



1. Indiana Conference Outreach for Muslims

The next training and support meeting will be held on Sunday, December 5 at 10 a.m. at the conference office. We will be sharing updates and teaching how to use the on-line support and networking. This will be a “don’t want to miss” meeting for those who have a genuine burden to reach Muslims for Christ and have a supportive group of Adventists to help them. **Please e-mail me if you are coming so we can determine if the conference office will be large enough.** Thanks! prescorner@yahoo.com

2. December 4 Ordination

Pastor Blake Hall will be ordained on Sabbath, December 4 at Kokomo. Please rejoice as we affirm what the Holy Spirit has been doing in Pastor Hall’s ministry.

3. How to Give Yourself a Raise?

Practically everyone I know works hard and would appreciate a raise. In these economic times most of us are happy to have a job. The Bible forecasts a time when God’s people will be unemployed if they determine to keep His commandments. Do you believe God will take care of you and keep His word? I do too. Join Mrs. Hurst and me as we ask for God to help us become debt free. We might be eating cornbread and beans, but when God opens the door we intend to pay off all loans, as soon as possible.

If you would like to have a raise, then be faithful in your tithes and offerings. “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there **will not be room enough to receive it.** And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes...”

Malachi 3:10

There you have it! Every time we return to God the tenth He reserves for Himself (tithe) and top it off with thank offerings He has promised to make the 80% or 90% we have left go further than if we dishonestly keep 100% for ourselves and steal from Him. God rewards faithfulness.

Conference wide tithe softened in October. We really need it to be strong because of requests from our members for paid leadership in the local churches. Thank you for keeping pastors in our districts. Thank you for funding evangelism and outreach for precious souls. Thank you for the active summer camp program at Timber Ridge Camp and our wonderful schools that enable teachers to create disciples for Jesus. It is all possible through your tithes and offerings. As we end 2010 let us each one lay aside the portion that belongs to the Lord so we can continue to employ pastoral evangelists for our churches. And by the way... God thanks you. He will bless you in more than monetary ways.

4. New Superintendent of Education

On November 16 the Conference Executive Committee voted to invite Marvin Whitney to be our new Conference Educational Superintendent. Elder Whitney comes to us from California with a lifetime of service in education both teaching in elementary and secondary schools as well as eleven years experience in administration as principal in several schools. Elder Whitney began in the gospel ministry out of college before continuing his class work in education. He understands by experience the necessity for the pastors and teachers to work closely together for the salvation of our students in the local church. He has experience in “Turned On School House” and web based education. Marvin is committed to helping us explore new ways to make Adventist Education affordable to the local church, discipleship-oriented in experience, and exciting and innovative to the students as we combine excellence in academics and spirituality for our youth. Recently remarried after the death of his first wife, Marvin and Sandi Whitney will be moving to Indiana after the first of the year. We extend a warm Hoosier welcome to the couple.

5. Thanksgiving for Adventist Education

The whole world is acknowledging the excellence of the Adventist education system. Have you considered Adventist education for your students? We are making Adventist disciples for eternity. The Adventist school system is the only parochial school system that teaches the elements of the Bible which the Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches. Students become what they learn; it will make an eternal difference if you have your children in Adventist schools from kindergarten through college. Our youth are one of the few things we can take to Heaven with us. They are worth every penny. Please notice this article from the Christian Science Monitor.

FOR REAL EDUCATION REFORM, TAKE A CUE FROM THE ADVENTISTS

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Contact: Kido, Elissa

Education reform has taken center stage lately as Americans struggle to close the oft-condemned achievement gap. But quietly in our midst, the second largest Christian school system in the world has been steadily outperforming the national average across all demographics.

The **Seventh-Day Adventists'** holistic curriculum serves as a model for how to overcome that gap of the disparity in academic performance between low-income and minority students and their peers in higher-income communities. But even more, it shows how to narrow the gap between mind, body, and spirit, truly educating students for success.

Now, I'm not advocating for religious instruction to be included in school curricula. Rather, what my research indicates is that holistic learning as an education that doesn't erect artificial barriers among disciplines and between mind, body, and spirit, does indeed result in greater student achievement.

Adventist schools outperform their peers. Since 2006, as part of the Cognitive Genesis study, two colleagues and I have gathered data on more than 50,000 students enrolled in Seventh-Day **Adventist** schools. (Unbeknownst to many, the **Adventist** Church runs a Christian school system

second only in size to the Roman Catholic parochial schools.) While we have long believed in the effectiveness of the holistic approach **Adventist** schools take, we wanted to quantify, empirically, how well students in **Adventist** schools perform.

Even we were surprised by the results. Our four-year, independently financed study showed that students at **Adventist** schools outperformed their peers at the national average in every subject area.

Between 2006 and 2010, my colleagues and I analyzed test scores of 51,706 students, based on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills for Grades 3-8, the Iowa Test of Educational Development for Grades 9 and 11, and the Cognitive Abilities Test for all grades, as well as surveys completed by students, parents, teachers, and school administrators.

In each subject category, students attending **Adventist** schools scored higher than the national average. They also scored higher than their expected achievement based on assessment of individual ability; a factor few other schools measure.

One of our most dramatic findings is that students who transferred to **Adventist** schools saw a marked improvement in academic achievement. The more years a student attended an **Adventist** school, the more his or her performance improved.

Socioeconomic status and funding aren't factors. A skeptic might argue that private schools such as those run by the Adventists are made up primarily of wealthy, white, upper-middle-class students, hence the reason for higher achievement. Not so.

Our research shows the demographics of **Adventist** schools are closer to those of public schools, with high economic and socioeconomic diversity. Enrollment is open, meaning students are admitted without the kind of screening for ability that many other private schools employ. In North America, the **Adventist** Church runs almost 1,000 schools, many of which are small and rural. We found no relationship between the size of the school that students attended and achievement.

Significantly, in this time of decreasing budgets for public schools, we found no link between per-pupil spending and student achievement. Research by Dave Lawrence, a graduate student at La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif., indicates that students at **Adventist** schools that spend as little as \$2,000 to \$4,000 per pupil are roughly at the same achievement level as students in schools that spend as much as \$12,000 per student. Mr. Lawrence found no significant correlation between a school's budget and student achievement.

So how do we account for the **Adventist** advantage? We believe it lies in the holistic approach these schools take as a commitment to educating mind, body, and spirit. Unlike public schools, **Adventist** schools across the country have a standard curriculum. It includes the traditional "three R's" along with emphasis on spiritual and physical development. There's a coherence and a connectedness between **Adventist** schools that doesn't often exist in other systems.

Some of the biggest predictors for student achievement, according to statistical models we developed, include whether students have a positive spiritual outlook, have a healthy relationship with

their parents, and take care of their own health. These are all attitudes that can be cultivated, and they point to the importance of a holistic approach to education.

In recent years, the **Adventist** Church has been the subject of much public fascination because of its focus on health, longevity, and wholeness. (PBS ran a documentary earlier this year, "The Adventists," and the book "The Blue Zones" came out in 2008.) But our research shows that **Adventist** education can also be a learning lab, showing how K-12 students nationwide can excel beyond expectations.

True reform of the public school system will take hard work and innovation, but the **Adventists** provide a model that can help reformers hit the "reset" button. Eliminating artificial barriers between subjects and helping students see the link between how they live and how they learn are first, but crucial, steps in laying the foundation for true reform.

Elissa Kido is a professor of education at La Sierra University, a Seventh-Day **Adventist** college, where she directs the Cognitive Genesis Research project.

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6. Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

I suppose you have an interest in the Holy Spirit pouring out his presence in your life so that you can be used of God in these troublesome times. Our family also talks about it. My daughter is a college senior and sometimes finds it challenging to have something interesting to use for personal worship. Trying to help, I dictate parts of the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy or something I am reading for her. Janell and I save it as a MP3 file and e-mail it to her. The attached file is one of those three minute narrations from Elder Finley's book *Revive Us Again*.

"Let's pray because we care and work like we mean it." JESUS IS COMING SOON!