event-day Adventist schools are often described as the second largest church-operated network of schools in the world. The story of Seventh-day Adventist education, starting with its shaky beginnings as scattered, unofficial one-room classrooms in the mid-19th century and continuing to the 7,946 denominational schools, enrolling 1,942,828 students at all levels in 2014 is both amazing and thrilling. The timeline that follows is an attempt to pinpoint the milestones that mark that inspiring journey. The events and persons appearing below do not comprise a definitive list, but in various ways they figured significantly in the growth and development of Seventh-day Adventist education.

1853 In Buck’s Bridge, New York, Martha Byington, daughter of future General Conference (GC) President John Byington, conducts the first-known church school for Sabbatarian Adventists.

1872 In Battle Creek, Michigan, Goodloe Harper Bell opens the first school sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1873 Ellen White writes her seminal essay, “Proper Education,” which appears in installments in The Health Reformer. She subsequently publishes a revised version as a testimony. (See Testimonies for the Church, volume 3.)

1874 Battle Creek College, the first Adventist college, begins as a co-educational institution in Battle Creek, Michigan, with Sidney Brownberger as president. The General Conference organizes the Educational Society to oversee this new institution, which evolves into Emmanuel Missionary College (1901) and finally Andrews University (1960).

1881 Goodloe Harper Bell authorizes and produces the first Adventist textbook, A Natural Method in English.

1882 Adventists open their second college, Healdsburg College, now Pacific Union College, in northern California.

1883 A church school begins in Dronninglund, Denmark, apparently the first Adventist school outside North America as well as the first one in Europe. Under the auspices of Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, Drs. Kate Lindsay and Ann Stewart establish the first Adventist school of nursing at Battle Creek Sanitarium in Battle Creek, Michigan.

1887 The General Conference creates the office of Secretary of Education and names W. W. Prescott to the position in addition to his responsibilities as president of Battle Creek College.

1888 The first denominational teachers institute convenes at Battle Creek.

1889 On the campus of Battle Creek College, the Ministers Bible School becomes the first attempt to offer an exclusive curriculum for Adventist ministers.

1889 The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald reports that more than 30 students are attending school on Pitcairn Island, the first-known Adventist school in the Pacific islands.

1891 Approximately 100 people, including Ellen White, attend the
Harbor Springs (Michigan) Teachers Institute and inaugurate the first serious reforms in Adventist education, advocating that the Bible should be at the center of all curricula.

1892 Adventist education begins in Africa as the Claremont church school opens in Kenilworth, a suburb of Cape Town, South Africa.

1893 Claremont Union College, in Kenilworth, a suburb of Cape Town, South Africa, the first Adventist college outside the United States, begins classes.

Ellen White publishes *Christian Education*, the first book-length publication about the principles of Adventist education.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, the first Adventist church school in South America begins operation.

Adventist education for native South Pacific islanders begins with the opening of a school on Raiatea, Society Group, in French Polynesia.

1894 The first Adventist school in Brazil opens in Gaspar Alto, Santa Catarina.

Adventist education enters the future territory of the Inter-American Division when (1) a kindergarten and elementary school begin together in Guadalajara, Mexico, and (2) a school opens in the Bay Islands of Honduras.

1895 Battle Creek Sanitarium establishes the first Adventist school of medicine, American Medical Missionary College, with John Harvey Kellogg as president.

James Edson White begins the first church school for African-Americans aboard the ship *Morning Star*, in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Workers from South Africa and North America establish Solusi Mission in Matabeleland on 12,000 acres Cecil Rhodes granted them to educate Africans.

1896 Oakwood Industrial School opens in Huntsville, Alabama, as a training school for African-Americans after GC President O. A. Olsen personally leads a commission to prepare buildings and land.

Frederick Griggs heads the first Adventist elementary teacher-preparation program at Battle Creek College.

Adventist education enters India, the territory of the future Southeast Asia Division, when D. A. Robinson opens a school for Hindu girls in his home in Calcutta.

P. A. De Forest establishes a school of nursing at Institut Sanitaire, Basel, Switzerland, believed to be the first Adventist school of nursing outside North America.

1897 Avondale School for Christian Workers (now Avondale College of Higher Education) begins classes at Cooranbong, New South Wales, Australia, with C. B. Hughes as president.

E. A. Sutherland, president of Battle Creek College, launches the “Movement of ’97,” which represented the beginning of the organized system of Adventist elementary education in North America.

*Christian Education*, the first denominational education periodical, appears in July but ceases after two years. It reappears in September 1909 with the same title but as a new journal referred to as Volume 1, Number 1.

W. C. Grainger and T. H. Okahira establish the first Adventist school in the Orient at Tokyo, Japan.

1898 At Las Tunas, Argentina, N. Z. Town founds the first worker-training school in South America. In 1900, Frank Westphal and other workers re-established the school at Diamante, Entre Rios Province, where it later developed into River Plate Adventist University.

The General Conference appoints a standing committee to work on textbooks for Adventist schools.

1899 Missionsseminar Friedensau, predecessor of Friedensau Adventist University, offers its first classes on an old estate, Klappermuhle, near Magdeburg, Germany.
1900 P. T. Magan begins a campaign to eliminate the debts of Adventist schools and other institutions. Ellen White donates the proceeds from the sale of *Christ’s Object Lessons* to raise money for schools.

Teachers from North America’s 220 elementary schools assemble at Battle Creek for the first institute for church school teachers.

1901 As a part of denominational reorganization, the General Conference creates the Educational Department with John Harvey Kellogg as chairman.

1902 George McCready Price publishes *Outlines of Modern Science and Christianity*, the first Adventist book proposing scientific support for creationism.

1903 Ellen White publishes *Education*, the leading source of Adventist philosophy of education.

Offering instruction in English in a school in Hong Kong, Ida Thompson establishes the first Adventist school in China.

1904 E. A. Sutherland and P. T. Magan launch the Nashville (Tennessee) Agricultural and Normal Institute, the beginning of the self-supporting educational movement in the American South.

1905 The Southern California Conference buys real estate that will become the College of Medical Evangelists (CME) and later, Loma Linda University (LLU).

The General Conference adopts a “harmonious system of education” that integrates elementary, secondary, and tertiary levels and articulates teaching materials and manuals. The Educational Department becomes the Education Department.

1906 Pacific Press Publishing Association in Mountain View, California, publishes the first Adventist church school manual.

1907 To meet the denomination’s need for missionaries, the General Conference converts Washington Training College in Takoma Park, Maryland, into Washington Foreign Missionary Seminary, a school without academic classification. H. R. Salisbury is president.

Sam Yuk Shin Hak Tai Hak (Korean School for Boys), forerunner of Sahmyook University, opens in Soonan.

Pacific Press begins publication of the *True Education Reader Series*, graded reading books for Adventist elementary schools.

1908 The first Adventist school of nursing in Latin America, Sanatorio Adventista del Plata, opens at Puiggari, Entre Ríos, Argentina.

1909 The College of Medical Evangelists (CME) receives a charter to operate schools of medicine and dentistry, and admits its first class of medical students.

Pacific Press publishes *Bible Lessons*, a graded series of elementary-level Bible textbooks authored by Alma Baker McKibbin.

Frederick Griggs establishes Fireside Correspondence School in Takoma Park, Maryland. It later becomes Home Study Institute and eventually Griggs University.

1911 A “C” rating for the College of Medical Evangelists sparks a 25-year denominational debate about secular accreditation.

The first Adventist teachers conference in Australasia meets at Cooranbong, New South Wales.

In Hamadan, Iran, Hamadan Missionary School, the first-known Adventist school in the Middle East, begins.
1912 Manuel Camacho collaborates with Fernando and Ana Stahl to build La Plateria Mission near Puno, Peru, the first of a system of schools that helped to transform the society of Andean tribespeople.

1913 Ellen White publishes *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, her last lengthy statement about Adventist education.

1915 Adventist Seminary in Santo Amaro, a suburb of Sao Paulo, Brazil, starts classes. J. H. Boehm is director. The seminary later becomes Brazil Adventist University.

South India Training School opens in Coimbatore. G. G. Lowry is principal. The school evolves into Spicer Memorial College, and in 2014 is renamed Spicer Adventist University.

The North American Division approves a plan to have education boards in each union conference accredit its elementary and secondary schools.

1917 Philippine Seventh-day Adventist Academy opens in Pasay, a suburb of Manila. It develops into Adventist University of the Philippines.

1918 Denton Rebok conducts the first institute for Adventist teachers in China.

1919 West Indian Training School, the first permanent worker-training school in the Caribbean and forerunner of Northern Caribbean University, opens in Mandeville, Jamaica.

The Parent and Teacher Association organizes. In 1922, it becomes the Home and School Association.

Reflecting the growth of Adventist schools, the GC Department of Education divides its responsibilities according to specialty areas. O. M. John becomes an assistant secretary for secondary education.

1920 Sarah Peck becomes the first female member of the GC Department of Education, assigned to oversee elementary education.

1921 After 29 years of starts and stops, the permanent worker-preparation school for French-speaking Adventism, Seminaire Adventiste du Salève, opens at Collonges-sous-Salève in France (now Adventist University of France).

1922 The Far Eastern Branch of Fireside Correspondence School, the first branch of the church’s correspondence school outside the United States, opens in Shanghai, China.

1923 The first world council for Adventist educators meets at Colorado Springs, Colorado, led by W. E. Howell, GC secretary of education.

1928 The Association of Seventh-day Adventist Colleges and Secondary Schools organizes with its executive arm, the Board of Regents, to accredit all Adventist schools.

1930 The General Conference drafts a position statement on creationism and authorizes research and publication to refute evolution. Science and math teachers in North American colleges begin discussions about creationism.

1932 The church’s Board of Regents accredits Pacific Union College, the first Adventist tertiary institution to earn denominational accreditation. Philippine Junior College at Baesa, near Manila, becomes Philippine Union College, the first Adventist four-year degree-granting institution outside North America. In 1996, it becomes the Adventist University of the Philippines.

1933 The Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools accredits Pacific Union College, the first Adventist tertiary institution to be regionally accredited.

1934 The Advanced Bible School, forerunner of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, organizes at Pacific Union College (California).
History professor Everett Dick introduces the Medical Cadet Corps at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, to prepare Adventist young men for military service in the event of war. The corps later expands to include women.

After a heated debate, delegates at the General Conference session approve regional accreditation for Adventist colleges.

Adventist College of Beirut, the only Adventist postsecondary institution in the Islamic Middle East and predecessor of Middle East College and Middle East University, opens with G. A. Keogh as president.


Colegio Agricola Industrial Mexicana, forerunner of Montemorelos University, begins at Montemorelos, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. The General Conference authorizes the theological seminary to offer Master’s degrees.

Spicer College (Pune, India) becomes the second Adventist four-year postsecondary institution outside North America.

Union College inaugurates the first Adventist baccalaureate program of nursing education.

Philippine Union College, predecessor of Adventist University of the Philippines in Silang, Cavite, Philippines, becomes the first Adventist school outside the United States authorized to offer post-baccalaureate classes.

The School of Dentistry at CME admits its first class of students. The General Conference establishes the Master’s degree as the standard academic preparation for ministers.

Solusi Training School (Zimbabwe) becomes Solusi Missionary College, the first Adventist four-year postsecondary institution for Africans.

The era of international affiliations among Adventist schools begins with the affiliation of Australasian Missionary College in Cooranbong, New South Wales, Australia, with Pacific Union College.

International denominational accreditation begins when the Board of Regents extends its accrediting authority beyond North America.

The General Conference reorganizes the theological seminary into Potomac University. It is the first Seventh-day Adventist institution to reach university status.

The General Conference establishes the Geoscience Research Institute.

Philippine Union College becomes the first Adventist institution outside North America authorized to offer Master’s degrees (education).

The General Conference approves the merger of Potomac University with Emmanuel Missionary College, Berrien Springs, Michigan. In 1960, the new institution officially becomes Andrews University, remaining on the EMC campus.

The College of Medical Evangelists becomes the first Adventist school to grant a Ph.D. (medical sciences).
1959 Columbia Union College and Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, Takoma Park, Maryland, collaborate to send the denomination’s first student missionary.

1961 The College of Medical Evangelists changes its name to Loma Linda University.

The General Conference establishes commissions on graduate education, applicable to schools in all world fields, including North America.

1963 Loma Linda University Overseas Heart Surgery Team begins to treat international heart patients in their home countries.

1965 Administrators of Adventist colleges and universities adopt a statement on academic freedom that prohibits classroom instruction contrary to Adventist teachings.

1966 The Academic Conference on Modern Church-State Problems convenes at Andrews University. Attendees challenge the traditional Adventist position on government aid to church-sponsored schools.

Adventist Colleges Abroad begins, and by 2014 had expanded to a consortium of 14 Adventist colleges and universities, mainly in North America, that supervises programs offering up to one year of intercultural education and language study for Adventist students on a dozen denominational campuses around the world.

1968 With Siegfried Horn of Andrews University leading, Adventist education actively enters the field of archaeology with an expedition to Heshbon, Jordan. Digs at other sites follow, with other Adventist schools establishing centers of archaeology and forming consortia to sponsor on-site research.

1970 Newbold College in Bracknell, Berkshire, England (now Newbold College of Higher Education), becomes the first postsecondary school outside North America to be accredited by the Adventist Board of Regents.

1971 The theological seminary at Andrews University offers its first doctoral program (doctor of ministry).

1973 The era of university status for Adventist schools outside North America begins when Colegio Vocacional y Professional in Montemorelos, Mexico, receives degree-granting authority from the state of Nuevo Leon and becomes Montemorelos University. The institution establishes the second Adventist school of medicine.

The General Conference establishes the Institutional Consulting Service (ICS) with Milton Murray, director, who promotes institutional fund-raising. ICS is later renamed Philanthropic Service for Institutions, which advocates permanent offices of development in secondary and postsecondary schools in North America and other world divisions.

The Educational Press Association (later renamed the Association of American Publishers) confers a Distinguished Achievement Award on THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION (JAE). Through 2015, the AAP and the Associated Church Press honor JAE 22 times for its professional quality and its contributions to education. Most of the awards were conferred after 1990.

1974 The General Conference begins to issue the Citation of Merit, Award of Excellence, and Medallion of Merit awards to persons who have made notable contributions to Adventist education.

1978 The theological seminary at Philippine Union College organizes into the first division-sponsored seminary outside North America.

1979 The South American Division establishes the Latin American Theological Seminary, a multi-campus institution headquartered in Brasilia, Brazil.

1981 The landmark case in Australia, Defence of Government Schools, legitimizes government financial aid to church-sponsored schools in that nation.
**1984** Loma Linda University affiliates with Kasturba Medical College near Manipal, India, to educate physicians and other health-care professionals.

Loma Linda University earns world attention when surgeons transplant a baboon’s heart into Baby Fae. The case raises questions of medical ethics, but the surgery becomes the university medical center’s first major step toward becoming a global leader in heart transplants for children.

**1987** The General Conference Department of Education forms the Institute for Christian Teaching and initiates seminars in every world field to promote the integration of faith and learning.

**1988** The Adventist University of Central Africa, in Kigali, Rwanda, which serves Francophone Africa, is accredited by the Rwandan government, thereby becoming the first government-recognized, degree-granting Adventist institution for Africans.

**1989** The General Conference Department of Education launches Dialogue, a periodical published in four languages that discusses intellectual issues. It is sent to college and university students (mostly in non-Adventist universities) worldwide.

Zaoksky Theological Seminary, the first Adventist educational center in the Soviet Union, opens at Zaoksky. In 2003, it reorganizes as Zaoksky Adventist University.

**1990** Home Study Institute organizes its postsecondary offerings into Griggs University.

B. Lyn Behrens is the first woman to become president of an Adventist university (Loma Linda University).

Humberto Rasi is the first non-North American to become director of the General Conference Department of Education.

**1991** The University of Eastern Africa Baraton in Eldoret, Kenya, receives a charter from the Kenyan government, becoming the first Adventist tertiary institution in English-speaking Africa with degree-granting authority.

**1992** South Korea’s Sahmyook College in Seoul, Korea, becomes Sahmyook University and adds a doctorate to its theology curriculum.

**1993** The Church’s Annual Council votes to place ministerial education under the jurisdiction of the divisions, with monitoring by the International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education.

River Plate Adventist University in Libertador San Martin, Entre Ríos, Argentina, opens as the third Seventh-day Adventist medical school.

**1995** The North American Division is the first world field to elevate the director of education to a vice president.

Robert Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe, officially launches Solusi University (formerly Solusi College) with degree-granting authority.

**1996** The Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (AAA) is incorporated. It replaces the Board of Regents, which had functioned since 1928 as the accrediting body of the General Conference Department of Education.

**1997** The General Conference Department of Education begins to confer the Global Award in Adventist Education.

**1998** The General Conference establishes the International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education, pursuant to the 1994 action placing minister-preparation programs under the control of the General Conference or a division.

**1999** Worldwide enrollment in Adventist schools surpasses one million.
The General Conference organizes a new Commission of Higher Education to develop a global plan for Adventist tertiary institutions. Patterned after the Latin American Theological Seminary, the Inter-American Theological Seminary (IATS) begins official operations with classes offered on multiple campuses. IATS achieves full accreditation in 2011.

In *Columbia Union College v. Clarke*, a federal court of appeals rules that Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland (now Washington Adventist University), may legally receive money from the state of Maryland, using the “neutrality” test rather than the “pervasively sectarian” legal test to determine the eligibility of church-sponsored colleges for government aid.

The number of Adventist elementary schools passes 5,000.

The number of teachers in Adventist secondary schools exceeds 20,000.

C. Garland Dulan is the first African-American to become director of the General Conference Department of Education.

The Annual Council accepts a recommendation from the International Faith and Science conferences affirming traditional Adventist beliefs about creation.

## Source and Acknowledgements

The sources of information in this timeline are too numerous to list here. To provide readers with a sense of my research, the following is a summary of where I went to cull data. Walton Brown’s *Chronology of Seventh-day Adventist History and Education* was a leading source for information, along with General Conference annual statistical reports, minutes for the General Conference Committee and the North American Division and its predecessors, division and union papers, recognized historical works, and institutional histories. Helpful leads to specific information came from Websites, especially those maintained by institutions. Telephone calls and e-mail exchanges helped with verification of some facts. Also of importance were suggestions by Beverly Robinson-Rumble, editor emeritus of *The Journal of Adventist Education*.

## During the Past Quinquennium (2010–2015)

During the past quinquennium (2010–2015), several new medical and dental schools have been established and authorized for operation. We have listed those schools that are currently in operation, recognizing that there are others still awaiting approval from either government or church entities.