

If asked to define Adventist education, most church members would think of academic and moral instruction given by dedicated teachers who model a Bible-based philosophy of education. Church members and leaders, however, are generally unaware of any contributions made by Adventist education to the world outside the classroom. As a result, teachers and educational administrators are often asked to justify the Church's financial contributions to education. How does it contribute to fulfilling the gospel commission?

In February 2000, we asked Adventist division directors of education to provide brief facts regarding the following: (1) contacts made by Adventist educational administrators with government officials or education ministers in obtaining school accreditations; (2) the influence of Adventist education on the training of either members or non-members who attend our schools and later serve in positions of influence; (3) the contributions of Adventist schools to evangelism; (4) the influence of English-language schools on non-Adventist students and on the societies in which they operate; (5) any interaction by Adventist education personnel with secular policy-makers that results in changes in or adoption of national or local curricula, textbooks, or education policy; (7) Adventist educators and administrators who serve on policy-making boards for public or private education, such as accrediting bodies or teacher-training organizations; (8) collaboration between schools and the church's global mission initiatives; and (9) other examples of how an Adventist school or educational headquarters has had a positive influence on society that would not have occurred if that entity did not exist. The response from the division education directors was overwhelmingly positive. Unfortunately, we are able to include only a sample of these responses below.

# The Other Ministry of Adventist Education Contributions Outside the Classroom

**Witnessing and Community Involvement**

Hudson Kibuuka, Eastern Africa Division Director of Education, reports that AIDS awareness and other outreach and witnessing programs at Solusi University (Zimbabwe) and the University of Eastern Africa Baraton (Kenya) have won 5,687 persons to Christ within the past five years, in addition to 313 students who were baptized from the two institutions.

In Uganda, an elderly lady, Lucy Sentamu, was baptized after having rejected the message for many years as it was being brought to her by church members. Living next to Luzira Lakeside Secondary School, she listened to the presentations that came through the loud speakers during the school Week of Prayer in July 1999. She, alone in her house, decided to accept the message and sent for the pastor. She was baptized with more than 200 students as a result of the Week of Prayer.

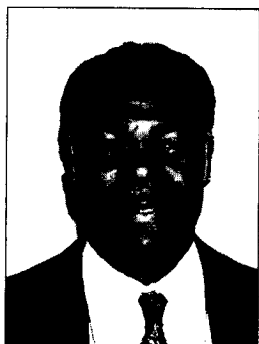
## Witnessing and Community Involvement

Middle East College, Hungarian Theological Seminary, and Pakistan Adventist Seminary continue to play unique roles in the educational outreach of the Trans-European Division. Pakistan Adventist Seminary, surrounded by 17 mosques, and Middle East College, near the heart of Beirut, are beacons of light to their surrounding Muslim communities.

Adventist media presence in Brazil, due to our educational system and the Centennial of Adventist Education (in 1996), has introduced more than 100 million individuals to Adventist philosophy. As a result, the President of the Republic of Brazil and Edson Arantes do Nascimento (Pelé), the Athlete of the 20th Century, offered statements regarding the value of Adventist education.

The anti-drug exhibition gymnastics team at Columbia Union College (Maryland—North American Division), the Acro-Airs, has performed half-time programs for National Basketball Association (NBA) teams such as the Boston Celtics, Atlanta Hawks, Chicago Bulls, and New York Knicks, taking the theme of healthful living to many audiences otherwise beyond normal church outreach.

BY GARLAND DULAN



*Written by Garland Dulan, an Associate Director of Education at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Silver Spring, Maryland, U.S.A., based on contributions provided by Adventist division education directors and other educators worldwide.*

Roberto de Azevedo, Director of Education for the South American Division (SAD), notes that by placing priority on Global Mission, educators and students have established more than 120 new congregations, 34 of them in locations where there were previously no Adventists. Additionally, after the church offered some 858 adult literacy courses over five years, the illiteracy rate among Adventist Church members dropped from 6 percent to 1.5 percent. Hundreds of church and community people learned to read using course materials taken directly from the Bible. Further, nearly six million books and missionary pamphlets were distributed by students within the division. Azevedo writes that between 1995 and 1999, 24,760 students were baptized in SAD and that mini-Creationist Centers are being established in Adventist secondary schools.

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**T**he family of Larry Geraty, President of La Sierra University, was picked as Family of the Year in Riverside County, California (U.S.), where Geraty is also serving as Chair of the United Way giving campaign.

#### **Contacts With Government Officials, Education Ministers, and Other Educators**

In the North American Division (NAD), Henry Farr, Associate Superintendent of Schools for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, was invited to serve on a Public/Private Schools Accreditation Task Force, which later developed the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council (GAPSAC)—only the third accreditation organization ever approved by the Georgia State Board of Education. One of the members of GAPSAC is the Adventist Accrediting Association.

Also in the North American Division, Vice President for Education Richard Osborn is the Treasurer of the Council for American Private Education, an umbrella organization that represents 80 percent of all non-public students in the United States. Gerry Thompson, Director of Education for the Pacific Union, also serves as the top official for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the regional accrediting association for the western states of the U.S. This is one of the highest honors ever achieved by an Adventist.

In February 2000, Chimiela Ikonne, Associate Director of Education for the Africa-Indian Ocean Division, was invited by the Ministry of Education to conduct a seminar on the integration of moral values in teaching and learning for 24 high school principals and three Ministry of Education directors in Mauritius.

#### **The Acro-Airs from Columbia Union College (Maryland, U.S.A.) perform at professional basketball halftime shows.**

Harry Mayden, former Director of Education for the Euro-Asia Division, reports that after he and his associate met with the National Office of Education in Russia to request forms and information about establishing Adventist schools, several people from that office attended meetings held by the church.

In September 2000, George R. Knight, Professor of Church History at Andrews University (Michigan—U.S.), will be lecturing in five locations in Norway to all the evangelical teachers,

K-12, in the country (mostly Lutherans) because the head of the teacher-training organization was so impressed with Knight's *Philosophy and Education: An Introduction in Christian Perspective*, now in its third edition. This official had been looking for this type of resource while visiting the United States and claimed that Knight's book was the best of its type that he had found. Another of Knight's books, *Issues and Alternatives in Educational Philosophy* (also in its third edition), has been used in many secular colleges and universities around the world. Together, the two volumes have been used in a total of 300 institutions.

Seventeen South Pacific Division students will be providing seminars featuring the latest in educational thought—multiple and emotional intelligences and brain-compatible learning—to both Adventist teachers and public educators. These students are from Australia and the following islands: Cook, Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu. Letters of introduction have been sent to educational leaders in the areas in which these students work. The letter includes a personal cover letter to the director or minister to education, a brief biography of the presenter, and an abstract of the seminar.

Michael Pearson, Vice-Principal of Newbold College (England), writes that in September 1999, the college hosted an academic conference "From Persecution to Pluralism" to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the arrival of the first Adventist missionary, J. N. Andrews, in Europe. Adventist scholars exchanged ideas with their peers from

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**Dr. George R. Knight, author of *Philosophy and Education: An Introduction in Christian Perspective and Issues and Alternatives in Educational Philosophy*, will make a presentation to evangelical teachers, K-12, in Norway this fall.**

some of Europe's best universities, who left knowing more about Adventist life and faith.

**P**acific Adventist University (PAU) plays a vital role in improving the lot of women in society, said Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Mekere Morauta, who with several cabinet ministers and members of parliament, including John Waiko, Minister for Education; and Moi Avei, Minister for National Planning, attended an April 2, 2000, ceremony marking the opening of the university's new women's quarters. Sir Mekere pointed to equal-opportunity tertiary education, such as that offered by PAU, as the best way of ensuring that women enjoy the same leadership opportunities traditionally extended to men.

### **Achievements of Former Students**

In 1997, Valley View University became the first private university in Ghana to be accredited by the Ministry of Education. Persons now holding key positions in that country who have attended Adventist secondary schools and colleges in AID include the following Members of Parliament: the Hon. Osei Prempeh, the Hon. Yaw Barimah, and the Hon. Ossei Aidoo; Frank Adu Poku, an attorney and head of the Ghana Police Legal Directorate; R. Akuamoah Boateng, head of the Department of Psychology at the University of Ghana (Legon); Mrs. Akua Frimpong Sarpong, Human Resource Manager, Ghana Airways; and K. K. Sarpong, Deputy Managing Director for Finance and Administration, Ghana Cocoboard.

In the Ivory Coast region, due to the Adventist influence, no exams for the Secondary School

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### **Philadelphia Mayor John Street speaks at Columbia Union College graduation, April 2000.**

Certificate are scheduled on Sabbath. The ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs (Essi Amara) and the ex-Minister of Labor (Patrice Kouame), both non-Adventists, attended our Bouake Secondary School, as did Edanh Anatole, Counselor to the Minister of Education, who is a member of the church. In Rwanda, the former Minister of Education, an Adventist, is now a professor at our new Adventist university in Kigali, the capital city.

In the Africa-Indian Ocean Division, prominent Adventists who attended our schools include Joseph Sylvain, Director of Human Resources at the Ministry of National Education of Madagascar; and Rakotondranaivo Andre, the author of 10 French manuals used in the public schools and 14 manuals written in Malagasy for primary and secondary schools.

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A partial list from the Advancement Office at Pacific Union College (California—NAD) notes the following individuals serving in leadership positions in government, education, and industry who have been influenced by Adventist education during their training: Cynthia A. Mayhle, Project Officer, Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland; Frederick Kites, Records Specialist, Department of Revenue, Salem, Oregon; David C. Baker, Chief Business Management Officer, CALTRANS (California Transportation Department); Scott C. Aitchison, Chief Financial Officer, United Way, San Bernardino; Ann L. (Shumelda) Okerson, Associate University Librarian, Yale University; Evelyn M. (Nelson) McMillan, Librarian, Stanford University; J. Russell Nelson, President (retired), Arizona State University, Mesa, Arizona; and Lewis C. Wilson, Acquisition Administration, U.S. Forest Service.

The newly elected mayor of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (U.S.), John Street, a Seventh-day Adventist, attributes a large part of his success in city government to his positive educational experiences at Pine Forge Academy (Pennsylvania) and Oakwood College (Alabama).

Seventh-day Adventist Chaplain and Rear Admiral Barry Black, who was recently nominated as Chief of Chaplains for the U.S. Navy, is a product of the Adventist educational system.

### **Contributions of Student Missionaries**

Fred Webb of Mountain View College (Philippines) sends this touching story, written by Cristita Bandalan Garnado, entitled "What Christian Education Did for Me." Christita's father was much feared by their tribe. A chief and a headhunter, he was the fiercest among his brothers. He would sometimes hide by their window with his bow and arrows. Aiming at passersby, he would laugh to see his victims crawl away in pain.

"He was known as a notorious killer. Wherever he went, he would kill wild animals or humans," she writes. "He divided the corpse in pieces and would place the head in one village, the left hand in a forest, the other hand in another place, and so on with the rest of the pieces of the body scattered around. This left the bereaved crazy and furious, searching for the pieces to assemble them."

At home, Christita's father roared like a lion, terrifying his children. Then one day, student missionaries from Mountain View College came to their village to build a school and to teach the children to read and write. Christita's father treated the student missionaries coldly. However, the villagers, happy that a school was to be built, helped in the building project by gathering sticks, cogon grass for roofing, and lumber.

**More than 7,000 student missionaries from Adventist colleges have carried the gospel throughout the world.**

Every morning, the student missionaries sounded a bell so the children could gather to hear stories and see pictures from a large picture roll. Shy Christita was so impressed that she dreamed of becoming a missionary teacher herself. She passed the government test and later completed a degree in elementary education at Mountain View College.

Today, Christita's father, the former fierce chieftain, is a Seventh-day Adventist. Christita, with her husband and child, is a missionary in another village.

The young people who taught Christita are just a sample of the 7,110 student missionaries from Adventist schools who served throughout the world between 1958 and 1999.

### Outstanding Achievements in Archaeology

Andrews University (Michigan—U.S.) has been involved in Near Eastern Archaeology for more than 30 years. Under its leadership, Adventist archaeologists from Canadian University College, Walla Walla College, La Sierra University, Southwestern Adventist University, and the University of Eastern Africa have developed a multidisciplinary archaeological project that is one of the largest in the Middle East and has evoked the admiration of non-Adventist scholars. Known as the Madaba Plains Project, this Adventist-led project has explored all facets of ancient life in the southern part of biblical Ammon. Our careful recovery and synthesis of data and prompt publication have been the envy of other scholars such as William G. Dever, a leading American Syro-Palestinian archaeologist who wrote in *Biblical Archaeology Review*: "The major American project [in Jordan] is the Madaba Plains Project which has been running for nearly 25 years under the direction of a consortium of Seventh-day Adventist schools. I am full of admiration for this very progressive and productive project. I have supported it strongly from the beginning and many of my graduate students are involved there. ... Adventists have not only contributed generously to fieldwork out of their devotion to the Bible, but as a group they have been remarkably astute and single minded in training and placing young people in their own network of educational institutions." Dever recently donated a large collection of pottery sherds and other materials to Southern Adventist University.

Adventist institutions that have participated in archaeological projects in Jordan, Israel, and North Africa include the following: Andrews, La Sierra, and Southwestern Adventist universities, Atlantic Union and Walla Walla colleges (U.S.);

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### Chaplain and Rear Admiral Barry Black

Canadian University College (Canada); the University of Eastern Africa (Kenya), and Fridensau University (Germany). Teachers and students from a number of other Adventist colleges have participated in the digs.

Adventist schools have affected a wide spectrum of society in numerous cultures throughout the world and offer a tremendous potential for evangelistic outreach. As this article has shown, Adventist education regularly shares the gospel in a variety of traditional and non-traditional ways.

More and more non-Adventists are being attracted to our schools each year, enhancing the potential ministry through education as our contact with the community increases. Given the amount of concentrated time our educators spend with these non-Adventist students and the spiritual focus of our school programs, this represents a tremendous opportunity to share the gospel and influence the future of society.

Clearly, Adventist education is a form of ministry, both within and outside the classroom. Given the 1,055,189 students in our educational system worldwide and the parents and other family members who thereby come into contact with our schools, this offers a tremendous opportunity for the church. If we can connect the preaching ministry with the educational outreach potential, I believe the Lord's coming will be hastened.

The church should be proud of those all over the world who have chosen to carry out their ministry through education. May God continue to bless their efforts. ✍

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**A group of Adventist archaeologists stand with dignitaries at the western base of Tall al-'Umayri, Jordan, in early August 1998. From left to right: Dr. Ghazi Bisheh, then Director-General of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan; His Excellency Akel Biltaji, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Jordan; Dr. Sten LaBianca (Andrews University), Director of the Madaba Plains Project (MPP) at Tall Hisban; Paul Ray (Andrews University), Field Director at Tall Hisban; Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya, niece of the former King Hussein and daughter of Prince Hassan; His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, at the time Regent of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Dr. Larry Herr (Canadian University College), Co-field Director of MPP at Tall al-'Umayri; Dr. Douglas Clark (Walla Walla College), Co-field Director of MPP at Tall al-'Umayri; and Dr. Lawrence Geraty (La Sierra University), Founding Director of MPP.**