

THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST  
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# EDITORIAL

## Global Vision for a Global Mission

**T**his issue of the JOURNAL initiates the first volume of the final decade of the 20th century. With it we begin to define and address the issues and concerns that will influence the course of Seventh-day Adventist education during the next five years. But we will also be looking ahead to the 21st century. Should the Lord tarry, and we can publish, we will continue to try to meet the growing challenges of the new century.

The enormity of the challenges ahead could cause us to hide our heads in the sands of negation or disbelief. We could try to deny or ignore the serious erosion of faith and confidence in traditional church practices and leadership that has recently occurred in certain segments of the church family. But to do so would be to downplay the reality of the Enemy, and to deny the ability of our Saviour to renew His people.

The mass invasion of secularism, materialism, and self-absorption through the media and other organs of communication has rocked the church, striking especially hard among its young and its educated. For many, church life has come to mean socializing rather than providing the basis for a confessing community willing to live its creed and support it with might and means.

A number of issues have reached critical proportions:

- The multiplication of independent "ministries";
- The willingness of members to support non-SDA-sponsored programs, while the church's programs hobble along;
- Young people conforming to popular culture in life-style issues;
- The gradually decreasing percentage of income dedicated to missions, as well as the loss of tithing percentages.

These crises call for a reevaluation of our focus on mission, methods, and goals.

Those of us who shape student values in the classroom cannot escape our shared responsibility for some of the decay in faith and increase in doubt and blurred vision. We must equip our youth with more than mere facts. We must provide an example and orientation that will inspire them to strive for excellence, wholesome living, and a life of dedicated service.

Clearly, the success of our mission depends on the effective blending of sound scholarship and inspired leadership in spiritual concerns. But an even greater concern is the negative fallout of our failure to accomplish this. We must reflect soberly about the potential impact on the people we serve, as well as the loss to the credibility and power of the gospel entrusted to us.

At the Educational Summit held at Andrews University, July 15-18, 1990, following the recent General Conference Session, our educational leaders recognized the importance of working together to build morale, more suitable campuses, and financial resources; to strengthen our international networking to forge a stronger system, especially at the tertiary level; to join hands with parents and pastors to help the youth and the wider church grow together toward a shared vision. However, the world education directors also pledged to assist each of our teachers to truly become a fully integrated educational professional, dedicated to the global mission of the church.

Your JOURNAL staff wishes to join their colleagues in affirming this vision!—V.S.G.

### Victor S. Griffiths (1934-1990)

For twelve years since 1978, Victor S. Griffiths served with distinction as editor of *The Journal of Adventist Education*. Under his capable direction, the journal expanded its circulation, upgraded its design, and provided substantial articles for thousands of Adventist educators around the world. On August 24, while this issue was being readied for the press, Dr. Griffiths died unexpectedly. The editorial printed above was the last he wrote. It reflects his clear understanding of our challenges, his positive Christian vision, and his terse style.

Those who love Adventist education will miss his outstanding contributions. We are encouraged, however, by his memory and by the promise of a future school where God Himself will be our teacher throughout all eternity.

— H. M. Rasi.