

# Preparing Administrators for the 21st Century

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94 • 95 • 96 • 98

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THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION (ISSN 0021-8480) is published bimonthly, October through May, and a summer issue for June, July, August, and September by the Department of Education, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600. TELEPHONE (301) 680-5075, FAX (301) 622-9627; E-mail: 74617.1231 (CompuServe). Subscription price, U.S. \$17.25. Add \$1.00 for postage outside the U.S. Single copy, U.S. \$3.75. Periodical postage paid at Silver Spring, Maryland, and additional mailing office. Please send all changes of address to Southwestern ColorGraphics, P. O. Box 677, Keene, TX 76059, including both old and new address. Address all editorial and advertising correspondence to the Editor. © Copyright 1999 General Conference of SDA, POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION, P. O. Box 677, Keene, TX 76059.

**M**ore than 90 years ago, Ellen White reminded us that the world needs persons of integrity. Now, as then, the Seventh-day Adventist Church needs leaders of solid character who cannot be bought or sold. As never before, we could use a whole cadre of young persons who are willing to be trained as leaders in the Adventist educational system.

The week before I wrote this, I heard about two boarding academies and two local conferences that had not been able to find qualified persons for principal and superintendent positions—and school starts in just two weeks. Several of our colleges in North America are looking for academic deans. The shortage of candidates for such offices has resulted in a number of retired persons being called to serve again as administrators. Many others could have retired years ago, but are still working at all levels in the educational system. And the problem will likely get worse—I recently counted more than 30 administrators who could retire in the next several years.

Looking back over my 39 years in Adventist education, 38 of which have been in administration, I cherish the privilege of having been employed in one of the most rewarding positions available to church workers. What could be better than helping teachers prepare young people for heaven? I challenge this journal's readers, both men and women, to carefully and prayerfully consider a career in school administration.

I would also advise principals, superintendents, and directors of education to begin identifying teachers who appear to have leadership ability and to sponsor them for graduate work at our colleges or universities. If you are one of those picked, give it a try. You may find after taking several classes that administration appeals to you. Conversely, if you determine that "This is not for me," then you will have some credit toward renewing your teaching credential. Why not take the plunge today, and begin class work next quarter?

This issue of the JOURNAL looks at the many tasks of administrators in the Adventist school system, and offers some advice to current and would-be leaders. Clarence Dunbebin helps us understand what is involved in true Christian servant-leadership, while Paul Brantley urges administrators to integrate faith and learning throughout the school program. Chiemela Ikonne presents an overview of the challenges of educational administration in the 21st century. Lisa Bissell Paulson urges us to see administration as an adventure, while Martha Havens offers tips for dealing with the challenges of combining teaching and administration. Norm Powell offers a "bill of rights" to help teachers know what good supervision ought to look like. Dan Lim points out the need for administrators to promote and use technology. Jerry Furst offers some thought-provoking suggestions for getting things done—without committees. Finally, Marvin Opiyo and I deal with the delicate issue of what to do with a failing principal or teacher.

*Robert W. Rice the coordinator for this issue, is a Senior Professor of Administration and Leadership at the School of Education, La Sierra University, Riverside, California, and coordinator for this issue. Dr. Rice formerly served as an academy principal and conference superintendent of schools for many years. The JOURNAL staff expresses appreciation for his dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work in preparing the issue for publication.*