EARLY PRIVATE SDA SCHOOLS

The following is an excerpt on Early Private SDA Schools written by E. M. Cadwaller in the book, History of SDA Education.

“The Seventh–day Adventist denomination grew out of a company of people who had been disappointed in 1844 because of the failing of a prediction that Christ would come that very year.…

The movement began in 1845 with three leaders and less than a hundred persons in New England and New York. These people were unpopular and this was reflected in the behavior of the public school children who ridiculed the Adventist boys and girls by calling them “Millerites,” teasing them about “going up,” and plaguing them in other ways.

It is said that this state of affairs coupled with immoral and irreligious influences prevalent in many public schools caused some parents to think seriously about their children’s education. Some sought to solve their problems by taking their children out of school, a few letting their children grow up in ignorance while others tried to teach them at home. At first many of the parents were prone to believe that the Lord’s coming had been delayed for a short time only, and that their children’s education was not very important as they would not likely attain adulthood on this earth. After the passing of a few years however, parents began to sense the need of education for their children and sent them back to public school or provided for their learning at home.

The first attempt at meeting the problem in an organized way, brings before us the establishment of a private school for Seventh-day Adventist children at Buck’s Bridge, in the state of New York…. Little is known about this school except the names of three teachers and the dates when they taught.

Martha Byington was the first teacher at Buck’s Bridge school. She was the daughter of John Byington who ten years later became the first General Conference president. Lucinda Paine taught the school the next year, 1854. John Fletcher Byington, brother of Martha, was the third teacher in 1855, as far as we know that was the last year of the school, although we do hear more of teacher John Byington at a later date.”


Today, the SDA church operates an educational system that is worldwide. It has a total of 7,589 educational institutions operating in over 100 countries with over 1.5 million students. We thank God for the early beginning and we know it will have a glorious end.
GIFT OP PROPHECY

The Ellen White writings claim to fulfil at least the following functions:

A. To exalt the Bible
B. To attract minds to the Bible
C. To call attention to truths neglected
D. To impress truths already revealed
E. To awaken minds
F. To simplify truths
G. To bring out principles and help apply them
H. To instruct in details.


Education should begin at Home

“It is in the home that the education of the child is to begin. Here is his first school. Here, with his parents as instructors, he is to learn the lessons that are to guide him throughout life—lessons of respect, obedience, reverence, self-control. The educational influences of the home are a decided power for good or for evil. They are in many respects silent and gradual, but if exerted on the right side, they become a far-reaching power for truth and righteousness. If the child is not instructed aright here, Satan will educate him through agencies of his choosing. How important, then, is the school in the home!”  *(Child Guidance, p. 17.1)*

Thought for the Month

“The nicest work ever assumed by men is to deal with youthful minds.”

*Testimonies to the Church Vol. 3* p. 131
**DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

- Battle Creek College, founded in 1874, was the first Seventh-day Adventist tertiary level institution.
- The largest (in terms of population) Seventh-day Adventist University in the world is Northern Caribbean University, located in Mandeville, Jamaica.

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**Garlic Fights Bacteria**

“(Garlic) is used to produce capsules, tablets, oil, powder, syrup and tea. In the laboratory, (it) combats some bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses, so it is widely used for colds and flu, yeast infections and viral warts. It has been used as an expectorant, antiseptic and worm medicine. It has modest effects on lowering blood pressure and cholesterol and on thinning the blood in animal and human experimental subjects.

The suggested daily dosage for either four grams of fresh garlic chopped, crushed or chewed to release the active ingredient, 600 – 1, 200 mg capsule or tablet or 4 ml of aged garlic extract.”


““There are many simple herbs which, if our nurses would learn the value of, they could use in the place of drugs, and find very effective. Many times I have been applied to for advice as to what should be done in cases of sickness or accident, and I have mentioned some of these simple remedies, and they have proved helpful.” {Selected Messages Book 2, p. 295.1}
SDA Education Survey

An informal survey was done with students at Northern Caribbean University from May 24–30, 2011. A total of 30 students were randomly selected. From the findings there were 10 Non-S.D.A students and 20 S.D.A. students. The following questions were asked:

1. On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the highest, how do you rate SDA Education?
2. Do you note any difference between SDA Education and other education?

The above chart shows the value 10 Non–SDA students placed on SDA education.

The chart below shows the response of SDA students.

The chart above gives the opinion of Non-SDAs in regard to the difference between SDA Education and other education. 50% of the respondents said that there is a difference and 50% said there is no difference.

The chart below gives the opinion of SDA students. 77% said there is a difference and 23% said there is no difference between SDA education and other education.

Comments from our visitors

“Overall, the information provided was precise and very informative, and the service offered is second to none, compared to other offices and persons.” Leighton Campbell–Student, NCU

“This is quite an extraordinary collection, I think the Centre should be more widely published, it is truly a remarkable collection.” Shereen Benjamin–Student, NCU
William Warren Prescott was an influential administrator, educator, and scholar in the early Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was president of Battle Creek College, Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, Walla Walla College in Washington and Avondale College in Australia. In 1901 he was elected a vice-president of the General Conference. In 1903, Prescott was also made editor of the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, from 1915 until his retirement in 1937. He was a field secretary of the General Conference. Elder Prescott had a burden for preaching. His own sermons were well thought out. That, combined with a full resonant voice and dynamic powerful delivery, made him one of the denomination’s most popular speakers. In fact, whenever it was announced that W. W. Prescott would be occupying the Tabernacle pulpit, the church was crowded. Especially after the 1888 General Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Elder Prescott’s sermons became very Christ-centered. His admonition to young pastors was, Christ must be the center of every sermon.

**Puzzle**

Clue: all answers can be found in this Newsletter

1. First SDA tertiary institution
2. First teacher of first SDA private school
3. Location of First SDA private school
4. A book written by Ellen G. White
5. Where does education begin?
6. Became president of more than 3 colleges
7. “The _________ work ever assumed by men is dealing with youthful minds.”
Education by E. G. White

This classic work on education sets forth the unique and challenging idea that “the work of education and the work of redemption are one.” The ultimate goal of all learning should be to understand more about our Creator Redeemer and to reflect that understanding in our personal lives. In her writings on this subject, Ellen White was concerned, not with details of curriculum or educational systems, but with great guiding principles. The result is a penetrating look at the factors that make up true education in its broadest sense. The reader will find in these pages insights to guide not only parents, students and teachers, but all who seek true education in the great school of life.

Sabbath Programmes at the Research Centre

The Centre opens its doors to one church per month to come and worship on a Sabbath at our facilities. We also conduct seminars and AY programmes at local churches. For appointments call or e-mail us at the addresses on this page.

Do you have any questions or comments on Spirit of Prophecy matters?

If you do, please call us or send your questions to:

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