Leading to Christ

Several years ago, singer/song-writer Michael Card penned the words:

Let the children come,
Don’t dare drive them away...
The springtime of their life decides
The adults they’ll become.
So, let the children come;
Please, let the children come.

At the Sligo Child Development Center in Takoma Park, Maryland, the teachers are keenly aware that God will one day ask, “where is the flock I gave to you to care for?” (Jeremiah 13:20). Consequently, the teachers, all of whom are Adventist, desire to testify of their faith by living an exemplary Christian life.

Because the Sligo center is close to the nation’s capital, children come from many cultural and ethnic backgrounds ranging in age from two to five years old. In fact, some children do not speak English upon initial enrollment. However, within a few weeks, these quick little learners have mastered enough English to communicate with the other children and teachers.

The Sligo center provides valuable educational experiences and fosters growth and development in all aspects of the children’s lives including spiritual, social, intellectual and physical. In order for the program to serve a wide range of developmental needs it is imperative for all the teachers to have early childhood experience and education.

Teaching expertise and the carefully planned program allow the children to participate in activities designed to help them grow into independent, creative, confident and thoughtful individuals who are able to work effectively with adults and other children.

For example, the teachers read and tell stories of Jesus and Bible characters which the children enjoy with great interest. As a result, after the children have been in the center for a few months, they are able to repeat the Lord’s Prayer as well as many Bible verses and songs.

Recently, during worship time, a teacher was showing the children pictures of Heaven, to which they listened attentively and then discussed. Afterward, a three-year-old boy approached the teacher and told her that he wanted to go with her to Heaven.

Could there be any better reward than to see our young, innocent charges in Heaven with us?

Thank you to Eunice Alexander, Director of the Sligo Child Development Center, for submitting this article and pictures.
NetAdventist Offers Free Websites to Adventist Early Childhood Programs

Creating a blend of global and local online communities for the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been facilitated by a new agreement signed October 27, 2006 between the church’s General Conference and Three Angels Global Networking, or TAGnet, a lay-owned, supporting ministry.

The license agreement makes a software package available to denominational entities at no cost. The software combines localized Web sites with live streams of information and resources from the global church. The license provides for future ownership of the software by the Adventist church’s General Conference and permits local denominational entities to tailor the software to meet their individual needs.

At present, the software requires Adventist institutions to host their sites with TAGnet, which is based in Fallbrook, California, United States. Within the next year, TAGnet says, the software will be revised and re-released to permit hosting on any Internet server, including those controlled by church institutions. All church-owned entities, including Adventist preschools, are eligible to use the software under license provisions.

"Global connectivity of denominational entities via the Internet will be a huge benefit to Seventh-day Adventists worldwide," said Pastor Lowell Cooper, vice president of the world church. Cooper also chaired a committee preparing the netAdventist agreement with TAGnet. "The opportunity to use a single software platform simplifies the sharing of information resources," he added.

The netAdventist software package has been designed specifically for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The license permits denominational entities to create new features according to their needs and interests.

Expanding Adventist witness online has been a goal of the Seventh-day Adventist church for several years. As one of the first Christian communities to harness the power of networked communications, going back to its innovative use of CompuServe, the Seventh-day Adventist church was also one of the first churches to establish an Internet presence in the early 1990s.

Since then, thousands of church institutions have published their own Web sites, while potentially thousands of others have been held back due to a lack of access to technology or the skills needed for complex Internet Web site design, management and publishing.

Systems such as netAdventist remove many of these barriers. By offering Web hosting, TAGnet, and eventually Adventist institutions, can make a Web presence broadly available to local entities in a secure fashion. With a content management system such as the one netAdventist provides, those with even limited technical ability can use online tools to create and manage content.

"This agreement is the church’s next step in seeing that technology is used intentionally in the church’s mission," said Rajmund Dabrowski, communication director of the world church. "What is so special about the netAdventist program is the cutting edge approach to making the various media and Internet features convergent in one place. You have the church resources in one place, instantly and interactively."

"The netAdventist program is, architecturally, a distributed system and users will be able to run the software on any server in any Internet-connected location," said Danny Houghton, executive vice president of TAGnet, in a telephone interview with Adventist News Network. Houghton added, "I think that what you see happening is the desire on the part of some of our lay people to be able to empower the local church member (and preschool director) to use the Internet as a witnessing medium and have a place they can point their community to, to understand who we are, what we represent, and to invite that community to become a part of us."

A brief review of the software reveals that through netAdventist, local churches and organizations will have access to information streams from the world church headquarters all the way to sister congregations in the local area. The netAdventist software aims to close the communication gap between the local church and the conference, union, division, and church ministries. It also enables church-to-church communication, enhancing cohesiveness within local areas.

By providing multiple streams of information sources from various administrative levels and from other church sources, netAdventist empowers evangelism in a local context while maintaining and reinforcing the global unity of the church and its distinctive Adventist perspective.

The netAdventist program also provides a framework for translation into any written languages (Unicode). This is another specific method built into netAdventist software to strengthen unity through both intra-church communication and intercommunication with the larger world population.

A plus of the netAdventist system is the ability to take audio and video recordings of local church sermons and place these online for listening and downloading, Houghton said: "More of the media content that Seventh-day Adventists create can be accessed locally without having to buy a [satellite] dish."

More information on the netAdventist program is available at http://www.netadventist.org.

Source: Adventist News Network
Copyright (c) 2007 by Adventist News Network. 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA 20904-6600 phone: (301) 680-6306. e-mail address: adventistnews@gc.adventist.org.
Teacher’s Bulletin to Include Early Childhood

Directors and teachers: the North American Division needs to know we have talented, knowledgeable early childhood professionals. We need to make our presence known! Here is an ideal opportunity with very little effort.

Recently, a request was received from Martha Ban with the Atlantic Union Teacher’s Bulletin requesting the names of early childhood teachers willing to share some of their best lesson plans with the Teacher’s Bulletin. The Teacher’s Bulletin is an electronic teacher’s lesson planning resource tool which is partially funded by the North American Division (NAD) and distributed across the NAD. Teachers from all over the NAD submit ideas and lessons to share for the benefit of other teachers - there is no monetary compensation.

Ban’s request is for early childhood teachers to get involved in the exchange of ideas. To date, there have been no early childhood submissions to date.

This is the way it works: all submissions must be in an electronic format. Since many early childhood teachers hand write their lesson plans, the Pacific Union Conference Early Childhood Education and Care Division is offering to make submitted plans into an electronic format. PUC will then submit the lesson plan on behalf of the submitting teacher or director. Individuals may make as many submissions as desired; there is no limit.

All submissions will be sent to both the Teacher’s Bulletin and CIRCLE. (These two websites work in concert.)

Please share this information with all your teachers. It is an honor to have been asked; let's reciprocal.

To send lesson plan submissions to the Pacific Union office for electronic formatting, contact Christine Gillan-Byrne at:

Pacific Union Conference
Early Childhood Education & Care
2686 Townsgate Road
Westlake Village, CA 91361
Phone: 805-413-7342
christine@puconline.org

To make electronic submissions directly to the Teacher’s Bulletin, contact Martha Ban at:

martha@sla-browning.org

On-line Resources

Child Care Aware, a program of National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, is a non-profit initiative committed to helping parents find the best information on locating quality child care and child care resources in their community. This is done by raising visibility for local child care resource and referral agencies nation-wide, and by connecting parents with the local agencies best equipped to serve their needs. http://www.childcareaware.org/en/

eScrip is proven to be a fantastic resource for fundraising where participating business partners contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to your preschool. http://www.escrip.com/program/about.jsp

The National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education provides data and resources for providers, parents, consultants and state regulators pertaining to the health and safety of early childhood programs. http://nrc.uchsc.edu/providers.htm

Child Care Business is an on-line resource magazine reporting on a variety of topics for child care professionals. http://www.childcarebusiness.com/

National Program for Playground Safety is the leader in research, training, and development of S.A.F.E. play areas. NPPS' mission is to help the public create safe and developmentally appropriate play environments for children by offering education, services and merchandise. http://www.playgroundsafty.org/

And Remember…

CIRCLE, (Curriculum and Instruction Resource Center Linking Educators) linking Adventist educators with tools to help them continue the teaching ministry of Jesus Christ, anytime, anywhere. http://circle.adventist.org/browse/?browse_node=250

Pacific Union Conference Early Childhood Education and Care Division website provides resources and information for Adventist early childhood professionals including policies, guidelines, training options, reports and downloadable forms. http://earlychildhood.puconline.org
Curriculum Enhancement

Scripture Pictures by Cook Communications Ministries, provides 52 Bible stories in each book. Presented on a practical, eye-catching easel, this resource makes it easy for teachers to use and fun for students. The artwork is beautiful; the spiral bound easel book is easy to use.

Presented in both English and Spanish, Scripture Pictures is ideal for bilingual classes and is a perfect resource for the bilingual preschool. Each lesson comes with tools to help the teacher prepare: Bible background, application questions, and a fun review activity. Scripture Pictures correlates with almost any Bible curriculum and works well with either large or small groups.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

• 52 stories per book provide a full year of materials - correlates with almost any Bible curriculum
• Each lesson comes Bible background, engaging application questions, and a fun review activity
• Presented in English and Spanish
• Large, easy-to-see format with a built-in easel
• Only $29.99 each!

FOUR BOOKS IN ALL

Scripture Pictures - Journey through the Old Testament
ISBN/SPCN: 0781440742

Scripture Pictures - Experiencing the Life of Christ
ISBN/SPCN: 0781440327

Scripture Pictures - Miracles and Parables of Jesus
ISBN/SPCN: 078144201X

Scripture Pictures - God's Plan for the Early Church
ISBN/SPCN: 0781443369

Available at a local Adventist Book Center or on-line at: http://www.cookministries.com/catalog/index.cfm

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The Adventist Child Care Network seeks to provide support and nurture for Adventist child care providers and to reach out with information and encouragement to churches and individuals who are starting an Adventist child care center.

Through this newsletter we seek to facilitate and develop a communication network among Seventh-day Adventist Child Care providers in North America.

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Office of Education
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

For more information:
call: 805-413-7344
fax: 805-413-7319
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