Meet Your Department of Education
By Charles R. Taylor

The General Conference Department of Education, like other departments of our church organization, performs an advisory, promotional, and sometimes quasi-administrative function at five different levels of church activity: the local church, the conference or mission, the union, the division, and the General Conference. At the church's Washington, D.C., headquarters we serve as the office for the North American Division, with a staff of thirteen, and as General Conference office for the world, with a staff of nine.

The General Conference Department of Education is a service organization for the world field, coordinating the input of the division directors of education to form an information pool from which all in turn can draw to help in comparative assessment, formulation of policy, public relations, recruitment of personnel, transfer of credits, inspiration and in-service education of teachers, and other areas of common concern.

Boards of Education

Educational policy decisions at the General Conference level are made by the Seventh-day Adventist International Board of Education, chaired by Dr. Charles B. Hirsch, a General Conference vice-president with a lifetime of experience in education. This board includes all division presidents and directors of education, as well as the three main officers and a cross-representation from the church ministries, health, and publishing areas of the General Conference. The department staff provides input for the board’s annual meeting agenda and

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Continental Grouping of Divisions

Binding together the educational effort of the church in 126 countries (out of 190 in which the church operates) is a monumental task. In order to relate intelligently to so many varied national systems of education and to facilitate proportional attention to the educational work in these divisions, the Department of Education has been reorganized to allow the four staff members with an international background to give special attention to three divisions each. The 81 unions in the world have been grouped into thirteen divisions, twelve of which have schools.

Dr. Agripino C. Segovia is responsible for the three African divisions, relating to Dr. Joseph Nkou in the Africa-Indian Ocean Division, Dr. Ralph P. Bailey in the Eastern Africa Division, and Dr. Tommy H. Nkungula in the Trans-African Division. Dr. Victor S. Griffiths is responsible for the American divisions, relating to Elder L. H. Fletcher in the Inter-American Division, Dr. R. L. Reynolds and Elder F. R. Stephan in the North American Division, and Elder Nevil Gorski in the South American Division. Dr. George P. Babcock is responsible for the three divisions with active educational programs in and around Asia, relating to Dr. Gerald F. Clifford in the Australasian Division, Dr. Amos Simorangkir in the Far Eastern Division, and Dr. John M.
Fowler in the Southern Asia Division. Dr. Charles R. Taylor, chairman of the Department of Education, has direct contact with the European divisions; Dr. Pietro Copiz in the Euro-Africa Division, Dr. Jan Paulsen in the Northern European Division, and the incipient educational work in the U.S.S.R., in addition to monitoring the overall educational program of the church throughout the world.

Each staff member maintains an active institutional file in which each full secondary school and college in his section of the world is represented with a master plan, a school bulletin, photographs and slides, evaluation reports, personnel listings, educational workers or principals of schools.

**Department Functions**

The Department of Education assists the General Conference Appointees Committee and school administrators in selecting suitable educational workers, administrators, field representatives, and teachers.

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**At the request of denominational executives, the department evaluates schools and colleges to assist in maintaining proper educational standards.**

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statistics, and other data. Staff members are expected to maintain yearly personal contact with their division counterparts through travel and correspondence, following through on agreed-upon programs to achieve the educational objectives of the church in the world field.

The customary channel of communication between the department and the world-wide educational enterprise of the church in matters involving policy is through the division directors of education as executive secretaries of their respective boards of education. Business below the policy level may be done directly with local
Member. Recently I came near presiding over the liquidation of one of our church schools. The school board had secured the services of a competent and consecrated teacher. There were enough pupils to demand a school. The parents were eager for their children to have a Christian education. There was no reason for the school not to open; that is, no reason except too many church members were under the misguided conception of what a church school really is. Most of those without children in this particular church felt that Christian education was a problem solely for parents whose sons and daughters would be sitting daily in the classroom. Without substantial financial assistance from the nonparents the school could not operate.

Essential to the well-being of any church school are the moral and financial support and the prayers of every member of the church.

The understanding support of conference president and treasurer. Operating a church school is often an uphill battle in any community even under ideal conditions. The enemy of souls sees to it that personnel problems, financial duress, and personality clashes plague all too many of our schools. To these burdens is added an unsympathetic or indifferent conference administration, the load can easily reach the breaking point.

In many ways conference administrators can demonstrate a live interest in the program of Christian education. A sympathetic approach to educational problems in the conference is a must. A willingness to take time from an already full program to discuss these problems with the educational committee exhibits more than lip service. Making the teachers feel that they belong to the conference team boosts morale. Visits to the classroom, though of necessity they be short, link the busy executive with the interests of his educational workers. Our church schools merit the full support of conference administrators.

Possibly in this imperfect world all our church school needs will never be met nor all our ideals be achieved. Until closing events turn the lock on the last church school, Satan will continue to blind vision, foment opposition, foster indifference, and incite noncooperation. Probably we shall never have all the equipment and real property we feel we need. Likely the Lord will keep us poor enough to feel our dependence upon Him. But with willing church members, sympathetic, supporting parents, dedicated, prepared teachers, consecrated educational leaders, understanding administrators, and, most of all, the blessings of the Master Teacher, the greatest needs of our church schools will be cared for and the cause of Christian education will triumph.

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for schools and colleges. For that purpose the department is developing a computerized worker file in which teachers are classified according to education, training, and experience.

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Education—Eden to Eden (Continued from page 7)

United States, the orange groves of Brazil or Mexico, the mountain lands of Europe or New Zealand, the highlands of central Africa or the cordilleras of South America, the islands of the South Pacific or the Caribbean, the goal was the same—to ensure that all instruction, no matter in what language it was provided, what national system was followed, or what discipline was being taught, was to be based on the Word of God and have as its center the persons of God.

On occasion Seventh-day Adventist educators have failed to fully reach this goal. Nevertheless, under the guidance of God errors have been corrected, youthful souls have been saved, workers have been prepared, and the church of God has moved onward and upward without hesitation.

God’s plan of education will be continued in the earth made new. At that time, around the great white throne, Seventh-day Adventist teachers will meet those whom they, as instruments of the Holy Spirit, have guided to eternal salvation. Then they, with their former students, will all become pupils in the new Eden schoolroom, again with God as their face-to-face teacher, and the angels as His assistants.