

The Logos

Bahamas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Aug 27, 2005

It's Back to School Again The long hot summer is just about to end, and it's time for teachers and students to go back to school. Every year around this time, the movement of human and vehicular traffic around the shopping centers and the advertisement in the print and electronic media remind us that the summer holidays are over, and it's back to school again. From kindergarten to university level, thousands of students and teachers throughout the Commonwealth of the Bahamas are prepared or are preparing to go back to school.

What does preparation for school involve? Preparation for school includes getting the school grounds, classrooms and other facilities ready for the students and teachers. The school administrators, teachers and other school personnel should work together to ensure that the school environment can accommodate the students adequately and safely. Children learn best in a comfortable and safe school environment.

From the teacher's perspective, time spent reviewing the curriculum and planning for the students that he/she will teach is very important. Teachers should know in advance who they will be teaching. This will enhance the appropriateness of their lesson planning. As they identify the various teaching strategies that they will utilize - teachers ought to bear in mind that they will be teaching individuals and not just a subject. This awareness should influence their attitude toward the students they will teach.

The most important person in the whole process of preparation for school is the student. It is to facilitate the education of the student that school administrators, teachers and parents do their best to provide adequate facilities, programmes, strategies, financial and emotional support. But the student himself/herself must also be directly involved in the preparation for school. Parents may provide the uniform, books and all the other school supplies the student might need; however, it is the student who has to purpose in his mind to be diligent in his/her studies and honest in all his/her dealings. As Daniel did, the Christian student will pray to God for moral strength and spiritual discernment to keep focused on the goal of being all that God wants him/her to be. Ellen White says: "Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness - godlikeness - is the goal to be reached." Education, p. 18.

As returning students go to school and as new students enter the classroom this school year, may they allow the Holy Spirit to direct them in all their ways, so that they may have a successful school year.

The Cost of Being a Christian Part I By Sung Kwon

"And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, 'Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head'" (Matt. 8:18-20).*

OR THOSE WHO believe there's no God, only two things matter in life: "to maximize their pleasure and minimize their pain," as John Stuart Mill said. They don't care about people who are naked, sick, behind prison bars, or are dying in hunger. Their only concerns are that their own wants and self-gratifications are fulfilled.

But those who believe that there is a God have (or should have) a different perspective on life. In their attitude toward people, they put others before themselves and are as concerned about others as they are about themselves. This is what it means to be a Christian--to share your life with others, as Christ has shared His life with us.

For many, however, Christianity is only skin-deep--external and superficial. Too often Christ is taken out of Christianity, and it becomes a lifestyle rather than life itself, a habit rather than a purpose. Too many drive to and from church without having made any connections with their community. Far too many are satisfied with a self-fulfilling, self-gratifying worship service that they attend systematically and mechanically once a week.

But here are questions we each need to ponder: Am I still a Christian when I leave the church building? Do I live as a Christian should? Why am I a Christian at all?

Things to Ponder When we look at the life of the scribe in Matthew 8, we see someone who was highly educated and a part of the scholarly class of the Jewish society. This man was attracted to Jesus and wanted to become His disciple, but his motives were not pure. He wanted to be a part of the inner circle that he thought might give him more power, recognition, and influence in society.

However, this man did not acknowledge Christ as the Son of God, but saw Him, rather, as an honored teacher--wise, influential, popular. "Teacher," he said, "I will follow You wherever You go."

He failed to realize that Jesus is not just a good teacher or a good man. He is the Savior, the Lord of our life, the Son of God, the King of kings.

"Foxes have holes," Jesus responded to the scribe, "and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." What did Jesus mean? I think He is saying, if you will allow Me: "I am homeless."

Can you imagine how people would have reacted to the thought that Jesus was homeless? I imagine that some would have said, "Wait a minute, Jesus, how could You be homeless? You are to be the king--the one who will conquer the Roman Empire and give us political freedom for our nation and our people. You are the Christ, aren't You?" And I imagine that others would have said, "Well, I guess we picked the wrong guy. I won't follow Him anymore."

Because human nature has natural tendencies to be fickle, unstable, and self-centered, someone may become a Christian for the excitement, the glamour, the hope of personal benefits. Certainly the scribe was one such individual. His intention was self-glorification.

When We Think We're Perfect Do you remember the rich young ruler who came to Jesus seeking eternal life (Matt. 19:16-22)? When Jesus told him to keep the commandments, the young man answered without any hesitation, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" (verse 20).

I say he was too confident of his law-keeping life. We might think that his observance of the law was perfect, but how was his spirituality? According to the eyes of human flesh, he might appear to have had an unblemished character and perfect life. However, he did not understand the true meaning of faith and what it means to be a Christian. He did not understand the social responsibility and duty of a Christian.

Many people think like the rich young ruler. I'm not guilty of murder, stealing, or adultery, they may think. But the question is What have you done to save others? Have you shared a pint of blood with someone in need? When was the last time you made a visit and shared the gospel with someone on their deathbed? What have you done to help someone who is naked and hungry? Have you shared the message of God's mercy and grace with someone living in darkness?

Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me" (Matt. 25:35, 36).

What are you doing for your community? God commissions us to supply our community's needs. As Christians, we must minister to the poor, the needy, the ignorant. Christ "mingled" with people, said Ellen White. "He showed His sympathy for them, [and] ministered to their needs" (Christian Service, p. 119). When we follow Christ's example, then can we hear Him say, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Matt. 25:40).

Paying the Price But most of us have a problem. We want to secure our eternal salvation without paying the price. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer said somewhere: "The Christian life is not adding Jesus to one's own way of life but renouncing that personal way of life for His and being willing to pay whatever cost that may require." If there is no cross in our current life, how can we expect a golden crown in heaven?

Plans, programs, and organizations cannot substitute the individual responsibility each of us has to fulfill the mission of reaching out to others. However, in most congregations across North America the tendency to isolate and separate from the community is pervasive. With no relationship with the community, it's nearly impossible for us to have an influence on it. (Continue in Next week's Logos)

Bahamas Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Workers' Meeting Worker's Meeting will be held for all employees of Bahamas Conference of SDA at the Casuarinas of Cable Beach on Monday, August 29, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Bahamas Academy Reunion Banquet October 23, 2005

Hour of Gospel Music at Mary Ingraham Home

The Hour of Gospel Music at the Mary Ingraham Home continues on a weekly basis at 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The schedule for today, August 27, will be the Message of Hope SDA Francophone Church. Next week, September 3 music will be provided by the Gambier Mission Church.

Back to School Parenting Seminar Attend the Back to School Parenting Seminar on Sunday, August 28, 2005, at 7:30 p.m., at the Maranatha Church. All Adventist parents and parents of all faiths with children in grades K-12 are encouraged to attend.

Youth Announcement The general Youth Council meeting which was postponed will now be held on Monday, August 29th, at 7:00 p.m. at Berea Church. All AY, Pathfinder and Adventurer Leaders and assistants are asked to attend. -*Pas. A. Burrows*

Work Day at Bahamas Academy There will be a work day at Bahamas Academy on Sunday, August 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help paint the outside of the school. Please come by with your paint brushes, roller pans, and ladders and lend us a helping hand as we spruce up our school for the new school year. Thanks a lot!
Dr. Cheryl R. Rolle
Bahamas Academy Notice

As Bahamas Academy prepares for the new school year, kindly take note of the following information: Orientation for parents of new Early Learning Center Students - Sunday, August 28 at 5:00 p.m. at the Early Learning Center on Old Trail Road.

Orientation for parents of new elementary and secondary students - Thursday, September 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the school's gymnasium on Wulff Road.

Reopening of School - Yes, school reopens for ALL students (new and returning) on Friday, September 2, 2005 (It is not a typo) at 8:50 a.m. to 12 noon. We urge all parents to send their children to school on this day. You do not want your child to miss the very first day of school.

Principal Needed for Bahamas Academy

Applications from qualified persons are being accepted for the position of Principal at Bahamas Academy of Seventh-day Adventists.

The person selected for this position should possess the following qualifications:

1. Be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
2. Hold at least a Bachelor's Degree, but a Master's Degree is preferred
3. Have at least five years teaching experience in the elementary/secondary school.
4. Have at least three years of administrative experience.
5. Possess effective communication skills with the ability to work collaboratively with students, staff, parents and the school board.
6. Have the ability to create a safe, orderly school with discipline and security.
7. Possess educational leadership and supervisory skills.

The principal will be expected to perform the following duties:

1. Plan, implement and evaluate instructional programs.
2. Conduct ongoing assessments and modification of the instructional program based on formative and summative assessment data.
3. Assume spiritual leadership in the school.
4. Exhibit positive exemplary interpersonal.
5. Inform staff of policies and procedures so that expectations for performance are understood.
6. Encourage professional growth for staff development.
7. Communicate the vision and mission of the school to staff, parents, students, community and church members.
8. Organize, manage and evaluate the school as it relates to staffing, school plant facilities and equipment within budgetary constraints.
9. Implement performance evaluation process of all staff members.
10. Promote administrative procedures that are consistent with the union, conference, and school board policy.

The application should be accompanied by the following:

- a. Cover letter describing your present position.
- b. Updated resume.
- c. Three references (include one from your recent employer).
- d. Police record.
- e. Proof of credentials.
- f. Recent photo of self (2" x 2").
- g. Medical certificate (completed by a Physician).

NB: All applications or nominations (locally) should be submitted to:

The Chairman, Search Committee, P.O.Box N 356, Nassau, Bahamas. Fax: 1-242-341-4088. The deadline for receipt of application is August 31, 2005, or until the position is filled.

Application forms may be picked up at the Bahamas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Office on Harrold Road, or on our website at (sdaeducation@coralwave.com). The Committee reserves the right to reject the application of any or all applicants. -*Search Committee*

Registration in Progress at BA Early Learning Centre

Registration for the 2005/2006 school year is in progress for the Bahamas Academy Early Learning Centre for students ages 2 to 5 years old. Application forms are available at the offices of BA Elementary and Secondary divisions. Please call 393-8898 or 393-3381 for more information.

SDA Educators' Association

The Bahamas Seventh-day Adventist Educators' Association will be holding its annual Prayer Breakfast on Sunday, 4th September at 8:00 a.m. The proposed venue is the Tourism Restaurant. Our theme is "Educators... Empowered and Inspired To Reveal Christ." All are invited to come. We all need to sit again at the feet of Jesus, The Master Teacher, before we go into our individual classrooms. Plan to be there!

Our regular association meeting will be held on Saturday 17th September at 8:00p.m. at Doctors' Hospital. All Seventh-day Adventist Teachers in the public school system, the private school system and the Seventh-day Adventist Church school system are

a part of this association. All other persons related to education (counsellors, social workers, etc.) are also a part. We cordially invite all of you to come and make a meaningful contribution to our community, churches and schools.

Women's Ministries Retreat Registration Continues at the local Churches Big Back to School Beach Picnic

A mammoth beach picnic and cookout will be held at Goodman's Bay on Sunday (tomorrow), beginning with a health walk at 7:00 a.m. and continuing with all day fun, food and games. Come fellowship with friends. Sample Jamaican breakfast, Guyana's National dish, Andros "dubbe". Cat Island Potato Bread, Nassau Macaroni and Cheese, delicacy from Kenya, East Africa, and so much more. Proceeds to aid students assistance fund.

Bring the entire family. Look for the "Big White Tent" at Goodman's Bay. Time: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Maranatha Adventist Men's Meetings

Under the theme "Christian Men Committed in Service to Christ," the Maranatha Church Adventist Men will be hosting a series of meetings Wednesday, September 7, Friday, September 9, Sabbath, September 10 and Sunday, September 11, 2005, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00pm, at the church, Prince Charles Drive. The Sabbath evening service will be a very informative presentation with a question and answer period with Dr Joseph Evans. The weekend closes on Sunday with a musical concert. All are invited to these services, especially men and boys. Host Pastor is Eric D. Clarke.

SDA Cat Island Association

The regular meeting of the SDA Cat Island Association will be held on Sunday, August 28 at 10:30 a.m. at the Hillview Church. All members and friends of Cat Islanders are invited to attend.

Men's Prayer Retreat - South Andros October 13 - 15, 2005

Registration for the Men's Prayer Retreat to be held in South Andros October 13 to 15, 2005, has commenced. Register now, as space is limited. For more details see your Pastor or Adventist Men Leader. At the Conference Office 341-4021, ask for Sis. Joan Duncombe. Don't procrastinate! - Pastor J. Duncombe

All Adventist Men Leaders are invited to attend a special meeting at the Living Faith Church on Sunday, September 4, 2005 at 8:00 a.m.

All Health Leaders are invited to attend a special Health meeting at the Conference Office, on Thursday, September 1, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

Short Hot Summer Marriage Seminar

All married and engaged couples are invited to attend the "Keeping The Fires Alive" Summer Forums beginning Sunday night, Sabbath, September 10, at 7:30 p.m. the Maranatha Adventist Church, Prince Charles Drive. Special guest will be Dr. David Allen. This will be the first in a series of one night forums designed to provide an opportunity for couples to enrich their relationship and for healing of marital wounds.

**Sun sets today at 7:49 p.m.
Sun sets next Sabbath at 7:42 p.m.**