

TIMELINE

For Seventh-day Adventist Education

COMPILED BY FLOYD GREENLEAF

Based on my research in writing a new book about the history of Adventist education, I offer the following timeline of the hundred or so most important happenings and persons in the 150-year development of Seventh-day Adventist education, worldwide. The items selected represent my opinion; other researchers would doubtlessly differ on what to include. I hope that this list will stimulate discussion and an improved understanding of the events and issues that have formed the denomination's large and very diverse system of education.—*Floyd Greenleaf.*

1853 Martha Byington, daughter of future General Conference (GC) President John Byington, opens the first-known church school for Sabbatarian Adventists in Buck's Bridge, New York.

1872 In Battle Creek, Michigan, Goodloe Harper Bell opens the first school sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Ellen G. White writes her seminal essay, "Proper Education," which appears in installment form in *The Health Reformer* and later in *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 3.

1874 Battle Creek College, the first Adventist college, opens with Sidney Brownsberger as president. It enrolls both male and female students.

In order to provide oversight for its new program of education, the General Conference organizes the Educational Society, incorporated in Michigan.

1881 The first Adventist textbook, *A Natural Method in English*, is produced by Goodloe Harper Bell.

1882 The church opens its second college program, Healdsburg College, in northern California.

1883 The church's first school of nursing opens at Battle Creek Sanitarium, operated by Drs. Kate Lindsay and Ann Stewart under the auspices of Dr. John Harvey Kellogg.

1887 The General Conference creates the office of Secretary of Education, appointing W. W. Prescott to the posi-

tion in addition to his responsibilities as president of Battle Creek College.

1888 The church's first teachers' institute convenes in Battle Creek.

1891 The Harbor Springs (Michigan) Teachers' Institute meets, the first convention for all North American teachers. Its approximately 100 attendees initiate the first reforms in Adventist education, advocating that the Bible be the center of all curricula.

1893 Claremont Union College, the first Adventist college outside of the United States, opens in Kenilworth, South Africa.

1895 Battle Creek Sanitarium establishes the first Adventist school of medicine, American Medical Missionary College, with John Harvey Kellogg as president.

James Edson White begins the first church school for African-Americans aboard the *Morning Star*, in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Workers from South Africa and North America establish Solusi Mission in Matabeleland after receiving a grant of 12,000 acres of land from Cecil Rhodes to educate Africans.

1896 Oakwood Industrial School opens in Huntsville, Alabama, as a training school for African-Americans after GC President O. A. Olsen personally leads a commission to prepare buildings and land.

Battle Creek College establishes the first Adventist teacher-preparation de-



The *Morning Star*, on which James Edson White established the first Adventist school for African-Americans in 1895.

partment, led by Frederick Griggs.

1897 Avondale School for Christian Workers (the future Avondale College), begins classes in Cooranbong, Australia, with C. B. Hughes as principal.

E. A. Sutherland, president of Battle Creek College, launches the "Movement of '97," which dramatically increases the number of church schools.

1898 N. Z. Town founds the first worker-training school in South America, the forerunner of River Plate Adventist University, at Las Tunas, Entre Rios, Argentina. Frank Westphal and fellow workers later re-establish the school near Diamante.

1899 Missionsseminar Friedensau, the predecessor of Friedensau Adventist University, offers its first classes on an old estate, Klappermuhle, near Magdeburg, Germany.

1900 P. T. Magan begins a campaign to eliminate the debts of Adventist schools and other institutions. Ellen White donates the proceeds from the sale of *Christ's Object Lessons* to raise money for schools.

Teachers from North America's 220 elementary schools gather at Battle Creek, Michigan, for the church's first institute for church school teachers.

1901 The General Conference creates the Educational Department with John Harvey Kellogg as chairman and P. T. Magan as secretary.

1902 Duncombe Hall Missionary College, precursor to Newbold College, opens in London, England, with H. R. Salisbury as principal.

George McCready Price publishes *Outlines of Modern Science and Christianity*, the first Adventist book offering scientific support for creationism.

1903 Ellen White publishes *Education*, the leading Adventist treatise on education. It becomes a leading source

for college classes on principles of Christian education.

1904 E. A. Sutherland and P. T. Magan launch the Nashville (Tennessee) Agricultural and Normal Institute, the beginning of the self-supporting educational movement in the American South.

Ida Thompson establishes the first Adventist school in China, Bethel Girls' School in Canton, which later evolves into Hong Kong Adventist College.

Buresala Training School (the fore-

runner of Fulton College) opens in Fiji for Pacific Islanders.

1905 The Southern California Conference buys a resort hotel that will become Loma Linda University and, the following year, opens a school of nursing.

The General Conference adopts a "harmonious system of education" that integrates elementary, secondary, and college levels and articulates teaching materials and manuals. The GC Educa-



Early photo of Avondale College in Cooranbong, Australia, which opened in 1897.



An early photo of Healdsburg College, established in Healdsburg, California, in 1882. The name was changed to Pacific Union College in 1906, and three years later, the school moved a few miles to its present location in Angwin.

tional Department becomes the Department of Education.

1906 Pacific Press publishes the first Adventist church school manual.

1907 Washington Training College in Takoma Park, Maryland, becomes the Washington Foreign Missionary Seminary with H. R. Salisbury as president.

Sam Yuk Shin Hak Tai Hak (Korean School for Boys), forerunner of Sahn-yook University, opens in Soonan.

Pacific Press begins to publish the *True Education Reader Series*, graded reading books for elementary schools authored by Adventists.

1909 The College of Medical Evangelists (CME) receives a charter to operate schools of medicine and dentistry, and admits its first class of medical students.

Pacific Press begins publishing Alma McKibbin's *Bible Lessons*, a graded series of Bible textbooks for elementary schools.

Frederick Griggs establishes the Fireside Correspondence School, which later becomes Home Study International and Griggs University.

Christian Education, the first denomination-wide periodical about education, begins publication with Frederick Griggs as editor. Thirty years later, it becomes the *Journal of True Education*,

the forerunner of the *Journal of Adventist Education*.

1910 Three seminaries for Scandinavian- and German-speaking Adventist students open in Minnesota, Missouri, and Illinois.

1911 CME receives a "C" rating from the American Medical Association, sparking a 25-year debate over accreditation.

1912 Manuel Camacho collaborates with Fernando and Ana Stahl to build La Plateria Mission in Peru, the first of a system of mission schools that helped to transform society among Andean tribespeople.

1915 Adventist Seminary in Brazil starts classes with 18 students and J. H. Boehm as director. It later becomes Brazil Adventist University.

South India Training School (forerunner of Spicer Memorial College) opens in Coimbatore under the direction of G. G. Lowry.

1917 Philippine Seventh-day Adventist Academy (later the Adventist University of the Philippines) opens.

1918 Denton Rebok conducts the church's first teachers' institute in China.

1919 West Indian Training School, the first permanent worker-training school in the Caribbean and forerunner

of Northern Caribbean University, opens in Mandeville, Jamaica.

1921 Seminaire Adventiste du Saleve opens in Collonges-sous-Saleve, France, and serves for many years as the church's primary worker-preparation school for French-speaking Adventists.

1922 The GC Department of Education designates assistant and associate secretaries for elementary, secondary, and higher education. Sarah Peck be-



Administration building at Seminaire Adventiste du Saleve in France, about 1972.



Built by student physicians, the first School of Medicine building at the College of Medical Evangelists in Loma Linda, California, included administrative offices for the president, a faculty room, a small library, and classrooms.

comes the first female member of the department, assigned to elementary education.

The Far Eastern Branch of the Fireside Correspondence School, the first branch outside the United States, opens in Shanghai, China.

1923 W. E. Howell, GC Secretary of Education, conducts the first world council for Adventist educators in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

1928 The Association of Seventh-day Adventist Colleges and Secondary Schools is formed with its executive arm, the Board of Regents, to accredit Adventist schools.

1930 The General Conference drafts a position statement on creationism and authorizes a program of research and publication to refute evolution. Science and math teachers in North American colleges meet to begin discussions of creationism.

1932 Pacific Union College earns accreditation from the Board of Regents, the first Adventist college to obtain denominational accreditation.

Philippine Junior College becomes Philippine Union College, the first Adventist four-year degree-granting institution outside North America.

1933 Pacific Union College is awarded accreditation by Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools, the first Adventist college to be regionally accredited.

1934 The Advanced Bible School (forerunner of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary) is organized at Pacific Union College, in Angwin, California.



Campus of Montemorelos University in Mexico, about 1977.



Library building at Solusi College (now Solusi University) in Zimbabwe, in the 1970s.



Seminary building at Newbold College in England, about 1983.

The Medical Cadet Corps is introduced at Union College (Nebraska), with Everett Dick as the commanding officer.

1936 After heated debate, GC session delegates approve of regional accreditation for Adventist colleges.

1937 GC Education Secretary H. A. Morrison conducts the Blue Ridge Educational Convention, the second (and last) world council for Adventist educators.

1939 Adventist College of Beirut, the only Adventist postsecondary institution in the Islamic Middle East and forerunner of Middle East College, opens with G. A. Keogh as president.

1941 The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary moves into new and separate quarters in Takoma Park, Maryland.

1942 Colegio Agrícola Industrial Mexicana (forerunner of Montemorelos University), begins classes at Montemorelos, Mexico.

The church establishes the Hispanic-American Seminary in Corrales, New Mexico, to serve the Spanish-speaking U.S. population.

The world church authorizes its seminary to grant Master's degrees.

1944 Spicer College (Pune, India) becomes the second Adventist four-year, postsecondary institution outside North America.

1946 Union College inaugurates the church's first baccalaureate program of nursing education.

1947 Education resumes at Friedensau, East Germany, after having been closed during World War II.

1950 China Training Institute closes following the Communist Revolution.

1952 Philippine Union College becomes the first Adventist school outside the United States to receive authority to offer graduate courses.

1953 The first class enrolls in the School of Dentistry at CME.

The General Conference makes the Master's degree the standard academic preparation for ministers.

1954 Solusi Training School (Zimbabwe) becomes Solusi Missionary College, the first four-year, postsecondary program for Africans.

Australasian Missionary College affiliates with Pacific Union College, inaugurating the era of international affiliations among Adventist schools.

The Board of Regents extends its accrediting authority beyond North America, the inception of international denominational accreditation.

1957 The GC organizes Potomac University in Takoma Park, Maryland, for ministerial training.

The GC establishes the Geoscience Research Institute.

Philippine Union College becomes the first non-American Adventist institution to receive authority from the General Conference to offer Master's degrees (education).

1958 The GC approves the merger of Potomac University and Emmanuel Missionary College in Berrien Springs, Michigan. A new name, Andrews Uni-



Administration building at Brazil College (now Brazil Adventist University) in the 1970s.

versity, is selected two years later.

CME grants the first Adventist Ph.D. (medical sciences).

1959 Columbia Union College and Sligo church (both in Takoma Park, Maryland) combine to send the church's first student missionary.

1961 CME changes its name to Loma Linda University (LLU).

1963 Loma Linda University Overseas Heart Surgery Team begins a program of treating international heart patients in their home countries.

1965 Administrators of Adventist colleges and universities adopt a statement on academic freedom that prohibits classroom instruction contrary to Adventist teachings.

1966 The Academic Conference on Modern Church-State Problems convenes at Andrews University. Attendees

challenge the traditional Adventist position on government aid to church-sponsored schools.

1970 Newbold College becomes the first postsecondary school outside North America to achieve accreditation by the church's Board of Regents.

1972 The theological seminary begins to offer its first doctoral program (doctor of ministry).

1973 The Vocational and Professional School in Montemorelos, Mexico, receives state authority to issue recognized university degrees. The institution establishes the second Adventist school of medicine.

1974 The General Conference Department of Education begins to issue the Citation of Merit, Award of Excellence, and Medallion of Merit awards.

1978 The theological seminary at Philippine Union College becomes the first recognized division-sponsored seminary outside North America. The institution moves from Caloocan City to its present site in Silang, Cavite.

1979 The South American Division organizes the Latin American Theological Seminary, headquartered in Brasilia, the church's first division-wide, multi-campus seminary.

1981 The landmark Defence of Government Schools case in Australia establishes the legitimacy of government financial aid for church-sponsored schools in that nation.

1984 Loma Linda University affli-



Middle East College (now Middle East University) in Beirut, Lebanon, about 1976.



ates with Kasturba Medical College near Manipal, India, to educate physicians and other healthcare professionals.

1987 The GC Department of Education forms the Institute for Christian Teaching and initiates seminars in every world field to promote the integration of faith and learning.

1988 The Adventist University of Central Africa, serving Francophone Africa, is accredited by the Rwandan government. It becomes the first government-recognized, degree-granting Adventist institution for Africans but closes six years later during civil disturbances. It later reopens as a multi-campus institution.

1989 The Department of Education launches *Dialogue*, a periodical published in four languages that discusses intellectual issues and is beamed to Adventist college and university students, worldwide.

Zaoksky Theological Seminary (Russia) opens as the first educational center

world's first hospital-based proton treatment facility.

The postsecondary portion of Home Study International become Griggs University.

B. Lyn Behrens is the first woman to become president of an Adventist university.

1991 The University of Eastern Africa, Baraton receives a charter from the Kenyan government, becoming the church's first tertiary institution for English-speaking Africans with government-recognized, degree-granting authority.

1992 South Korea's Sahmyook College becomes Sahmyook University; adding a doctorate to its theology curriculum.

1994 The church's Annual Council votes to place ministerial education under the jurisdiction of the divisions as monitored by the International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education.

for Adventists in the Soviet Union.

The Far Eastern Division opens the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, in Silang, Cavite, Philippines, the church's only free-standing graduate school.

1990 LLU Medical Center installs the

world's first hospital-based proton treatment facility.

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1995 Solusi College, near Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, receives a charter as a degree-granting university.

The North American Division is the first world field to elevate the director of education to a vice president.

1997 The General Conference Department

of Education began to confer the Global Award in Adventist Education.

1999 Worldwide enrollment in Adventist schools surpasses one million.

2000 The General Conference organizes a new Commission of Higher Education to develop a global plan for Adventist tertiary institutions.

2001 In *Columbia Union College v. Clarke*, the court rules that Columbia Union College (Takoma Park, Maryland) may legally receive money from the state of Maryland, using the "neutrality" test rather than the "pervasively sectarian" legal test to determine the eligibility of church-sponsored colleges for government aid.

The number of Adventist elementary schools passes 5,000.

2002 The number of teachers in Adventist secondary schools exceeds 20,000.

2004 Annual Council accepts a recommendation from the International Faith and Science Conferences affirming traditional Adventist beliefs about creation.

2005 In the years since 1974, a total of 31 people worldwide have received the Citation of Merit, 130 the Award of Excellence, 43 the Medallion of Distinction, and 13 the Global Award in Adventist Education (1997-).

The *Journal of Adventist Education* receives its seventh Distinguished Achievement Award (including one Finalist nomination) from the Association of Educational Publishers—two for theme issues; six for feature articles. /



At the Educational Press Association's 1990 Awards ceremony, the *Journal of Adventist Education* won one of its seven Distinguished Achievement or Finalist awards. Left to right: Editor Victor Griffiths; Assistant Editor Beverly Robinson-Rumble; Art Director Howard Bullard.



After a 30-year career in the history department at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, during which he authored the two-volume *The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Latin America* and the

Caribbean (Andrews University Press, 1992), **Floyd Greenleaf, Ph.D.**, "retired" in 1996. Since then, he has co-authored *Light Bearers: A History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church* (English edition: Pacific Press, 2000; Spanish edition produced by the Inter-American and South American Divisions, 2002), and has just completed *In Passion for the World: A History of Seventh-day Adventist Education* (Pacific Press, 2005). Dr. Greenleaf writes from Lake Suzy, Florida.