

Darkest Before Dawn: Why Adventist Schools Decline

SDACC Teachers Convention
Somewhere in the Gulf of Mexico

The Secondary Causes of Decline

"Parents just aren't committed to Adventist schools anymore."

"Adventist education is too expensive."

"Adventist schools are poorly marketed."

The Root Causes of Decline

1. A lack of passion for the unique mission and message of the Adventist Church

The Root Causes of Decline

2. A misunderstanding of what constitutes biblical discipleship

The Four M's of Discipleship:

- Meeting
- Mentoring
- Modeling
- Mantling

The Root Causes of Decline

3. Poor pastoral support

Comes in a variety of flavors:

- Incompetence
- "I made it, so other kids can, too!"
- The Pastoral Pressure Cooker

The Root Causes of Decline

4. Poor parenting

- Proliferation of single parent/split homes
- Basic emotional building blocks are skipped/truncated/ignored
- Excessive light-screen exposure

The Root Causes of Decline

5. The inroads of postmodernism, secularism, and "liberalism"

*Postmodernism: "Truth is dead"

*Secularism: "God is dead"

*"Liberalism": "Adventism is dead"

The Root Causes of Decline

6. Poor quality schools

Seven potential areas of concern:

a. Lack of passion for the primary goal of Adventist education

b. Lack of passion for things uniquely Adventist

The Root Causes of Decline

6. Poor quality schools

Seven potential areas of concern:

c. Poor school leadership/administration

d. Questionable academics

e. Ignorance of prophetic counsel

The Root Causes of Decline

6. Poor quality schools

Seven potential areas of concern:

f. Inroads of postmodern thought

g. Poor physical plant condition

Some Keys to Success

-Honesty with the depth of the problem

-Prayer

-Equip yourself

-Never, never, never give up!

Q & A

