Too good to be true

You’ve heard the old adage “if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is”. Well, Christian community, “Universal Preschool” or “Preschool for all” is too good to be true. On February 21, 2004 I attended a question and answer forum conducted by Rob Reiner. We were all attending the California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC) annual convention.

If you haven’t heard either of these terms, you soon will. On the surface it sounds good and noble and just what our children and underpaid preschool teachers need. Rob Reiner and his entourage want to make preschool free and available to all. They want to require preschool teachers to have a BA degree. They will even give the existing teachers 7 years to accomplish this and PAY for their education. WOW! So far this sounds great! The plan is even to include existing home based and Center based preschools for funding, making the preschool portion of their day free to already enrolled four year olds. The only requirement is that the preschool provides a strong academic preschool that does not teach religion. OOPS!!

What will really happen, my dear Christian family, if this bill gets on the ballot and passes? Financially struggling families will rush to enroll their preschoolers in a secular program that will not teach them that God loves them or to pray to Him. They will start teaching their own social agenda to our children at an even more tender age than they are now. Children in our public Kindergartens are not only not getting religious training but in some instances, being exposed to non-Christian beliefs and ideals.

It is the fault of the Christian community if this happens. Rob Reiner is only trying to do what we should have done years ago.

Parents in our society are forced to work. Mom and Dad’s income is required to make ends meet. As a Christian Community we should have bound together, helping these families to afford good faith based preschool and childcare. Our churches fund mission fields all over the world, but most neglect the ministry in their own pews. If Rob Reiner succeeds and we fail to defeat this bill we are bound by our common beliefs to begin funding scholarship funds, make school improvements and fund teacher education and advancement for our faith based Centers who are brave enough to take a stand and provide your children with the foundation in not only the four R’s but faith in God as well.

Robin Atmore, Director
Three Angels Childcare Center
Ventura, California

Officer Introductions

Martha Shepherd is the ACCN Treasurer through 2005. A veteran elementary and middle school teacher and licensed vocational nurse, Martha became involved in child care when the Sylmar SDA church decided to open a center in 1988. From the beginning, she was involved in writing the by-laws and later teaching the kindergarten class. After acquiring some early childhood education credits, she embarked on the directorship of Wee Care Child Center in Sylmar, California, a post she has held for approximately 4 years. In addition to being the ACCN Treasurer, she is also a member of the Pacific Union Conference Office of Education Child Development Center Director’s Advisory and Board. ACCN gladly welcomes Martha’s knowledge, experience, and strong leadership skills.

The ACCN Secretary is currently Shirley Bennett, Director of the Berean Child Development Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. She brings to ACCN experience in Human Services and Special Education as an educator and education specialist serving children from birth through five years of age. Shirley is a member of the North Carolina Cay Care Association and a valued member of our board.

Board Member-at-Large Anita Ahrens is Director of Kiddie Kollege Child Development Center on the Union College campus in Lincoln, Nebraska. She has earned degrees in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education. In 2003 she finished a Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction from La Sierra University, Riverside, California. She brings experience and insight to the ACCN board and we greatly appreciate her willingness to be the mid-western representative for ACCN.
Dr. Walter Rogan of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina has released what he feels is the first study ever to look at the link between breast-feeding and infant mortality in a developed country (May 6, 2004). He has found that breast-fed babies are 41% less likely to die of injuries than are bottle-fed babies, are 24% less likely to die of infections and are 16% less likely to die of sudden infant death syndrome. The study looked at 1,204 babies who had died and compared them to 7,740 children ages one month to one year. In the US 70% of new mothers breast-feed for a while but by age one only 15% are still doing so.

The World Health Organization recommends breast-feeding exclusively for six months and optimally a continuation of it to age two years. The study suggested that if all newborn babies were breastfed, there would be 720 fewer deaths in the US annually of children under age one. (This has been equated to about 72 fewer newborn deaths in Canada)

(One might hope the study controlled for the idea that mothers who breastfeed also are by definition near the baby and so they may also be the mothers who are able to more closely monitor the safety of their children. To ensure it was breast-feeding, not nurturing, that created the difference, one might suggest bottle-fed babies who were held during feeding by the mother should have been a control group. What may matter may not always be the milk. – editor, http://researchcare.tripod.com/)

Philippe P. Hugoel of the University of Washington in Seattle has released April 28 2004 results of a study of dental records of pregnant mothers and corresponding birth weights of babies 1993-2000. She has found 1,117 low birth weight infants and 4,468 normal birth weight infants, raising concerns that even low-dose dental radiation in expectant mothers may increase the risk of low birth weight. Kimberly Fibke of the Alberta Dental Association has commented that elective dental X-rays should be postponed for expectant mothers but sometimes oral disease does require an X-ray during the pregnancy. The study found that medical X-rays have already been suspect during pregnancy but this finding about dental X-rays is new.

Nov. 10-13
NAEYC Annual Conference,
Anaheim, CA

Nov. 10, 12 & 13
ACCN Annual Meeting,
Networking and Worship,
Anaheim, CA

Join the ACCN in Anaheim, California!
The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is having their annual convention in Anaheim, California this year (2004) and the Adventist Child Care Network will be there! Please join us for fellowship and networking. Meeting times and place will be coming in the next newsletter. Plan to be there!
Dear Adventist Educator:

I would like to take an opportunity to introduce to you an exciting program that is being offered by Worthington/Kellogg’s that will be of benefit to Adventist Education throughout North America, starting with the summer of 2004.

“Stack Save & Support”, is a program that we offer each year during the summer camp meeting season, to our Adventist marketplace. During this program, each purchased case of Worthington®, Loma Linda®, Natural Touch®, Morningstar Farms®, and Morningstar Farms® Organic brands, provide an opportunity for the consumer to make a choice to donate their savings plus our donation, to the SDA school of their choice, depending on the level of buy-in.

The “Stack, Save, & Support” program not only offers great savings to consumers on the purchase of our products, it generates a donation to support for the first time ever, your “SDA School of Choice”. Last year with our three major programs; Ticket to Savings, Stack Save and Support and Fall Food Festival, we were able to donate a substantial sum of money to Pathfinders across the United States and Canada.

This program runs from the beginning of May 2004 and expires at the end of the camp meeting season. The local ABC or Adventist Market, track each consumer ticket, and at the close of the program, Kellogg will reimburse the store for the checks that are sent out to each school designated as a beneficiary. If the school and its constituents really get behind this program, a school can receive some very nice financial rewards.

We have tested this program using Adventist Education as a benefactor in the Collegedale, TN area. The schools in that area have found the program to be quite successful and a worthwhile benefit to their local school.

Take an opportunity to contact your local ABC Manager or Adventist Market Manager, and ask about how your school can get involved in this program and help your local constituents become involved in this opportunity for your school.

Please take a minute to look at the attached materials and decide what you can do to take advantage of this exciting new program! Let your constituent families know about this opportunity of support for your school, and ensure that the support is maximized in your school’s favor.

If you have any further questions, please contact your local ABC Manager/Adventist Market manager for further details.

Best Regards,

Donald E. Otis
SDA Channel Manager
Natural & Frozen Foods Division
Scripture Bites Curriculum
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Scripture Bites is part of the adopted early childhood educational curriculum for both the Southern Union Conference and the Pacific Union Conference Offices of Education for Seventh-day Adventists.

Be sure to mention that you heard about this offer through the Office of Education for Seventh-day Adventists.