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“Big Ideas”



A couple of years ago, I began talking to a broader cross-section of educators about future directions the JOURNAL should take. Since December 2001, I have made presentations at several Adventist colleges and universities, spoken to educational administrators in India, Kenya, Thailand, Spain, and the Dominican Republic, talked to specialized groups such as deans of students, academic vice presidents, and theology chairpersons, and held discussions via E-mail and in person with a number of Adventist educators at various levels.



Typically, in the course of such discussions, I say: “This is not **my** JOURNAL, it is **your** JOURNAL. I want to know what sorts of articles will be helpful to you and to your teachers and colleagues. What challenges are you and they facing? How can we help you solve them?”

The result has been some ideas for theme issues, as well as some suggested topics and writers. I don’t have space to list them all here, but you can visit the JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION Web site (<http://education.gc.adventist.org/jae>) to see a “starter list” of desired topics. It is certainly not exhaustive—if you desire to read about other topics or want to write about a subject not listed there—let us know! (You’ll find our Guidelines for Writers at the Web site, as well as a search engine that will help you figure out whether we’ve printed anything on your chosen subject recently.)

A new direction for the JOURNAL is what I call “Big Ideas.” This encompasses a fairly broad range, but briefly, it is an attempt to help teachers deal with current issues that have moral implications. Such articles offer a summary of current research and thinking on the topic, as well as some suggestions for teaching about it or advising students regarding it. The authors represent a broad spectrum of thinkers and researchers, from genetics professors to history teachers, health ministries specialists, historians, church administrators, and church liaisons with the United Nations and religious liberty organizations. Some of these topics have already appeared; more are in the works. In the past several years, the JOURNAL has printed “Big Idea” articles on cloning, genetic treatments for disease, religious liberty, HIV/AIDS, the drug Ecstasy, binge drinking, ecology, peacemaking, competition, dealing with different sources and views of history, ethics and science, noncombatancy, and human dignity. Stay tuned for more! We welcome input from readers about these articles, as well as suggested topics for additional “Big Ideas.”

In addition, the JOURNAL’s editorial staff continues to be committed to printing articles on the integration of faith and learning, “how to” teach specific skills and subject areas, inspirational articles, ways to improve Adventist education, guidance for school boards, and reports on innovative programs.

We welcome your input! Contact us by letter at the General Conference office (12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.) or E-mail: rumbleb@gc.adventist.org (**NEW ADDRESS**). Let us know what you would like to read about in the JOURNAL. And since editors love volunteers, let us know what topics you’d like to write about, too!—B.J.R.