

Ellen White

Visionary

Third Quarter 2011 **for Kids**

Adventist Schools Get an A+

Attending
church school
has LOTS of
benefits!

In this issue:
Climb to the Top
Edson's New Teacher
I ♥ My School



Ask Cindy

Most of my friends are in public school. I want to be with my friends, but my parents want me to have a Christian education. Why does it matter what school I attend?

Someone once said that friends are the marshmallows in the hot chocolate of life, the chocolate chips in our favorite cookies! In other words, friends are really an important part of our lives. Your parents are not trying to take away your friends or your happiness; they are just concerned about something even more important—where you spend eternity. Christian parents want their kids to be in heaven more than anything else.

How do we get to heaven? We get our “ticket” to heaven when we know Jesus and choose Him to be our Savior from sin and the Lord of our lives. Going to public school doesn’t mean you won’t go to heaven. But in public school you aren’t likely to learn about Jesus or the stories and teachings from His Word (the Bible). Your teachers in public school can’t pray with you or talk to you about how you can know Jesus better and be a strong Christian.

In an Adventist Christian school you won’t find the temptation to participate in school-sponsored sports activities, dances, and other secular activities on Sabbath. You won’t be taught that people evolved from a speck to a monkey to a human over millions of years. In an Adventist Christian school your teachers will pray with you and teach you about the Bible, about God, and about Creation.

And guess what? You *will* make friends at an Adventist Christian school. Read in this edition of *Visionary* what other kids are saying about attending an Adventist school—and you’ll find lots of reasons to choose Christian education!

Passing the Test

When taking standardized tests, students at Adventist schools, as a group, score higher than the national average by more than 20 points.

What Do You Want to Know?

Ask youth pastor Cindy Tutsch any question about Ellen White, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or the Bible—especially questions on next quarter's *Visionary* topic: "God's Instruction Book—The Bible." Just send your e-mail to cindytutsch@hotmail.com. All of your questions will be answered—and we might even put some of them in a future issue of *Visionary*!





From the Pen

Comments From Ellen White About TRUE EDUCATION

“True education is more than studying hard in school. It has to do with the whole person and our entire existence and potential. It is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, and spiritual powers.”¹

“All true knowledge and real development have their source in a knowledge of God.”²

“Love . . . is the basis of true education.”³

“The purpose of education is to prepare young people to serve others.”⁴

“Students should look to Jesus as their guide.”⁵

¹Adapted from *True Education*, p. 9.

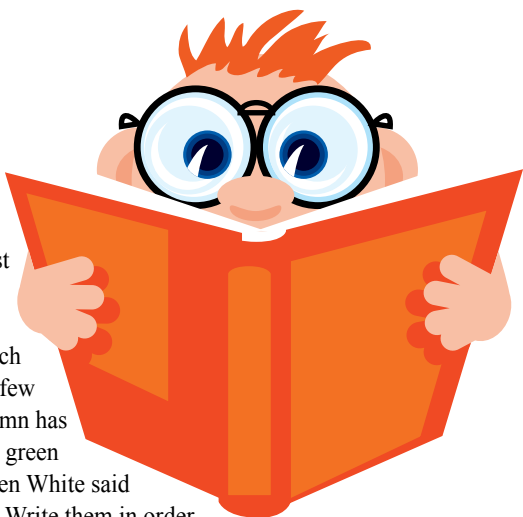
²*True Education*, p. 9, 10.

³*True Education*, p. 11.

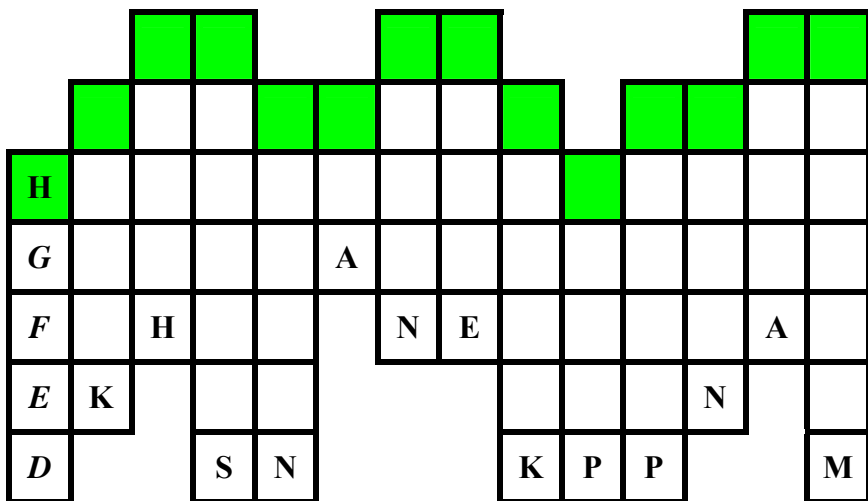
⁴Adapted from *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 493.

⁵Adapted from *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 496.

Climb to the Top



What is your favorite school subject? Which one do you think is most important for your future? Starting with the letters given at the bottom of the grid, climb up to the top of each column by writing in order the next few letters of the alphabet. The first column has been done for you. The letters in the green boxes at the top will reveal what Ellen White said is the most important part of school. Write them in order in the blanks in the sentence below.



“The _____

... should be given the highest place in education” (*True Education*, p. 11).

Answer on p. V8

Edson's New Teacher



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Illustrated by Gil Robles

**Mr. Bell's
"select school"
started a trend
that continues
today.**

Edson looked out the window and saw a stranger chopping wood by the woodpile. It wasn't unusual to see newcomers around his home in Battle Creek, Michigan. Many people came to visit his parents, James and Ellen White. But still, he wondered who this man was.

Edson asked around, and he soon discovered that the man's name was Goodloe Harper Bell. Apparently Mr. Bell had come to the Health Reform Institute, run by Adventists in Battle Creek, because of his poor health. While he was recovering, he had studied the Bible and had accepted the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. But what Edson found to be most exciting was that Mr. Bell was a teacher.

Edson White eagerly shared what he had found out with his brother Willie and with his friends. They talked excitedly among themselves. What an opportunity! Was it true that there was a Christian teacher living so close by? Would it be possible to learn from a teacher who shared their faith and love for Jesus? There was only one way to find out.

"Mr. Bell," they said, approaching him one day, "we'd like you to be our teacher."

Mr. Bell was also excited about the idea of having a Christian school. He agreed to teach them, and a small group of young people started attending Mr. Bell's "select school," as the little school was called.

Mr. Bell proved to be an excellent teacher. He was thorough and put a lot of effort into his work. He wasn't afraid to try out different methods, and he expected a lot from his students. They knew that when they were called, they were to immediately stand up and answer the question.

Word got around about this "select school," and more and more young people started asking if they too could attend. Mr. Bell had to find a larger place to meet. He talked with some of the church leaders, and they agreed to let him use the old Review and Herald printshop, which was no longer being used.

**Today the
Adventist Church
operates more
than 7,800
schools!**

It took some time to clean up the place, but Mr. Bell soon had the school running. The building itself wasn't much to look at. It was an old building with bare walls. Some long wooden benches were placed on the second floor, and that was where school was held. Every school day Mr. Bell would climb up the rickety stairs and assume his role as teacher in front of the classroom. In the meantime he used the first floor of the building as his home.

Despite the simple surroundings, Mr. Bell's school was a success, and the leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church began to take notice. They recognized the need for church schools in which students could be taught by teachers who loved God and believed in the Bible.

It's true that Mr. Bell's "select school" was not the first Adventist school in history. A number of years before that, the first Adventist home school had been taught by Martha Byington in New York, and later on there had been other small home schools in Michigan, Vermont, New Hampshire, and other states. But up until this point all the Adventist schools, including the one taught by Mr. Bell, had been run by private individuals, not by the church as a whole.

In the 1870s the Seventh-day Adventist Church decided to *officially* open up a church school in Battle Creek, and Mr. Bell became the teacher of the first *official* Adventist elementary and secondary school.

The education program started small, but today the Seventh-day Adventist Church operates more than 7,800 elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges, and universities all over the world. There are about 85,000 teachers in the Adventist system, teaching more than 1.6 million students. Young people today are getting the chance to obtain a Christian education, just like Mr. Bell's students many years ago.



Goodloe Harper Bell

I ♥ My School

We asked students at several Adventist schools what they like most about their school. Here are their responses.

"I like Sligo because we can connect with God not only with classwork but with singing during our school worships."—*Alyssa Pedapudi, Sligo Adventist School, Maryland.*



"I like Mr. Geoffrey White because he's helpful and makes class fun."—*Jared Beaudette, Knoxville Adventist School, Tennessee.*



"Mrs. Hayden is my favorite teacher because of her personality. She is strict but nice at the same time."—*Michael Liriano, Sligo Adventist School, Maryland.*



"I love my school so much, even though it's pretty small! I love all my teachers, especially Mr. White. It's never boring in his classes!"—*Kaitlyn Tillman, Knoxville Adventist School, Tennessee.*



"At Adelpian Junior Academy I can talk about God, pray out loud, and be with other Christian kids. At AJA we are taught about Jesus Christ, and we learn more about Him every day."—*Natalie Simon, Adelpian Junior Academy, Michigan.*



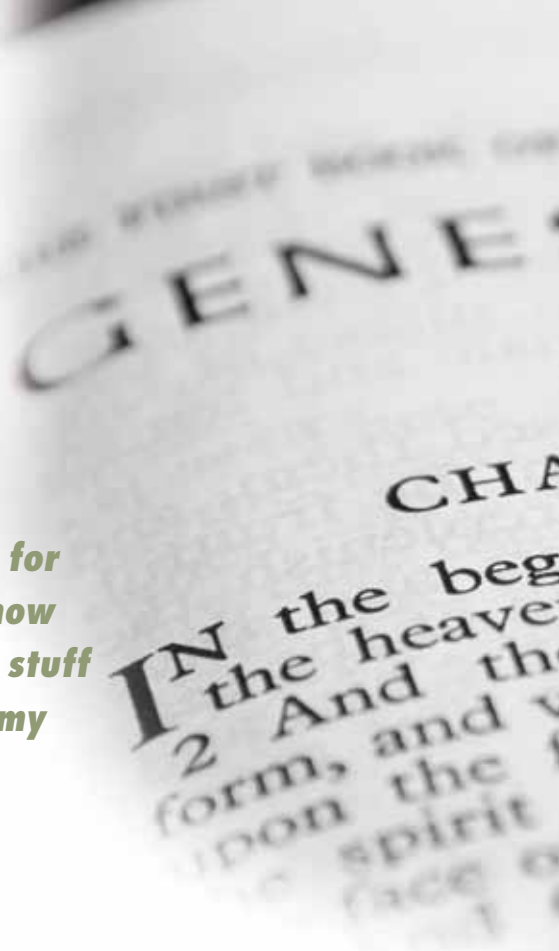
"I am so glad that I am at AJA. I don't have to pray in my head like I did at public school. I can pray out loud. We don't have bullies. And we worship the same God. Everyone knows everyone. That is why I like my school."—*Deborah Owusu, Adelpian Junior Academy, Michigan.*





You've Got Issues

I'm in public school for now, and I don't know how to react to the stuff about evolution in my science classes.



Seventh-day Adventist Christians believe that God spoke the world into existence in six literal 24-hour days (Genesis 1, Psalm 33:6, 9) and that the atoms that comprise our universe continue to hold together because of God's power (Colossians 1:16, 17). We celebrate the seventh-day Sabbath every week as an anniversary of God's creation.

On the other hand, evolutionists believe that life evolved over millions of years from a tiny speck to human life as we know it today. Some evolutionists believe that God somehow started the first "big bang" and then left it to develop independent of Him, while some evolutionists do not believe in God at all.

Lots of Learning

Seventh-day Adventists have the largest Protestant school system in the world.





What we believe about life's origins has a lot to do with what we believe about God. It is difficult to imagine a loving God creating through means of death and dying over millions of years. God's Word says that death entered our world through sin (Romans 5:12), not through millions of years of evolution (naturalism).

The bottom line comes to this: We can trust the Bible to be the genuine Word of God! We may not be able to explain every mystery of how God created, but we can trust that His Word is true. Our God is not some impersonal force, but rather a loving Savior who cares about every detail of our lives. This caring God will help you stand up for Him, even when you find many challenges to your faith at school.

Talk to your parents, your pastor, and your Sabbath school teachers about the evolutionary theories you are being taught in your classroom. And most of all, talk to Jesus! He can keep you strong in Him (1 Corinthians 1:7, 8).



About Ellen White

Ellen White was born in 1827 near Portland, Maine, U.S.A. Seventh-day Adventists believe that God called her to be a prophet and gave her messages through dreams and visions, as foretold in such Bible passages as Joel 2:28, 29 and Ephesians 4:11-13.

Ellen White's writings bring messages of hope that express the love of Jesus for every person. She proclaimed that the Ten Commandments are based on God's great love and that God will help His children keep His commandments as a response to that love. Ellen White dedicated her entire life to serving others.

The editors of *Visionary* invite you to read Ellen White's writings for yourself to discover, enjoy, and build a stronger friendship with Jesus.

For more fun stories and puzzles, visit our online edition of *Visionary* at www.whiteestate.org/vez.

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