

Some reminders to parents, educators, and students:-

As our children, youth, and young adults commence this academic year, we pray God's blessings for a successful year of learning, studying, and building relationships.

We are mindful of the role of the home, the church, and the school in educating our children to become dual citizens of planet Earth and Heaven.

1. What does the Bible say about educating children?

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6. KJV).

"Dedicate your children to God and point them in the way they should go, and the values they have learned from you will be with them for life" (TPT).

The text provides guidance, encouragement, and hope. Parents and guardians are pivotal to their children's intellectual, cultural and spiritual development. Under normal circumstances it is the home that first exposes the child to learning.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 highlights Moses' instructions to Israel to pass on God's word to their children.

"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up" (ESV).

It's about parents implanting God's Word in the heart of children. It involves telling them about your faith and living your faith-so there is no disconnect between what you say and what you do as expressed to your children and all your contacts. It involves building a relationship with your God and with your children, so that this relationship is seen daily and minutely. In this century, life gets very busy and a teachable moment will pass by

without a word, so you have to live it. It, therefore, becomes the responsibility of parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts-guardians- to assure the children you love that your relationship with God is your first priority, and that you love God with your whole heart and being.

2. What of the Family altar?

The family altar is central to such a relationship. Moses supported it (Deut. 6:-7). The Adventist Home says, "Our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home...There is no missionary field more important than this... (p. 35).

3. The home school relationship?

In the book, Education, Ellen G. White says, "It is in the early years in the home and in the formal schoolwork that the mind develops, a pattern of living is established, and character is formed (p.7).

She further defines **true education** "as the harmonious development of all the faculties--a full and adequate preparation for this life and the future eternal life" (Education p.7).

It speaks to the proper development of the mental faculties; the physical-in which the hands are skilled in useful trades; development of healthy social interactions; and spiritual development in which God is recognized as the source of all wisdom and understanding" (Education, p7).

4. What of the church?

Churches are by nature communities of faith. They are generative. They pass on their culture, beliefs, practices, and faith to the next generations. The educational experiences we offer to our members when they come to church are important. The most transformative experiences, those which facilitate spiritual growth and lead to spiritual maturity happen as we as members practice our faith in our daily lives, based on the Word of God and the teachings of Jesus.

5. What of students?

We are all God's children. There is no automatic transfer of God's truth to anyone. Each child, youth, or adult has to make his own spiritual journey. Each has to be taught through self-study of the word, or taught by someone. We are encouraged by The Apostle Paul's advice to the young Timothy, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," (2 Timothy 2:15, NKJV).

As Christian children and students seeking to gain knowledge of the world in various educational institutions, you are being reminded that you are entrusted with the gospel, to be diligent students of the word of God so that you can "present yourself approved unto God, a workman that needed not be ashamed...."

Prayer: May true education be reflected in all God's children.

Submitted by Elder Audrey Corrodus

Education Department