Adventist Early Childhood Curriculum Update

An Early Childhood Education Curriculum is on its way for the fall of 2010!

The process of developing an early childhood curriculum began initially with an Early Childhood Education Taskforce made up of representatives from each union conference in the North American Division (NAD). In July of 2007, representatives from this Taskforce met with the Review and Herald Publishing Association (RHPA) to design a new model for creating and publishing curriculum.

Through the early summer of 2007 the Early Childhood Curriculum Advisory worked to write the early learning developmental domains, standards, indicators, examples, and a curriculum author instructional manual. For author selection each advisory member recommended writers from their regions. These writers were asked to send in a writing sample. From these writing samples authors were selected. A writers’ in-service was conducted August 9, 2007, at RHPA during which these authors studied the following topics:

- Product components, instructions for writers,
- explanation of templates,
- module theme selection,
- understanding copyright laws and modification allowances,
- Use of Microsoft Word, and
- APA referencing format.

On July 24, 2008 a meeting between the NAD Office of Education and members of RHPA staff was held to discuss the role of the ECEC advisory. Attendees were Larry Blackmer, NAD Vice President for Education, Debra Fryson, NAD Associate Vice President for Education, Dr. Mario Martinelli, RHPA Vice President Book Division, Jeannette Johnson, RHPA Associate Vice President Book Division, and Dr. Rose Gamblin, RHPA Education Specialist.

From this meeting the Early Childhood Education Curriculum Advisory was formed to focus solely on curriculum—while other early childhood issues within the Division will be dealt with by the NAD Early Childhood Education and Care Advisory.

The goal of this curriculum project is to provide an Adventist worldview trans-disciplinary curriculum for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with children, young families, and early childhood teachers. There will be a purposeful intention to write each unit from a spiritual (biblical or nature-based) perspective. In this way young children will learn to connect secular and academic information with an ever-present Savior who cares about all aspects of their life and learning.

The development of a uniquely Adventist early childhood curriculum will require both writers and early childhood programs willing to pilot the prototypes. Interested

Continued on page 4
Soquel, CA — I was asked to lead the Beginner's tent sometime last year. After the assurance from God that camp meeting was His plan for me, I called to accept and was told someone had called the Conference Office and stated that she felt impressed to lead in the Beginner's tent. I'm not one to argue with God, so I told the Children's Ministries Leader, Susan Schwarz, I would not be offended if I was not the leader, and offered my services, if needed. Susan insisted that I would be a co-leader. It seemed silly to me. I thought maybe Susan just didn't want to hurt my feelings, but I did talk with the other leader, Sue Mellinger several times about set-up, what is age-appropriate, etc. and made plans to present the Bible story each day.

When I arrived for set-up, a day late, the Beginner's tent was all in readiness with the exception of "my corner", the Bible corner. As I worked, I was introduced to the other staff members and tried to get a feel for who they were and what they were about. I liked what I observed and instantly felt comfortable with the staff.

The following morning, I waved goodbye to Sue and the other teacher, Inez Bixter, as they set off for San Jose Airport to pick up Sue's mom. They were so rushed that I did not get to pray with them, but prayed for them as the dust settled behind them. About 1:00 p.m., we received news that these two ladies had been in an accident and had received horrendous injuries. The possibility for Sue's survival was questionable. There was little news of Inez, except that she was in x-ray all day.

We had one day to organize. We needed a tent leader, a music leader, a nature corner leader, a craft leader, and a pianist. We had no music. Sue was going to play the piano (she plays by ear), while wearing a microphone to lead the music. We didn't have the nature stories or crafts. Inez was going to do both. Story in the morning, crafts in the afternoon.

Not to worry! One staff member (18 year old Jenny Wood) had been asked to help with the music. So, I handed her a music book I brought and told her to take my 15 year old helper and choose the songs they knew and liked. Why did I pack a music book? I didn't need it for a Bible story. You know the answer to that.

I went to Sue's cabin to look for a program outline, (it was unlocked, of course). I sent another person to Inez's trailer to look for lesson plans and a craft outline. It too was unlocked, (of course), and everything was there ready to go. Of course! Oh yes, of course, someone just walked in and said she would be happy to do the nature and craft corner.

The piano was a bit more involved, but, a very nice doctor said she could play piano to get us started. Did I tell you, we only had one day before camp meeting started? Yep! I heard there was a great pianist coming in late at night and she might be able to help us out between working in the Medical Clinic and playing in the Youth tent.

Well, it all worked out. God planned it all. We just waited for Him to drop all our needs into our laps, and He did. When we were trying to put a song on notepaper, God wanted us to use real music paper, so He sent a lady into our tent with 3 sheets of paper. She just found the paper, and walked into our tent for a few moments of quiet time. Even a piece of blank music paper is important to God. It was fun waiting on Him.

Inez sustained two pelvic fractures and was sent home the next day. She will be in the healing process for about 6 weeks.

Sue sustained multiple fractures on the left side of her body, punctured lungs due to fractured ribs on both sides. The horrendous suspected abdominal injuries became non-existent and Sue went home after 1 week in the Critical Trauma Unit of the hospital. Her down time is predicted to be about 6-8 weeks. As soon as she could talk, she was praising God.
Employment Opportunities

Foothills Christian Preschool needs a Head Teacher for their Montessori-based early childhood program. Individuals interested should contact director Micki Gangbin at (707) 963-1069 or (707) 963-3546 or email at preschool@foothillselementary.org.

Milpitas Discoveryland is in need of a new Director on a campus that includes both the local church and elementary school. For more detailed information, contact Robin Aaron at (650) 967-2783 or by email at robinaaron22@comcast.net.

In Northern California, Pleasant Hill Discoveryland is looking for a full-time teacher. Contact Geri Davis at 925-935-3520 or email her at one of the following: TheoGeri@ComCast.net and discoveryland77@sbcglobal.net.

Milpitas Discoveryland is in need of a new Director on a campus that includes both the local church and elementary school. For more detailed information, contact Robin Aaron at (650) 967-2783 or by email at robinaaron22@comcast.net.

Looking for Adventist teachers, directors and administrators? Post upcoming job openings on the North American Division website. Job postings will remain on the website for eight weeks.

Job posting site: http://www.nadeducation.org/employment/post_job_opening.html

The purposes of ACCN:

1. To affirm, encourage and empower all engaged in the weekday ministry to children. (On-going)
2. To provide opportunities for professional and spiritual growth. (On-going)
3. To provide networking opportunities for Seventh-day Adventist Child Development Centers. (On-going)
4. To set certification standards for child care providers. (In process)
5. To foster unity between all areas of child development within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. (In process)
6. To encourage the incorporation of Early Childhood Education in the nurture and outreach programs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. (In process)
7. To foster working relationships with the world church, unions, conferences, local churches, and schools. (In process)
8. To encourage surveys and research in the area of Child Development and Early Childhood Education in cooperation with the North American Division. (In process)
9. To counsel with the North American Division and General Conference in the development and review of programs and strategies for Child Development. (In process)
10. To provide guidance and resources to training organizations, colleges, and universities. (In process)
11. To advocate the hiring of Early Childhood specialists at all organizational levels of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. (In process)
12. To develop working relationships with other Early Childhood Education organizations. (On-going)
13. To encourage child care centers to obtain national accreditation. (In process)

Join ACCN

By contacting:
Christine Gillan Byrne, Ed. S.
ECEC Coordinator
Pacific Union Conference
P.O. Box 5005
Westlake Village, CA 91359
Phone: 805-490-6055
Email: christine@puconline.org

God’s Promises Are For Practical Life

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5, 6
Curriculum Update, cont.’d

individuals should contact either Rose Gamblin at RHPA or Christine Gillan Byrne at the Pacific Union Conference (see contact information at the end of this article).

ECECC advisory members:
- Dr. Rose Gamblin, RHPA Education Specialist
- Debra Fryson, NAD Vice President for Education
- Christine Gillan Byrne, Ed. S., ECEC Coordinator, Pacific Union Conference
- Tamara Libonati, Education Associate, Southern Union Conference
- Dr. Aleene Schaeffer Mills, ECEC Coordinator, Mid-America Union Conference
- Dr. Davenia Lea, Early Childhood Special Education, Columbia Union College
- Dr. Alayne Thorpe, Vice President for Academics, Griggs University and International Academy

Curriculum contact information:
Rose Gamblin, PhD
Education Specialist
Review and Herald Publishing Association
55 West Oak Ridge Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Ph: 301-393-3225
Fx: 301-393-3222
Email: rgamblin@rhpa.org

Christine Gillan Byrne, Ed. S.
ECEC Coordinator
Pacific Union Conference
P. O. Box 5005
Westlake Village, CA 91359
Ph: 805-490-6055
Email: christine@puconline.org

Happily Never After:
Study Reveals TV Favoritism

The Parents Television Council (PTC) released a new study, *Happily Never After: How Hollywood Favors Adultery and Promiscuity Over Marital Intimacy on Prime Time Broadcast Television*, which revealed that broadcast networks depict sex in the context of marriage as either non-existent or burdensome while showing positive depictions of extra-marital or adulterous sexual relationships with alarming frequency.

Across the broadcast networks, the new PTC report found that verbal references to non-marital sex outnumbered references to sex in the context of marriage by nearly 3 to 1, and scenes depicting or implying sex between non-married partners outnumbered similar scenes between married couples by a ratio of nearly 4 to 1.

"These study results suggest that many in Hollywood are actively seeking to undermine marriage by consistently showing it in a negative manner. Even more troubling than the marginalization of marriage and glorification of non-marital sex on television is TV's recent obsession with outré sexual expression. Children and teens are now exposed to a host of sexual behaviors that less than a generation ago would have been considered off-limits for broadcast television," said PTC President Tim Winter.

The study’s summary and results may be disturbingly detailed. Please use caution in reading or duplicating.

Source:

NAEYC CONFERENCE
& ACCN Meetings

The Adventist Child Care Network will host their annual meetings in conjunction with the NAEYC Conference in Dallas, Texas this year. The agenda will consist of reports regarding the development of early childhood curriculum, policies and protocols at the North American Division level. Please see insert.