysia.
- “In order to ensure that I don’t miss any future issue of *Dialogue*, I am enclosing my credit card number for the charge of a two-year subscription. The journal certainly fills a gap in the Adventist magazine market, and I find the articles always challenging and enjoyable.”—*Angela Logan*, West Lothian, Scotland.
- “I’m a business student at the University of Papua New Guinea and a great fan of *Dialogue*. Every issue that falls in my hands is a God-send. In addition to articles and inter-

views, ‘Interchange’ provides me with the only means of communication with Adventist students who choose to attend public colleges and universities worldwide. Praise God!—*Wake Mangu*, Papua New Guinea.

An Invitation

Several Adventist secondary schools, colleges, and universities have subscribed, making the journal available in their library to students and faculty. Readers interested in checking earlier articles published in *Dialogue* are invited to visit the Website: <http://dialogue.adventist.org>. Adventist students attending public colleges and universities may obtain a free sample copy by requesting it from the managing editor, Susana Schulz (schulzs@gc.adventist.org), and providing their name and mailing address.

Over the centuries, God’s followers have fought their crucial battles on the terrain of the human mind. There is where reason and will are engaged. *Dialogue* is published especially to help Adventist college and university students to be prepared and supported as they enter this battlefield.✍



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