

## Why I Am Proud of Seventh-day Adventist Christian Education

*Dave D. Higgins, Superintendent of Education, Ontario Conference*

I am proud of Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. I believe it is unique, up-to-date and designed for the children and youth of our church.



### **Christ-centred**

Seventh-day Adventist education is not limited by the goals of ordinary education. Its basic philosophy is different and unusual. The curriculum is Christ-centered and the standards are high.

### **Special Commission**

We do not receive our marching orders from the federal, provincial or municipal governments. We have a special commission that comes from the highest authority possible-to educate for an appointment with destiny. Seventh-day Adventist education has always been unique, and it requires unusual conviction and dedication. This kind of education is needed more today than ever before.

### **Divine Origin**

I am proud of Seventh-day Adventist education because it is of divine origin. It was not organized by the will of man. It came into existence as a result of specific instruction from God's messenger. The Holy Spirit moved upon the hearts of men who were under the control of God. Seventh-day Adventist schools came into being as a result of divine leadership. It is not man's plan for educating our children-it is God's plan, and I am obligated to support it. I cannot be indifferent to anything God has blessed. I cannot afford to participate in it only when it is convenient, or only when I think I can afford it, or when it meets my own standard of excellence.

The skill and co-operation of all church members is needed to make certain that Seventh-day Adventist Christian education is strong and in harmony with the divine blueprint. It is our assignment and responsibility to make it strong by supporting it, and not let it become weak by neglecting or ignoring it.

### **Based on Truth**

I am proud of Seventh-day Adventist Christian education because it is based on truth. Truth is priceless. We are willing to start schools, hire teachers and support the entire program of education because we place a high value on truth. Solomon counseled, "Buy the truth, and sell it not." Truth is always worth buying.

### **Restores Christ's Image**

I am proud of Seventh-day Adventist Christian education because one of its primary goals is to restore in our youth the image of Christ. This restoration is a complete restoration-physical, mental, social and spiritual. Where else do you find a comparable system of education?

The work of Christian education is identical with the plan of redemption. They have the same goals. Unless restoration takes place in the lives of our young people, they will never become students in the school of the hereafter. The teachers in our classrooms are evangelists six hours every day, five days a week and 195 days every year. Their program of evangelism continues in the classroom, on the play field, on field trips, as well as on weekends and at other unscheduled times and places.

### **Consecrated Teachers**

I am proud of Seventh-day Adventist education because of our consecrated teachers. What would we do without Christian teachers? We could save money, but what about the future of our church? Teachers love their students, and they seek to help students develop their talents and reach their full potential. They recognize that the most effective way to teach truth is to live it. It's their dedication and their willingness to exemplify lessons of love and faith that makes them so valuable.

Teaching involves much more than study and class recitation. The heart of education is the education of the heart.

Our consecrated teachers instill into our boys and girls the truths of God's Word. They deserve our support and admiration. I am proud of them because of their dedication, because they seek to live what they teach, and because they attempt to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, the Master Teacher.

### **High Standards**

I am proud of Seventh-day Adventist education because of the quality of work done in our classrooms. I enjoy working in a system that keeps its standards high. We are not satisfied with second-rate work. Teachers are anxious for students to perform according to their ability. "Higher than the highest human thoughts can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness-godlikeness-is the goal to be reached" (Education, p.8).

We don't ask whether or not our program of education is as good as it used to be. We want to make certain that it is as good as it needs to be. I don't believe that any kind of education is good just because we teach the Bible. We need the best methods, the best texts, the best discipline, the best teachers and the best results. The strength of Seventh-day Adventist education will not come from imitating other systems of education. Our real strength comes from following the divine blueprint. "It is the degree of moral power pervading a school that is a test of its prosperity" (6 Testimonies, p.143).