



# HARVEST FIELDS

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# Gardening, Mission, and The End, pt. 4



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# Where Does America Rank?

“One of the biggest cross-national tests is the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which every three years measures reading ability, math and science literacy and other key skills among 15-year-olds in dozens of developed and developing countries. The most recent PISA results, from 2015, placed the U.S. an unimpressive 38th out of 71 countries in math and 24th in science. Among the 35 members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which sponsors the PISA initiative, the U.S. ranked 30th in math and 19th in science.” Pew Research Center, February 15, 2017



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# Solutions?

“Your success depends upon the blessing of God, not upon the ideas and views of men who are opposed to the requirements of the law of God. When people see that God blesses us, and gives success to our work, as we make Him supreme, then they will be led to give consideration to the truth we teach. Many will be compelled to recognize that our methods are superior to those employed in the schools of the world, as they are commonly conducted. We need not tie to men in order to secure influence, we need not think that we are dependent upon the knowledge and experience of men who do not recognize the Lord as their Master.



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# Solutions?

Our God is a God of knowledge and understanding, and if we will take our position decidedly on His side, to be wholly influenced by His spirit, He will give us wisdom. I would that all our people might see the inconsistency of those who profess to be God's Commandment-keeping people, a peculiar people, zealous of good works, thinking that they must copy after the world's pattern in order to make their work successful. Our God is stronger than any human influence. If we will accept Him as our educator, if we will make Him our strength and righteousness, He will work in our behalf. Ellen White, *Loma Linda Messages*

443.4



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# The World is Catching On

Forbes Magazine, Sept. 2015, “Why We Desperately Need To Bring Back Vocational Training In Schools”

- Education is focused on “preparing all students for college, and college prep is still the center of the U.S. high school curriculum.”



# The World is Catching On

“For one thing, people have a huge and diverse range of different skills and learning styles. Not everyone is good at math, biology, history and other traditional subjects that characterize college-level work.”

“The latest figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show that about 68% of high school students attend college. That means over 30% graduate with neither academic nor job skills.”



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# The World is Catching On

“But even the 68% aren’t doing so well. Almost 40% of students who begin four-year college programs don’t complete them, which translates into a whole lot of wasted time, wasted money, and burdensome student loan debt. Of those who do finish college, one-third or more will end up in jobs they could have had without a four-year degree.”



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# The World is Catching On

- 68 of 100 Americans go to college.
- 40% of those don't finish. That 27 of the 68.
- Which means only 41 out of every 100 Americans is college educated. What are the rest of us?
- 37% of college grads employed in jobs that don't require degrees
- That another 25 of the 68.
- So about 16% of graduates needed their degree.



# The World is Catching On

“But in a situation where 70% of high school students do not go to college, nearly half of those who do go fail to graduate, and over half of the graduates are unemployed or underemployed, is vocational education really expendable? Or is it the smartest investment we could make in our children, our businesses, and our country’s economic future?”



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# A Solution Foretold

“I have been shown that study in agricultural lines should be the A, B, and C of the educational work of our school.... The youth are to learn how to work interestedly and intelligently, that wherever they are, they may be respected because they have a knowledge of those arts which are so essential for practical life. In place of being day laborers under an overseer; they are to strive to be masters of their trades, to place themselves where they can command wages as good carpenters, printers, or as educators in agricultural work.” { Advocate August 1, 1900, par. 16 }



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# A Solution Foretold

“Thus, also, our schools could aid effectively in the disposition of the unemployed masses. Thousands of helpless and starving beings, whose numbers are daily swelling the ranks of the criminal classes, might achieve self-support in a happy, healthy, independent life if they could be directed in skillful, diligent labor in the tilling of the soil.” { Ed 220.1}



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# The Worlds Best System?



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# Finland

1. No mandatory education before age 7.
2. In school 15 min. of every hour are play.
3. No standardized testing.
4. Compulsory education ends at 15.
5. At 16 students choose either more academic education or a vocational.
6. 43% choose vocational.
7. Teacher autonomy.



# Academics and Hands On Learning

University of Colorado, *Student Gains from Place-Based Education*

Place-based or environment-based education uses the environment as an integrating context (EIC) across disciplines. It is characterized by exploration of the local community and natural surroundings, hands-on experiences of environmental discovery and problem-solving, inter-disciplinary curricula, team teaching, and learning that accommodates students' individual skills and abilities. Research shows that this approach delivers many benefits to students.



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# Academics and Hands On Learning

University of Colorado, *Student Gains from Place-Based Education*

“Students in schools and classrooms that use the environment as an integrating context for learning score higher on standardized tests in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.”



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# Manzo Elementary



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# Where are We Going?



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