

## Teacher's Devotional

### OUR CHALLENGE

***“Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus, before the world began.” 2 Tim.1:9***

As we contemplate the life and ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we can see clearly that his focus was to minister to those in need. Very often he was accused by his enemies and adversaries, “of eating and drinking with sinners”, but this in no way deterred him. He would simply reply; “they that are whole have no need of a Physician”.

Our greatest challenge as teachers is to minister to the unlovely, those students, who know just how to push our buttons, who take us to the limit each and every day. Well, Richard was one of those students. He always had a comment, some snide remark. He knew just the right time to snicker and then be serious. He was always on the verge of being late, making an entrance just as I had achieved silence and all eyes were on me. So very often, I just wanted him gone, gone out of my class, out of my hair, out of the school. But no such luck, until the day he was finally suspended. I was elated, delighted, excited, finally there would be peace in my class, but that feeling didn't last as long as I thought it would, so I decided to give Richard a call and pray with him. Imagine my surprise when he turned up in class the next day, with a lovely bouquet of flowers. “These are for you teacher, he said, I know I deserved to be suspended. I am truly sorry for my behavior”. You just never know! Sister White made the following statement:

“Teachers often fail of coming sufficiently into social relation with their pupils. They manifest too little sympathy and tenderness, and too much of the dignity of the stern judge. While the teacher must be firm and decided, he should not be exacting or dictatorial. To be harsh and censorious, to stand aloof from his pupils or treat them indifferently, is to close the avenues through which he might influence them for good.

Under no circumstances should the teacher manifest partiality. To favor the winning, attractive pupil, and be critical, impatient, or unsympathetic toward those who most need encouragement and help, is to reveal a total misconception of the teacher's work. It is in dealing with the faulty, trying ones that the character is tested, and it is proved whether the teacher is really qualified for his position.

Great is the responsibility of those who take upon themselves the guidance of a human soul.” Educ. P.280