Character Builders

“True education does not ignore the value of scientific knowledge or literary acquirements; but above information it values power; above power, goodness; above intellectual acquirements, character. The world does not so much need men of great intellect as of noble character. It needs men in whom ability is controlled by steadfast principle.”

Shaping the character of a student is most challenging. In writing to teachers of this effort, Ellen White speaks of it as the most important work ever entrusted to human beings. Going further, she notes, with urgency, the pressing need for young men and women who are best equipped in character to meet the momentous issues of our time.

In the book *The Elements of Teaching*, the authors speak of the authenticity of character that is essential to good teaching. The absence of authenticity of character will, over time, be evident to students.

“Knowledge or technique ungrounded in character is of little effect with students; on the other hand, knowledge anchored to a teacher’s irrepressible passion for a subject, or technique linked with personal experience, attracts and gives assurance to students.”

Character, the authors state, must be true and consistent.

By Hamlet Canosa

**Lent to the Lord**

I have often thought of the accounts of Hannah; the youthful Samuel; and of Eli, the judge-priest and his notoriously wicked sons, Hofni and Phinehas, written of in 1 Samuel. Hannah desired for Samuel nothing short of a godly character and spiritual upbringing. Hannah entrusted Samuel, we’re told, to Eli in order that Samuel be lent to the Lord and minister before Him.

Both she and Elkanah, her husband, must have known of the corrupt nature of Eli’s sons. Nevertheless, they commended Samuel to Eli, a servant of the Lord, believing that Eli’s instruction would benefit Samuel’s spiritual growth and character. Eli, whose ineffectual response to his own sons’ errant ways demonstrated his moral shortcomings, would nonetheless assist in the development of a faith-

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News About the JAE Web Site

The JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION Web site (http://education.gc.adventist.org/jae/) has been up and running for more than a year now. By late September 2003, the departmental site had more than 5,200 hits, the majority of which are probably visits to the JOURNAL homepage.

CIRCLE and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division are working together to scan back issues and get them indexed so visitors to the JOURNAL’s Web site can use the search engine to find things they’re interested in and download them in PDF format. Most photos and sketches have been removed, so they download quickly. Articles from 1991-2002 have been archived, including the continuing-education study materials.

Other items at the site include information on continuing-education credit for denominational recertification, links to Adventist educational institutions and administrators worldwide, as well as other education-related sites such as CIRCLE and the Adventist Education Forum, guidelines for writers, how to subscribe, topics we’d like to receive, and information about copying and reprinting from the JOURNAL.

Visit the JOURNAL Web site often!

Student Healthy Lifestyle Contest 2004

The 2004 Student Healthy Lifestyle Contest is well underway. Students from Adventist schools and churches in the North American Division are invited to participate. The contest’s main emphasis is to encourage youngsters in grades 1-12 to commit to a healthy lifestyle and to become more aware of the dangers of using tobacco, alcohol, or other harmful substances.

Prizes range from $100-$250 for grades 1-8, and $100-$500 for grades 9-12. Awards are shared by the teacher and student. Young people compete with their peers (grades 1-4, grades 5-8 and grades 9-12), and can select one of four categories to enter: Posters, Essays, Videos, and Computer Generated Graphics or Skits. All entries must be original. Adult friends or parents may assist in some brainstorming or collecting source materials, but the actual work must be entirely that of the student. Quotes must include full source information.


Click on the link for the Student Healthy Lifestyle Contest.

Even though this contest is primarily designed for Adventist schools, educational administrators are encouraged to invite students from public schools to join in. In 2004, the Baltimore, Maryland, city schools will be participating—with a potential pool of 96,000 students.

Scientific studies have shown that young people who make a commitment to live drug free by signing a pledge card are more likely to resist peer pressure to use drugs. Participating in the Healthy Lifestyle Contest is a great way for your students to reinforce their commitment to healthy living and making lifelong positive choices.