

## **Why I Believe in Seventh-day Adventist Education**

**Cleon White 2007**

My mother and my father taught and modeled it right in our home day after day right from my birth. I was given the fundamentals of Christian education before even attending the local Seventh-day Adventist school. I was home schooled during my very first year and then sent to Spokane Junior Academy beginning with my 2<sup>nd</sup> year where I remained through grade 10. Both mother and father felt it very important to educate their children. They instilled in my thinking that there really was no other form of education other than a Seventh-day Adventist education under the teaching of Seventh-day Adventist teachers. Thus when it became my turn to make a decision as to what I wanted to stand for, it was easy for me. My parents modeled the plan, I studied under the plan, and I began to promote the plan as I grew older.

The value system taught is in harmony with the life standards of respectable citizens of the world. Since I was very young I had chores to do on the small family farm. Many of those chores built within my psyche a sense of responsibility. One of the chores was to fill up the watering trough. I would leave it full as I went off finding other more exciting things to do. Soon the trough would overflow and the well would run dry. That was not good news since it took hours for the well to refill and then it became my task to reprime the pump so that I could get water out of the well. But through those experiences, I grew to understand the importance of being responsible, caring for detail and listening to instructions as given by mother and father. I did not always appreciate those experiences, but I developed through continual practice and repetition.

The dress standards emphasized in school represent the beliefs taken from scripture. We are admonished to be in the world but different from the world. For those who understand the importance of this issue, you can see a difference in them as they go about their work and daily responsibilities. Adventist education teaches through precept and example how to be unique and how to dress in such a manner so that others can be served rather than allowing attention to be drawn to self.

Those who teach in our schools practice what they teach. They understand the importance of searching for and presenting truth. They understand the importance of building relationships and how through those relationships other important educational connections can be generated and conveyed. Our teachers understand that it is more than a job. Adventist teaching is a mission of service to all with whom they come in contact. That ministry forms the backbone of the Seventh day Adventist Church.

I believe that Christ is coming soon. Every day students are in some way exposed to the truth that we are living in the end of Earth's history and that very soon Christ will return to take His children home. The students are taught that it is better to live eternally than to spend a mere 70 years on this planet living it up and have nothing to show for it when you reach the end. It has caused me to die to self. I do not need to elevate self when I have been given the tools to elevate Christ who came and gave Himself for me that I might live eternally.

The results that evolve from that education prepare one for two lives—the life on this planet and eternal life. As I see the test results, hear the stories, work in the environment, I am impressed at the learning that occurs within the walls of a Seventh-day Adventist school. While not all of the learning is positive, teachers do not have their heads in the sand. They are there to monitor, to advise, to manage, to evaluate, and in the case of younger students to control so that proper nourishment can occur and the student can develop into a respected, educated, service-oriented vessel for life today and in the future.