

*The British West Indies*

# VISITOR

WEST JAMAICA                      EAST JAMAICA                      TRENK AND CAYMAN ISLANDS

BRITISH HONDURAS                      BAHAMA ISLANDS

CAYMAN ISLANDS

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## Are Your Children Safe?

By J. Lamar McElhany  
President, General Conference

**I**T IS practically impossible to exaggerate or overemphasize the conditions that exist in the world today. This is particularly true regarding the children and youth. It is high time that parents and church members should awake to the grave danger of the situation. The problem of juvenile delinquency has grown to such proportions that it threatens to become a national peril. Many prominent writers have dealt with the subject, solemnly pointing out the growing menace to the welfare of the country. Leading educators have expressed deepest concern over the conditions that exist, and social welfare agencies are over-taxed in their efforts to cope with these conditions.

Whether or not this is a by-product of the war, we know that the whole concept of morality seems to have dropped from the thinking and conduct of the majority of youth today. Not only are our denominational teachers alarmed over the situation, but the teachers of secular schools are extremely distressed and perplexed. The whole situation is so complex and bewildering that the most experienced are at a loss to know how to meet it.

Some factors contributing to this present situation may be listed:

**Literature:** The news stands are filled with sensational magazines and cheap books of the most vicious kind, which exploit the basest elements of human nature and continually break down respect for the sanctities of human life.

**Theaters and Shows:** Motion pictures everywhere portray the taking of human life, robbery, vice, and immorality, drama-



FRONT VIEW OF THE BOYS' DORMITORY, WEST INDIAN TRAINING COLLEGE, MANDEVILLE, JAMAICA.

tized by those of whom many are of questionable reputation.

**Drinking:** The use of alcoholic beverages has been popularized over the radio, in newspapers, and by public display, until it is not unusual for boys and girls to put on their own cocktail parties in emulation of their elders, with the result that drunkenness among the youth is not uncommon. The presence of young girls in drinking places, with all the vicious consequences of such association, is a growing factor in juvenile delinquency.

**Secular Education:** During recent times radical changes have taken place in

the thinking and teaching of those charged with the responsibility of educating the youth. Many of these teachers have become evolutionists and atheists, having been trained under professors who publicly advocate atheistic views and teach that the ten commandments are not to be regarded as a rule of life. Large groups of teachers publicly applaud the atheistic views of prominent educators.

Added to all this is a public and parental apathy and indifference that is appalling in the extreme. The result of all these factors is a generation that has well-nigh abandoned all regard for or belief in God and makes little effort to conform to the standards of morality and decent living.

Seventh-day Adventist parents, are your children safe in this time of delinquency? Blind indeed is the parent who does not recognize the deadly peril to his children, and who is not deeply and consciously concerned about their welfare.

The Lord foresaw and pointed out all these perils. He has given the church solemn warnings regarding them. As one means of contributing to our children's salvation, He gave this people much counsel regarding the establishment of church schools.

"In all our churches there should be schools, and teachers in these schools who are missionaries. It is essential that teachers be trained to set well their part in the important work of educating the children of Sabbath-keepers, not only in the sciences, but in the Scriptures. These schools, established in different localities,

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**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION — OUR ONLY HOPE!**

# SUPPORT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

• Give of Your Means.

• Establish a Church School.



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Year	No. of Schools	No. of Teachers	Enrolment
1944	17	22	753
1945	16	21	856
1946	15	22	849
1947	14	17	839
1948	18	21	603
1949	21	24	1,160

— H. S. WALTERS,  
Educational Secretary,  
B. W. I. Union Mission.

## PASTOR C. S. GREENE



Educational Secretary,  
West Jamaica Conference.

### A Balanced Education

In the world men are becoming more conscious every day that some great change is soon to take place. Some call it the end of the age, others the end of civilization, still others call it the culmination of all that the holy prophets have spoken since the world began—or in other words, the day of our Lord's Second Coming.

Every Seventh-day Adventist believes that the latter is true. But if the end of the world is just upon us, "Why," many youth are asking, "should I go to school?" If it is to learn Bible so they can preach or give Bible studies, they agree to the

necessity of furthering their education. These same young people will admit that a certain amount of history would be in harmony with their conviction, but why be compelled to take a lot of subjects which they feel will never be used before the Lord comes?

First of all, let me state that we believe with all our hearts that Christ is at the door. That is the great impelling force that makes us determined to get an education without delay. As young people we will study not only to prepare for a useful and God-given place in this life, but for the like which is soon to come.

The Apostle Paul urged the youth of today as he did Timothy: "Till I come give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." I Tim. 4:13.

We are to prepare not only for a useful place in this life but for the life to come. As we advance in our spiritual understanding, we will also at the same time be gaining a better understanding of the sciences. Our educational training will be well balanced and thus bring honour to God. This is in harmony with the instruction of the Lord.

"If they advance in spiritual understanding, they will see how important it is that they should not be deficient in a knowledge of the sciences. While teachers need piety, they also need a thorough knowledge of the sciences." C. T. p. 505.

The youth who leaves the door of our colleges must be prepared to teach others. If they are not qualified for this work they have failed to reach the standard for which the school was founded. Again from page 504 of *Counsels to Teachers* we read:

"While religion should be the prevailing element in every school, it will not lead to a cheapening of the literary attainments. It will make all true Christians feel their need of thorough knowledge, that they may make the best use of the faculties bestowed upon them. While growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, they will seek constantly to put to the stretch their powers of mind, that they may become intelligent Christians."

Never has God counted so heavily upon the youth as in this generation. May the Lord help the youth throughout the British West Indies Union to qualify themselves for the finishing of His work in the earth. Plan now on a balanced Christian education which includes the sciences.

— R. W. NUMBERS.

## Christian Education — Our Frontline Defence

In God's plan for the restoration of man, He has ordained that Christian education must be the frontline defence against sin. In the past, the people of God always recognized the vital place which the training of the youth occupied in the work of their great missions. Israel had its school of the prophets, the Waldenses carefully trained their young men and women in their own schools.

Many great religious reforms started in the classroom. All received life, power, and impetus there. When the spirit of reformation ceased to actuate the work of the schoolroom, the whole movement weakened, lost its fire and its purpose and finally died. The Advent people are now on the threshold of a great revival but that will never adorn this movement until our children are found in our own schools, because they must be the vanguard of this revival. From Vol. VI, p. 203 of the *Testimonies*, I quote: "When heavenly intelligencies see that men are no longer permitted to present truth, the Spirit of God will come upon the children, and they will do a work in the proclamation of the truth which elder workers cannot do, because their way will be hedged up. *Our church schools are ordained by God to prepare the children for this great work.*"

There are over 5,000 children of school age within our Union and we have been able to reach just one-fifth of this number. There are still 4,000 who, every Monday, return to worldly schools to receive instruction from those who know not the ways of the Lord.

A review of the educational work over the six-year period under consideration reveals that up to 1944, the fields comprising our Union were spending £398-0-0 per year on elementary education. In 1949 the amount spent was £1,491-0-0.

Our elementary schools in Jamaica have made rapid strides, and we have more qualified teachers now than at any other time in our history. Each year, a number of our children sit for the Jamaica Local Examinations. Pupils from the North Street, Gayle, St. Ann's Bay and the College elementary schools were successful in these examinations. These teachers must be commended for the fine work they are doing on behalf of our children.

# THE BULWARK OF THE CHURCH



• Give of Your Prayers.

• Send Your Child to Church School.

## Around Our Schools

Brother Lennox Westney, Headmaster of the North Street Temple church school, was successful in the recent London Matriculation examination. Under his leadership the school has moved forward in the most progressive manner.

Because of the vacancy made by the call of Miss Sylvia Wright to the Bahamas Mission, Brother Herbert Fletcher has been appointed Headmaster of the Montego Bay School. This school was started in January of this year. The enrolment is increasing every day and now stands at 105.

We are sorry to lose Elder Earl Parchment who was chairman of the Montego Bay School Board. However, we are happy to welcome Elder Reid as our new chairman. Brother Adrian Westney is acting for Elder Reid while he is away attending the General Conference in San Francisco.

We are happy to state that Miss Beryl Williamson of the Petersfield school is up and around. She was on the sick list for the past three months. Miss Merle Lawrence has been acting at Petersfield during her absence.

Miss Dorcas Reid of the Bird's Hill school writes: "I am greatly encouraged by the fine spirit here at Bird's Hill. Everyone is doing his best for the school."

Miss Rita Richards of the St. Ann's Bay school has taken another stage of her Training College work. We wish her abundant success in her recent examination.

We are happy to announce the birth of a son to Brother and Sister P. D. Clayton of the March Town school. Teacher Clayton tells us that it gives one a sense of pride when he knows he is a Dad.

The Gayle school has been making outstanding progress under the leadership of Brother A. G. Lawrence. At the present time he is preparing a number of pupils for the Jamaica Local Examination.

The members of the Jointwood church are supporting their church school in a very strong way. Miss Campbell is just happy to be a teacher there. Brother Frank Rhoden is chairman of the School Board.

East Jamaica Conference is planning for the establishment of a central school for the Adventist children of Kingston.

The West Indian Training College had 100% passes in the recent School Certificate Examination.

The College elementary school had a high percentage of passes in the last Jamaica Local Examination. Miss Brodie reveals that they are now preparing a number to sit for examinations this year.

PASTOR H. E. NEMBARD



Educational Secretary,  
East Jamaica Conference.

From Cayman comes the news of steady progress of the church school. Miss Silvera, teacher of this school, is supported strongly by Elder Schneider, president of the mission.

In a recent letter from Brother Caleb Clayton, Headmaster of the Belize Junior Academy, he reveals plans for the strengthening of the educational work in Belize and throughout the mission.

The Bahamas Junior Academy recently conducted their graduation exercises. Under the guidance of Miss Ualee Lawrence, the school is filling a great need in that most progressive mission.

— P. B.

"To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized,—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life."

## Christian Education for Adventist Youth

The most valuable heritage of the church is its youth "rightly trained". Its future lies in their hands. We believe that true education "is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, and spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world, and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come." — *Education*, p. 13. Too often in the past this fact has been passively taken for granted. Individual churches and church members have not always entered into an educational programme to *rightly train* the youth, and as a result many are lost.

Today as never before we realize the need of "rightly trained" workers, consecrated to the task of finishing a worldwide work, preparing a people to stand in the great day of God. There must be a strong arm of youth to accomplish this. It is our responsibility.

The first step in preparing youth for service starts in the Christian home, where God's Word is the standard and the living out of its teachings the aim of each member of the family. Children from such a home enter school with young hearts responsive and receptive to the influence and teachings of their instructors. How important then that it is a church school! And that their advanced education is received in a Christian college.

In this last great hour of earth's history, crises all about us challenge the interest and energies of our youth. Many who are not rooted and grounded in the faith will be undermined. The youth of the world make its history good and bad. We must first make certain that we have schools, and then that our young people attend them. The only safe school is one where religion and Christian living are taught, and the results should be sound bodies, disciplined minds and right characters. True education puts the hand of youth into the hand of God. Then as the youth go out into darkness of the world, they have the light of truth in their lives, and confidence in their hearts that knows victory. "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!"—Mrs. E. G. White, in *Education*, p. 271.

— E. E. COSSETINE, *Eds.*  
*Secy., General Conference.*

## NOTICE

While Elder Colburn, our Union Home Missionary and Sabbath School Secretary, is on his six months furlough, Elder Walters has been asked to carry the Home Missionary Department besides his present duties. Any correspondence in reference to the Home Missionary Department should be addressed to Pastor H. S. Walters. Pastor E. E. Parchment has been asked to carry the Sabbath School Department during the same period.

—R. W. N.

"The church has a special work to do in educating and training its children that they may not, in attending school, or in any other association, be influenced by those of corrupt habits. The world is full of iniquity and disregard of the requirements of God. The cities have become as Sodom, and our children are daily being exposed to many evils. . . The mind will be of the same character as that upon which it feeds, the harvest of the same nature as the seed sown. Do not these facts sufficiently show the necessity of guarding from the earliest years the education of the youth?" *Test.*, Vol. 6, pp. 193, 194.

## Are Your Children Safe?

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and conducted by God-fearing men or women, as the case demands, should be

built on the same principles as were the schools of the prophets.

Special care should be given to the education of the youth. The children are to be trained to become missionaries; they must be helped to understand distinctly what they must do to be saved. Few have the instruction in religious lines that is essential. If the instructors have a religious experience themselves, they will be able to communicate to their students the knowledge of the love of God that they have received. These lessons can be given only by those who are themselves truly converted. This is the noblest missionary work that any man or woman can undertake."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 168.

"Many families, who, for the purpose of educating their children, move to places where our large schools are established, would do better service for the Master by remaining where they are. They should encourage the church of which they are members, to establish a church school where the children within their borders could receive an all-round, practical Christian education. It would be vastly better for their children, for themselves, and for the cause of God, if they would remain in the smaller churches, where their help is needed, instead of going to the larger churches, where, because they are not needed, there is a constant temptation to fall into spiritual inactivity."—*Testimonies*, Vol VI, p. 198.

"Gather your children into your own houses; gather them away from those who are disregarding the commandments of God, who are teaching and practising evil."—*Id.*, p. 195.

"Work as if you were working for your life to save the children from being

## The British West Indies Union Visitor

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drowned in the polluting, corrupting influences of the world."—*Id.*, p. 199.

"The world is full of iniquity and disregard of the requirements of God. The cities have become as Sodom, and our children are daily exposed to many evils."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 173.

"While we should put forth earnest efforts for the masses of people around us, and push the work into foreign fields, no amount of labour in this line can excuse us for neglecting the education of our children and youth."—*Id.*, p. 165.

The time has come when there should be a great revival in our church school work, when earnest and diligent efforts should be put forth to do what the Lord has counseled. Church schools must be established where needed, and the children must be gathered into these schools where they may have the instruction and guidance of godly teachers. The time has surely come when diligent effort should be put forth for the salvation of our boys and girls. The eternal destiny of these children will be largely determined by our attitude.

May God help His people at this time to awaken to their responsibility and to arouse to action.

## Kingsway High School

During the past six years, our secondary and college education have been marked by a new degree of efficiency. The Kingsway High School has seen three headmasters during this period. We will not forget the fine work done by Elders Bull and Crawford. Today, under the capable leadership of Elder Holgate, the school has attained higher heights. Each year a large number of students sit for the School Certificate Examination and last year, the largest number of candidates in the school was presented for the examination. The institution is filling a great need. There are 125 students enrolled. Our census shows that 205 young people in our churches are making plans to enter that seat of learning sometime in the future.

—H. S. WALTERS.



KINGSWAY HIGH SCHOOL, KINGSTON, JAMAICA