

Christian Education

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In reviewing the history of Kingsway College and speaking to a number of people in the Adventist community around Oshawa, I am amazed at the extent to which many families left all that was dear to them to live near Kingsway. They did this so that their children could attend Christian education. I heard stories of farms being sold. Farms in the family for generations were sacrificed for children to obtain a Christian education. The secular philosophy of other school systems was seen as so morally repugnant that a family's financial welfare was put at risk-the Lord blessed their faith.



Adventists were obviously concerned about where their children went to school. For them, money was not an end but a means to an end. Money had no value other than to be used in the "furtherance of God's will." That "will," many believed, included the requirement that children be given all the tools necessary to ensure that they carried on the Christian faith in a secular society.

Schools are by nature indoctrinating institutions. The question is, "Which doctrines do we want our children to be schooled in?"

Each school has its own philosophy of life-whether it is the secular public or the secular private-and by definition it passes on those viewpoints to the pupils. A parent must seriously consider whose view, whose values, their child is to adopt?

Today's generation still has parents who sacrifice for their children's education. They are the modern day torchbearers wanting to pass on their commitment to the Gospel of Christ. Unfortunately, by far the majority of our community still do not send our children to church schools.

Some argue that our children can be great witnesses of the Christian faith in the non-Christian school setting. It is true they "can be," but from my own anecdotal evidence it appears those children are not the ones converting, but instead they are the converts to the secular philosophy of our time. Let's face it-it is very difficult to stand alone. When friends are heading for the Friday night bash, our children often have little fortitude to stand up and be different. Praise God there are still some like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

With so many of our children not in our schools, we have got to ask why? I am of the view that the church body, as a whole, ought to take more responsibility to see our children attend our schools. If parents do not see the need for Christian education, but yet are willing to allow their children to attend

our schools if a way was provided, then as a community we ought to pull together the necessary resources to see them enrolled.

While we are in a very secular age, I fear for our church which is willing to spend millions of dollars on church buildings but not do likewise for our church schools. I may be overstepping the bounds when I say this, but I will say it anyway. Why, in light of the fact that some 84% of the people who accept Christ as their Saviour do so when in their youth, do we continue to spend millions on concrete and glass (that will only be destroyed at the brightening of His coming) when children are left to fend for themselves?

So where are our priorities?

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