

# Ways Superintendents Can Promote Spirituality in Adventist Schools

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Areas of support are divided into the following 5 themes: Teachers, Curriculum, Students, Pastors and School Boards.

## **Teachers:**

1. Careful hiring of new teachers to assure that they align philosophically with the philosophy of the K-12 board.
2. Follow the Nehemiah Principal to prevent “vision leakage.” When rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem the people tired and lost their focus half way through the project (26 days). The Nehemiah Principal states that people need to be reminded of the mission on a monthly basis. The education department can strengthen spiritual programming by finding a variety of activities that support the spiritual vision of the education department and implement at least one reminder activity each month.
3. Provide teachers with meaningful staff worship materials that promote the objectives of Adventist education and personal spiritual growth.
4. Create opportunities for teachers to experience the synergy of small group Bible studies. Example: Regional teacher groups or a local group of teachers, pastor and school board members.
5. Encourage “prayer partners” for all teachers in the conference. Allow teachers to sign up in groups of 2 or three. One suggestion for helping teachers pick prayer partners is to have them sit together at the fall convention based on schools in a given region. As they get better acquainted it will make it easier for them to select a prayer partner.

6. The superintendent and ministerial director work collaboratively to develop a Bible study for the local pastor and teachers on the first 6 chapters of the book of Acts. The studies should focus on how the disciples prepared for the 10 days prior to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and qualities of the early church. This will be in preparation for the teacher/pastor convention in fall of 2010.
7. Encourage the teachers to evaluate their personal schedules to see how they might be modified for balance and to allow for a deeper walk with Christ.

### **Curriculum:**

1. Superintendent(s) review the curriculum and daily schedule to determine how the daily requirements might be reduced or subject areas merged to allow for a more balanced work load.
2. Encourage teachers to place a high priority on implementing Philippians 4:8. Acceptable classroom Music would a typical area for review.
3. Consider various methods to integrate faith into subject areas that do not typically have Bible based resources. Example: integrated language arts (upper elementary), Social Studies, Math, P.E.

### **Students:**

1. Provide teachers with a suggested process and resources to lead children/youth to Christ.
2. Encourage teachers to make a special effort to love and nurture non-Adventist students. Standards should be held high, but every effort should be made to love these students and their parents into the church.

3. Encourage prayer in the classroom by: using a prayer request box and inviting parents to pray with the students.
4. Finish the student Bible project.
5. Encourage teachers to teach and re-teach students at every level that God has a special purpose for their lives.
6. Encourage teachers to provide an opportunity to give their hearts to the Lord each year.
7. Encourage teachers to pray one-on-one with each student in their class room each year.

### **Pastors:**

1. Find ways to remind the pastors on a monthly basis about the mission of the school and teachers.
2. Encourage teachers to affirm the ministry of the pastor by providing: a pastor appreciation Sabbath, celebrating the pastor's birth day, student random acts of kindness for the pastor, etc.
3. Encourage the pastor and teachers to study the Bible and pray together.
4. New in ministry (pastor and teacher) orientations should be conducted as a collaborative effort of the ministerial director and education superintendent.

### **School Boards:**

1. Provide a monthly reminder of the mission of the school and teachers to the board
2. Encourage teachers to send notes of appreciation and to encourage their students to send notes of appreciation to school board members.

3. Provide schools with a mission based school board orientation.

**Secondary Areas of Emphasis:**

1. Home & School Association members
2. School secretaries and other auxiliary staff

NOTE: The superintendent(s) should prayerfully prioritize the above lists and build an action plan for each activity they plan to implement. It would be best to implement only a few of the various activities and do them well. The action plans should include: The person responsible, a time line for completion, action steps, and the estimated cost.