

## **That Terrific Rainbow**

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Having recently retired, I have found time to reflect on my years of educational service. Other than carrying out the job description for each particular year, there are things I learned during those forty-two school terms.



### ***Teaching peers make the best mentors.***

Marti, a master teacher in the next door classroom, was my first mentor. Being able to talk to her, visit her classroom and receive hints from her in my mail box provided invaluable guidance. Her modeling and interest in my success positively impacted my career. I am convinced that informal professional relationships are more useful than assignment of mentors by the central office.

### ***Children are amazingly creative.***

One art and music project that I gave my sixth-grade students was for them to listen to a song entitled “That Terrific Rainbow” and illustrate what they heard in a series of paintings. Put together as a flip chart, it became a music “video” of sorts. Over the years I have often been amazed at the freshness and originality of children.

### ***Every teacher needs a revelation.***

During my third public school teaching position, my wife’s brother and his wife spent the weekend with us. Their zeal for the Lord and interest in paraphrasing the book of Revelation was a real “revelation” to me. In the days following their visit, it dawned on me how much more I could accomplish as a teacher in a Christian school setting. After much thought and prayer, I started teaching in an Adventist school the following school year. I never regretted that decision.

### ***Adventist Education includes the full spectrum of learning.***

Teaching on a number of academic levels and in a variety of schools has given me an appreciation of the depth and breadth of Adventist education. Moving from public to Adventist education was a bit like switching from a small bank branch with its limited service to the full-service main facility. I was finally able to incorporate the full spectrum of ideas, including the spiritual, into student learning.

### ***People are more important than things.***

In carrying out responsibilities as teachers or administrators, a good portion of time is spent in necessary but not always truly important tasks. It is gratifying to see students like my reader,

Cheryl, be successful in life and feel like I had a small role in her development. The academy science classes she took were part of her preparation to become a physician, administrator and convention lecturer.

It is equally rewarding to observe teachers piece together ideas from administrators, peers and life experiences to become more sensitive and effective teachers. Recently an elementary teacher stated he had received encouragement from me sharing my past teaching experiences with him. An open conversation is often more effective than heroic intervention.

***Adventist teachers look to the future.***

Why do most Adventist educators work so hard? I believe it's because they want their students to learn that part of the curriculum is to prepare them to worship the Lord of the Universe as described in Revelation 4.

“I was in the Spirit and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance...” and all the creatures fell down and worshiped Him saying “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for you created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

What could be more important than helping young people desire to see first hand THAT TERRIFIC RAINBOW and Him seated on the throne?