

Education: Our Father's "Do List" for Adventist Schools

The following thoughts are from the book *Education*. They represent the things God tells us to include in Seventh-day Adventist Schools. (gleanings from chapters 1,2,4)

Suggestion: Through deep, earnest prayer ask the Holy Spirit to guide in deciding how each item on the list will be implemented into the school program. Focus on a few at a time.

Our Father's do list for Adventist schools:

Chapter 1:

1. "There is a need of a broader scope and a higher aim." The priority is much greater than the study of academics. (13)
2. It involves the harmonious development of the physical, mental and spiritual powers. (13)
3. While the world has great men of intellect and research, there is One who stands higher than they. We are to learn from Him. (p. 13,14)
4. It will prepare students for the joy of service here and for eternity. (13)
5. "Higher Education" is defined as that which is imparted by God who has wisdom and strength. (14)
6. The only means of "Higher Education" is through communion with God. This is His method of development. (14)
7. Primary focus of all subjects – a knowledge of God. (14)
8. To understand "true education" students need to understand the nature of man and the purpose of God in creating him and in restoring him. (14)
9. To restore in man the image of God is the primary objective of education. (15) (This is to be the overriding theme of all that transpires in an Adventist classroom and school.)(students must understand who God is and His love for them)
10. Life learning: We will continue to grow and our faculties increase through all eternity. (15)
11. First objective of education is to direct our minds to His revelation of Himself. (16) (knowing God and His love)
12. The (Bible) scriptures should have the highest place in education. This is the standard of truth. (17) (prominent place of Bible study in Knowing God)
13. The work of true education is to create individuals with the power to think and do. To accomplish this, students must be directed to the truth, to the fields for research in nature and revelation, and to contemplate the great facts of duty and destiny. (17)

14. Students must receive a knowledge of God as Creator and Christ as Redeemer. (prominent place of Bible study in knowing God and Christ as Redeemer)
15. True education is experiential and leads to character development and to fortified minds. (18) (Bible study must result in application. Be doers and not mere thinkers of the Word)
16. Teach students to DWELL on Christ's character. (18) (Meditation on the Word)
17. Independent growth – "as fast and far as possible." (18)

Chapter 2:

18. While the Bible is the primary book of study, nature is a secondary source of spiritual learning. (21)
19. God's original plan for the education of the children was through the home and the school. (p. 22)
20. The most important thing students were to learn experientially was to "reflect the light of the knowledge of God's glory." (22)

Chapter 4:

21. Teach the students that the only source of power that allows them to live above a nature bent to evil is through the power of Christ. To teach students that cooperation with Christ in receiving this power is education's "highest aim." (29)
22. Life's greatest lesson is in unselfish service. (30)
23. The principles that shape the character are: 1) the acquaintance of the soul with Christ; 2) through an acceptance of His wisdom as the guide; and, 3) His power as the strength of heart and life... The student has within his reach the power to realize in himself the noblest ideals." (30)
24. "In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one." (30)
25. "The greatest principles of education are unchanged. They stand fast for ever and ever." (30)
26. "To aid the students in comprehending these principles, and in entering into that relation with Christ which will make them a controlling power in the life, should be the teacher's first effort and his constant aim." (30)