

Do You Know My Jesus?

Isaac Zayachkowski, Superintendent of Education, Alberta Conference

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it." (Prov. 22:6 NIV)

These are encouraging words for a young mother and father as they hold their dearest gift tightly in their arms. As he grows, they will nurture and provide for his needs for a season so he may share with the world his love for the King of Creation. These are noble thoughts and dreams, but unfortunately not every chapter has a happy ending. So what can be done so that every home is a happy home where peace and laughter dwells?

Our little treasures grow up so quickly, and almost before we realize it, those early childhood years have slipped away. School looms on the horizon! Where will we send them? For most Adventist parents, the choice is easy; it's the local Adventist church school. As your children matured, you observed with interest their participation in the church praise service, in the reading of Scripture, and how they shared their love for God in various creative ways. Tears came to your eyes as their message touched your heart.



Now the time has come when you will have to entrust your loved one to someone else's care. You want the best for your child. You want him or her to grow in wisdom, and in stature. You want everything to go well when you're not there. Will they enjoy getting to know Jesus?

You are not alone, for the Canadian Union and its administrators, pastors, teachers, and constituent members heard your plea. They feel as you do—that God's children need to experience Christ's leading not only in church, but every day of their lives, including school. So we asked our schools how they continue to carry the torch of "training up a child" in the way they should grow spiritually. They told us that "the mission of Seventh-day Adventist Education in Canada is to model and mentor the children and youth of the church so that they will be equipped to be boldly Adventist; to provide service with the church and in their communities; to bring unity and strength within the Adventist community; to share truth both in personal and mission service; to provide vision leadership and resources to the church; to share these values with the community at large; and to commit their lives to a personal relationship with Jesus, our loving Saviour."

Every day begins with worship to help set the focus for what will happen through the remaining hours of exploration. Some schools have special weekly or monthly assemblies, where emphasis is placed on worship or service. Many schools have arranged to include their pastor in their worship experience. Twice each year, a week of spiritual emphasis is planned to heighten the students' focus on their "forever friendship" with Jesus. To make each student's real life experiences more memorable, mission trips take place, Christian service classes are implemented as option classes in the curriculum, and active participation in church service help touch the lives of the community outside the doors of each school.

There are other creative ways which inspire Christian service and hearty volunteerism. How about filling a shoe box of items that are special to you, then sharing it with some not-so-fortunate child in another country through "Operation Christmas Child," or making your community look pleasant by collecting garbage from the roadside through the "Care for your Highway" program. Love can be expressed in many ways, such as children being involved with Santa Anonymous, collecting toys for those who can't afford something special at Christmas, serving Christmas dinner for the homeless, and helping with the Food Bank.

Will we see success? Yes we will! For the world needs to see Jesus in action in 2001. With your united support, your fervent prayers, and determined focus, we can make Adventist Christian Education real for our children.

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