



HARVEST
FIELDS
ORGANIC FARM

Gardening, Mission,
And The End, pt. 3

Some Statistics



“Why Our Teenagers Leave the Church”,
Roger Dudley, 1999

10 year survey of 1500 SDA youth

Some Statistics



His research found that between 40% and 50% of SDA youth leave the church after graduating high school.

Some Statistics



“While the study was conducted on Adventist youth, the pioneering nature has made it of general interest,” says Dudley, who is the author of 12 other books on various religious topics. “I have found that many denominations are concerned over this very problem.” ANN, Why Teenagers Leave Church: Research Published

Some Statistics



Religious Research Association

“Members of many faiths packed the room to hear my presentation and to request copies of the research,” he says. “No other religious group has ever attempted such a comprehensive and extensive study on church youth.” Ibid

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A Broader Problem



2008 Government Report

“Preserving a Critical National Asset:
America’s Disadvantaged Students and the
Crisis in Faith-based Urban Schools”

A Broader Problem



Starting in the 1960's a sharp decline began in the number of private schools and enrollment in those remaining across all denominations.

A Broader Problem



Catholic Schools, for example , went from nearly 13,000 in the 1960's to about 7000 in 2008.

A Broader Problem



Religion	Schools	Students
Assembly of God	-65	-13,435
Baptist	-185	-44,927
Catholic	-564	-257,756
Non-denom	-69	-35,751
Episcopal	-60	-25,461
Lutheran	-41	-9,821
Pentecostal	-71	-7,596
SDA	-71	-3,898
All other religions	-93	-35,782
Total	-1,162	-424,976

Not Just a Rural Problem



“Since the 1989–90 school year, 13 percent of central-city Lutheran schools have closed, 28 percent of central-city Baptist schools have closed, and 39 percent of central-city Seventh-Day Adventist schools have closed.”

A Problem Foretold



A Problem Foretold



“The wants of the cause will continually increase as we near the close of time. Means is needed to give young men a short course of study in our schools, to prepare them for efficient work in the ministry and in different branches of the cause. We are not coming up to our privilege in this matter.

A Problem Foretold



All schools among us will soon be closed up. How much more might have been done had men obeyed the requirements of Christ in Christian beneficence! What an influence would this readiness to give all for Christ have had upon the world!

A Problem Foretold



It would have been one of the most convincing arguments in favor of the truth we profess to believe—an argument which the world could not misunderstand nor gainsay. The Lord would have distinguished us with His blessing even before the eyes of the world.” { 5T 156.2}

A Solution Foretold



I have been led to inquire, Must all that is valuable in our youth be sacrificed in order that they may obtain an education at the schools? If there had been agricultural and manufacturing establishments in connection with our schools, and competent teachers had been employed to educate the youth in the different branches of study and labor,

A Solution Foretold



devoting a portion of each day to mental improvement, and a portion of the day to physical labor, there would now be a more elevated class of youth to come upon the stage of action, to have influence in moulding society. The youth who would graduate at such institutions would many of them come forth with stability of character.

A Solution Foretold



They would have perseverance, fortitude, and courage to surmount obstacles, and principles that would not be swerved by wrong influence, however popular. {CE 18.2}

The Historical Model



As a relaxation from study, occupations pursued in the open air, and affording exercise for the whole body, are the most beneficial. No line of manual training is of more value than agriculture. A greater effort should be made to create and to encourage an interest in agricultural pursuits.

The Historical Model



Let the teacher call attention to what the Bible says about agriculture: that it was God's plan for man to till the earth; that the first man, the ruler of the whole world, was given a garden to cultivate; and that many of the world's greatest men, its real nobility, have been tillers of the soil. { Ed 219.1 }

The Historical Model



Noah

Abraham

Joseph

Moses

Gideon

David

Elijah

Elisha

Daniel

John the Baptist

Jesus

The Disciples

Paul

The Historical Model



Noah

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Joseph

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John the Baptist

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The Disciples

Paul

Wait! Elijah



1 Kings 17:1 - And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

Wait! Elijah



Tishbite = Stranger

Num 32:1 - Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of cattle: and when they saw the land of Jazer, and the land of Gilead, that, behold, the place was a place for cattle;

Wait! Elijah



Num 32:5 - Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in thy sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan.

Wait! Elijah



“The future history and habits of the tribes that occupied Gilead were greatly affected by the character of the country. Rich in flocks and herds, and now the lords of a fitting region, they retained, almost unchanged, the nomad pastoral habits of their patriarchal ancestors.” McClintock and Strong Encyclopedia

Wait! Elijah



“Pasturage abounds in Gilead more than in western Palestine, from whence Reuben and Gad chose it for their numerous flocks and herds. The physical nature of the country affected the character of its people, who ever retained nomadic pastoral habits.” Fausset's Bible Dictionary

Wait! Jesus



“Jesus came to this earth to accomplish the greatest work ever accomplished among men. He came as God's ambassador, to show us how to live so as to secure life's best results. What were the conditions chosen by the infinite Father for His Son? A secluded home in the Galilean hills; a household sustained by honest, self-respecting labor;

Wait! Jesus



a life of simplicity; daily conflict with difficulty and hardship; self-sacrifice, economy, and patient, gladsome service; the hour of study at His mother's side, with the open scroll of Scripture; the quiet of dawn or twilight in the green valley; the holy ministries of nature;

Wait! Jesus



the study of creation and providence; and the soul's communion with God--these were the conditions and opportunities of the early life of Jesus.” {MH 365.3}

Justin Martyr on Jesus



“And when Jesus came to the Jordan, He was considered to be the son of Joseph the carpenter; and He appeared without comeliness, as the Scriptures declared; and He was deemed a carpenter (for He was in the habit of working as a carpenter when among men, making ploughs and yokes; by which He taught the symbols of righteousness and an active life)” *Dialogue*

Education for the Time



“The foregoing is a statement of what might have been done by a proper system of education. But time is too short now to accomplish that which might have been done in past generations. But we can do much, even in these last days, to correct the existing evils in the education of youth. And because time is short,

Education for the Time



we should be in earnest, and work zealously to give the young that education which is consistent with our faith. We are reformers. We desire that our children should study to the best advantage. In order to do this, employment should be given them which would call into exercise the muscles.

Education for the Time



Daily, systematic labor should constitute a part of the education of youth even at this late period. { CE 22.1 }

Closing Thought



Rom 15:4 - For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Closing Thought



1 Cor 10:11 - Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Closing Thought



Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us. { 3SM 338.1 }