

Looking For Opportunities To Build Your School?

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It is the wish of every school constituency to have a large enrolment to support the elementary/academy program so that administration, teachers, parents, students, board members, constituent members, community members and conference support are all equally balanced. It is only with the help of each of the above stated bodies that a school can reach it's full potential. We are all put on this earth to help each other. Whether one chooses to be nurturing or confronting will ultimately determine the success of your school?

Nurturing means taking time to provide positive reinforcement and support to all the staff of your school around you who are the spokes of the wheel that deliver Christian Education in your community. It is a basic human need of every individual to feel he/she is important and brings uniqueness to the overall school program. Just as in the family unit, nurturing and loving one another is basic to a healthy family unit; so is it in the school environment. Parents love the teacher and the teacher will love your child. Community, constituent member love your education leaders and they will led your school to higher levels. Ellen White in *Ministry of Healing* , page 143 states, "Christ mingled with men and showed sympathy to their needs and won their confidence and bade them to follow me." As Christians each of us should always look for opportunities to BUILD each other.

The flip side of the coin is to always look for the negative and to take time to point it out to those in the wrong. Confrontation is always difficult. Are your concerns constructive criticism that will help that individual grow? Or are you it expressing your opinion for the sake of being heard? We all want to be effective in our mission to bring students, and families closer to Christ. No administrator or teacher would admit to being perfect, but too often many times as onlookers, we look for all the bad and forget to shower some of the positive drops of rain to balance the growing experience. If things aren't going well, one needs to start loving people and eventually it will rub off him/her. We are reminded of the power of love in I Corinthians 13: 1-8. Love is one of the spiritual gifts that is available to everyone. God's kind of love is directed outward towards others, not inward towards ourselves. It is only possible to have this kind of love with God's help to set aside our own desires and instincts, so that we can give love while expecting nothing in return. Thus the more we become like Christ, the more love we will show to others. Are you nurturing or confronting? The solution is to nurture your school staff ; so that, together the school grow giving honor to God above.

Students are the heart of the school. Take time to value each individual. See students for what they can become and not what they are. Everyone needs to feel respected. Too often one sees the mistakes students make, instead of the person who needs encouragement and love to see through the trees to better fruits in their choices. Motivating students by being a good role models is the most effective method. As the old saying goes, " A picture is worth a thousand words!" When students feel safe and secure in their school environment they will pass it onto their peers.

Spiritual and physical growth of our schools will happen if prayer becomes foremost in our minds. Take time to pray for each student individually. Take time to pray with students. When we take time to increase our prayer life, we become closer to God. Morris Venden, in his book *The Answer is Prayer* gives us many insights of how prayer makes a difference in our lives. "Any judge, mediator, or

intercessor, any attorney or lawyer, would overstep his bounds if he took on the defense of a case that had not been appealed to him. God is anxious to work on our behalf, but they need the invitation from us. The more of our life we share with God, the more of His response, counsel, and wisdom will be given us in return."

Everyone of us, in all walks of life, can PRAY. We all need to be connected with the Father above to be effective in reaching students. When students are contented, they are the school's best marketing tool. Growth enrolment wise is fantastic, but growth spiritually is a blessing to all those who come in touch with your school. Take the opportunity to build your school by praying.

References:

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- White, Ellen G. *Ministry of Healing*. Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1942.
- Venden, Morris L. *The Answer is Prayer*. Oshawa, Ontario: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1999.