

## PROFESSIONAL GROWTH BOOKS 2010

The North American Division of Education is happy to bring you the annual listing of the Professional Growth Books. Some of these books are written by non-Adventist authors and, therefore, may not fully reflect Seventh-day Adventist philosophy. However, we believe there is value in these books which have been selected to inspire, bring insight, and challenge your thinking.

To secure a Professional Growth Certificate for the 2009-2010 school year, you should read the five issues of the *Journal of Adventist Education*, at least one book from Group B, and at least four additional books from two or more other headings. Some books have been listed under two headings and will count for either group. One book of your choice which could be classified under any of these headings may be substituted for a book on this list.

### GROUP A – READER’S CHOICE

**Sometimes I Don’t Feel Like Praying**, by Mike Jones, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2008, 143 pages.

Paperback                      List Price.....\$11.99

Mike Jones, an Adventist minister and former editor of Insight magazine, divorced his wife and subsequently left the church for sixteen years. This how to book shows how he became a new creature through God’s grace and gives scriptural references that show how to meet the many challenges he had to face, challenges that we too have to face from time to time, He tackles topics like depression, panic attacks, forgiveness and prayer. The sources he used to gain the victory over his challenges will be great resources for helping us when we encounter some of these same issues. His biblical answers are right to the point.

**When the Game is Over It All Goes Back in the Box**, by John Ortberg, Zondervan Publishing, 2007, 254 pages.

Hard-cover    List Price .....\$21.99                      Amazon .....\$9.99

This is a uniquely written book that compares and contrasts life with a game. Just as one must know the rules of a game to be successful, the author says that one must know the rules of life to play the game and be successful. This is an instruction book written from a Christian perspective, divided into six sections. The first section says that one must learn rule number one. You will need to read this book to discover what rule number one is.

This title is so interesting because when one is through playing a game like Scrabble or Monopoly it gets put back in the box. What happens when life is over for man? The author discusses the game, the object, the setup, how to play, hazards, and the win. The quotes throughout this book are an education in themselves. Here is one to wet your appetite, "Life is one of those games in which you can only move forward." I know I said one but allow me one more, it is so profound. "In a strict sense, I cannot break the rules. They endure, for they reflect the way things are. I can only break myself against them." You will need to include this book on your must read list.

### **GROUP B --- DEVOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL**

**Revelation's Great Love Story**, by Larry L. Lichtenwalter, Autumn House Publishing, a division of Review and Herald, 2008, 141 pages.

Paperback                      List Price.....\$ 12.99                      Amazon .....\$10.39

How many ever thought of the book of Revelation as portraying God's love for humanity or as a book giving reasons why we can love Him in return. This is what the pages of this book will reveal to the reader. The writer says we tend to focus on the dragon and those interesting beasts and we fail to see how Revelation shows how God cancels our debts or how He knows us and everything about us. After you read this book you will want to read the book of Revelation again, it will take on new meaning. The writer says you will discover a loving Jesus and just as this is the closing book of the Bible you will be left with a secure and peaceful and closing thought- you will see how in the end He helps us win.

**Satisfying the Longing Hunger in Your Soul**, by Jon L. Dybdahl, Autumn House Publishing, a division of Review and Herald Publishing, 2008, 144 pages.

Paperback                      List Price.....\$12.99                      Amazon.....\$11.04

Informative book about communion with God. It starts with the foundation, which is the "double longing", we long for God and He longs to fellowship with us.

For years Dr. Dybdahl was a teacher, the statements at the beginning of each chapter of his book were written by his students. These statements are so profound that I feel that they must give insight into the quality of teaching and learning that took place in his classroom.

If you have ever wondered why one has times of conflict and crises, times when one asks "why me, Lord?", the explanation can be found in this book. It also explains worship and prayer and

meditation. The short chapter on fasting is reason enough to read this book as it gives such a clear definition on the nature of fasting. It goes on to give guidelines for fasting and the purpose for fasting. We can not all sit in his classroom, but we can glean much and grow spiritually from reading this book

### **GROUP C --- SPIRIT OF PROPHECY AND DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY**

**Challenges to the Remnant**, by Marvin Moore, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2008, 255 pages.

Paperback                      List Price.....\$16.99

Roger Moore, an eloquent and gifted author of more than 10 books on the topic of the “end time crisis” wrote this particular book in response to a public statement by Pope Benedict in 2007. In that statement, Benedict reaffirmed the Roman Catholic Church’s claim to be the only true, genuine church of Jesus Christ. Unlike most of Protestantism which reacted with startling anger and consternation over this statement, the Seventh-day Adventist Church accepted the Popes announcement with the words...”there’s nothing surprising in Benedict’s statement.” Moore goes into great detail to show that this was not new, because Catholics have always insisted that they were and will always be the true church.

In Challenges to the Remnant, Moore uses scripture, history and the writings of Ellen White to refute Benedict’s claims. He goes on to cite specific challenges which the Remnant church must confront, including persecution (physical attacks on God’s people), deception, (being able to differentiate truth from error) and acceptance and fulfillment of the mission of the true church (to preach and teach the third angels message to a dying world).

Moore handles this topic with startling accuracy tracing the biblical conflict between good and evil and the role of God’s people in that conflict.

**Ellen White on Leadership**, by Cindy Tutsch, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2008, 159 pages.

Hard-cover                      List Price.....\$16.99

Over one hundred twenty five leadership principles addressed by Ellen White in her writings have been gathered together and analyzed in this book. Cindy compares Ellen White’s counsel

with contemporary writer's leadership theories. On many points they do not agree. She certainly disagrees with them on the leader's greatest need, which in her view is to know God and be led by His spirit. A couple more points of disagreement include the development of the leader's character and the importance of prayer.

Each principle is explained in a paragraph or two, sometimes it might even take a whole page, but generally the explanations are brief and very easy to read and understand. Since we all are leaders at different levels of leadership this is a "must read" book.

#### **GROUP D --- BACKGROUND AND TEACHING**

**Already Ready, Nurturing Writers in Preschool and Kindergarten**, by *Katie Wood Ray and Matt Glover, Heinemann, 2008, 222 pages.*

Paperback                      List Price.....\$ 24.50                      Amazon .....\$20.82

Lillian G. Katz, who wrote the forward to this book, calls it "informative and inspiring". I found it to be just that. Strategies and techniques are included to help teachers develop a much needed skill in the young child – writing. If developed early, as suggested by the authors. The way the authors teach writing, the students learn logical thinking, spelling, reading, composition, speaking in public and they become very self assured.

The benefits are life-long as this is an opportunity to learn about different kinds of books, different authors, illustrating books, and it seems to interest the child in becoming a published author later in life. Read this book to discover what "side by side" teaching is, students can become proficient at an early age and will not be as likely to experience so many road blocks later in middle school.

**Error Patterns in Computation, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**, by *Robert B. Ashlock, Pearson Merrill Prentice Hall, 2006, 274 pages.*

Paperback                      List Price .....\$28.80                      Amazon .....\$23.00

This book offers concrete proof of the saying "We learn from our mistakes". It is divided into two distinct parts. The first part deals with the various aspects of diagnosis and instruction and the second part deals with helping students who have learned error patterns. Examples of student's error patterns on simulated work papers are portrayed throughout the book with



Study” which list questions, statements or suggestions requiring interaction and introspection from the reader.

In the chapter” Breaking the Cycle of Worry and Woe”, a summary is also included so the reader will not miss the major approaches to recovery. The appendices are just as interesting as the book and are presented very creatively.

**The Invitation**, by Alejandro Bullon, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2008, 142 pages.

Paperback                      List Price.....\$ 12.99

A compilation of true stories written to encourage, strengthen and inspire any who have experienced some of life’s bitter circumstances or who have suffered affliction and pain and now want peace (I believe that just about includes all of us). In this book we can find examples of those who discovered the liberating power of Christ from a burdensome life and accepted the invitation to build a new life.

The invitation is always there. This book strengthens our faith, enabling us to reach out and take hold of the invitation and come into closer communion with Christ. If you want Christ to work wonders in your life, if you want to accept His invitation to travel on the path that leads to true happiness, then I suggest you read this book, it will definitely get you going in the right direction.

#### **GROUP F --- TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Better Learning Through Structured Teaching**, by Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2008, 146 pages.

Paperback      List Price ..... \$23.95                      Amazon .....\$21.55

Endeavoring to clarify and improve the learning process, the authors present details and applications for the “gradual release of responsibility model of instruction” which suggests that the learning process shifts, over time from the teacher-as-model, to joint responsibility, to independent practice and application by the learner. This model has been around for awhile and according to the authors is the “intersection of several theories, including Piaget’s work on cognitive structures, Vygotsky’s work on zones of development, Bandura’s work on attention and Wood, Bruner, and Rosse’s work on scaffold instruction.”

They focus on four components of the gradual release of responsibility theory to help meet critical educational challenges, including making use of class time, a challenge which every teacher has faced. Excellent tips are provided for successfully implementing this revealing instructional approach to improving classroom learning.

***Teach Like Your Hair's On Fire*, by Rafe Esquith, Penguin Group, 2007, 244 pages.**

Hard – cover      List Price .....\$24.95

Teach Like Your Hair's On Fire was written by Rafe Esquith, who uses a clever and descriptive byline that identifies him as "an actual classroom teacher". The intriguing title was taken from a real-life classroom experience when Esquith was trying to help a student light an alcohol burner during a science experiment and his hair actually caught fire. He uses this near catastrophic moment with everybody yelling, pushing and hitting him on the head to illustrate the intensity and passion he puts into teaching every subject and the corresponding excitement and involvement the students bring to every classroom experience.

Esquith, writes a fascinating book based on his nearly 25 year history of teaching fifth graders in a tiny, leaky, substandard school in central Los Angeles. He describes with passion his quest to devise practical methods and strategies to help these students learn, who by some accounts are not supposed to succeed. In a world that has downgraded education and uplifted athletics, Esquith attempts to create a different world in his fifth grade classroom, where "character matters, hard work is respected, humility is valued and support for one another is unconditional." The book is a joy to read and in addition to providing many excellent tips and suggestions for helping students learn, it goes a long way to create a renewed urge and love for the art of teaching.

### **GROUP G --- UNDERSTANDING STUDENTS**

***The Power of Our Words, Teacher Language that Helps Children Learn*, by Paula Denton, Northeast Foundation for Children, Inc., 2007, 172 pages.**

Paperback      List Price .....\$22.00      Amazon .....\$19.40

In our education classes we learned to give the student time to answer the question, not to call the student's name before asking a question and many other strategies for effectively using our words to empower students. This author reintroduces these plus many more professional uses

of words, phrases, tone and pace that help the students develop more positive attitudes and behaviors. The book also gives examples of language a teacher should avoid. An entire chapter is devoted to strategies and concrete examples for better listening

Throughout the book the reader will see examples of rephrasing statements to elicit better behavioral and academic responses from students.

**Yardsticks**, *Children in the Classroom Ages 4 – 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*, by Chip Wood, Northeast Foundation for Children, Inc., 2007, 216 pages.

Paperback                      Amazon.....\$16.20

As you read this book you will no doubt identify with the different ages and grades of students you have taught. You will find yourself chuckling at the anecdotes. For each age from 4 – 14 Mr. Wood gives some or all of these growth patterns; physical, social emotional, language, and cognitive. He also tells what to expect in the classrooms of these different age students in the areas of the students vision and fine motor ability, gross motor ability, cognitive growth and social and emotional behavior. The last area he addresses for each age group is the curriculum, more specifically; reading, writing, thematic units and math. It is important to remember that his suggestions are to be used as a guide to help the teacher to make sense of her observations and are not hard fast expectations as each person develops at a slightly different rate.

#### **GROUP H --- ISSUES**

**Transformative Assessment**, by W. James Popham, *Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development*, 2008, 150 pages.

Paperback                      List Price..... \$22.95                      Amazon .....\$20.05

James Popham is an assessment expert with more than 30 books to his credit. In this book, *Transforming Assessment*, Popham expertly presents strong evidence as to why formative assessment has the power to completely transform the overall school assessment procedure. In the early chapters, he covers not only what formative assessment is, but why it is receiving so much attention in education circles. He goes to great lengths to describe formative assessment “as a process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve student’s achievement of intended instructional outcomes”. In later chapters, Popham focuses on different applications or “levels” of formative

assessment and how teachers can use formative assessment to collect evidence for reformatting educational strategies and how students can use formative assessment results to adjust their own learning tactics.

His overall strategy is to provide this new tool for teachers and administrators so that the positive results gained will transform instructional approaches and ultimately help students learn more effectively. It's a good book with easy to follow diagrams and illustrations for helping especially new teachers with the challenges of improving classroom assessment using formative techniques.

**20 Questions God Wants to Ask You**, by Troy Fitzgerald, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2008, 191 pages.

Paperback                      List Price..... \$14.99

God asks us more than 20 questions in the Bible but the ones the author selected for this book starts with the first question God asked the first couple in the Garden of Eden. I am sure you remember it, "Where are you." He ends with this question, "What do you want me to do for you." These two, with the other eighteen in the middle all provide opportunities for life changing encounters with the Divine. All of the questions portray His character to us and our responses draw us closer to Him. Study and reflect on these questions and your responses: What are you doing here? What is in you hand? Where is your brother? This book will transform your life.

#### **GROUP I --- TECHNOLOGY**

**Kids, Cameras, and the Curriculum**, by Pat Barrett Dragan, Heinemann, 2008, 107 pages.

Paperback                      List Price.....\$15.00                      Amazon.....\$ 14.00

We learn through the senses and the more senses utilized at any given time the deeper the impression made on the brain and the more enriched the moment. This is not a book about technology but a book about ways to simplify and connect kids with cameras in order to use photography to enhance learning.

Included, among other topics are: ideas for camera projects, tips for taking pictures, equipment needed in the classroom, ideas for financing the purchase of equipment. Most importantly, this book discusses ways photography can be used in all classrooms.

**Teaching the Digital Generation**, by *Frank S. Kelley, Ted Cain, and Ian Jukes, Corwin Press, 2009, 265 pages.*

Paperback            List Price ..... \$76.95

This is a fantastic book about changing the way high schools operate. The authors, Frank Kelly, Ted McCain and Ian Jukes bring a lot of experience in the world of educational consulting, architecture, and school planning to bear on the problems of changing the way we educate our children. Their primary premise is that the many changes in the world in science, communication, technology, and the globalization of the world demands that the schools change also. While written primarily from the high school perspective, it could easily be used for necessary changes at the elementary or college level as well.

They focus on getting educators to get rid of TTWWADI –an acronym for “ That’s the way we’ve always done it” as a basis for doing things....things we do from habit.

This is an excellent read for educators seeking new ideas and new paradigms for education. It is well written with superlative documentation, excellent graphics and charts for explaining the many forward-thinking ideas and concepts presented. In addition it comes with an accompanying web site containing additional material and support for the book.

**Web Literacy for Educators**, by *Alan November, Corwin Press, 2008, 109 pages.*

Paperback            List Price.....\$22.00

Alan November writes an excellent book on the fundamentals of web literacy and how to help teachers and students develop critical-thinking skills. He begins with very basic essentials of the internet, how to do web research and how to read and understand url’s. Much of November’s work is based on his real-life experiences as a high school teacher and the often confused and fabricated assignments turned-in by his students. He takes a lot of time in the book to help students and teachers learn how to differentiate real from unsubstantiated web material.

The book is very easy to follow and understand. This will be very important for the teacher new to technology and who become confused by the technology jargon usually used in such books. I was particularly impressed by his insertion of “Try This” exercises containing practical tips for the teacher and students to do on their own. This is particularly good to the beginning teacher who feels inadequate when using technology, especially since so many of the students have already experienced using computers and the internet.

**GROUP J --- INSPIRATIONAL**

**Helpings for the Heart**, by George E. Vandeman, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2008, 127 pages.

Paperback                      List Price.....\$ 11.99

Connie Vandeman Jeffery compiled a wonderful selection of the best stories and illustrations used by her father, George Vandeman in his ministry. This book has one hundred twenty-seven pages and one hundred thirteen stories. The stories range from five lines to four pages in length and can be read very quickly. The stories are thought-provoking, uplifting and some are even humorous. Here is an example titled No Lions. "You have probably heard of the man who walked the streets of New York City always snapping his fingers. Someone asked him why he was doing it, and he replied, 'to keep the lions away.' He was reminded that there hadn't been any lions on the street of New York for a long time. And to that he answered triumphantly, 'Effective, isn't it?'"

**Leaning on God's Heart**, by Carolyn Sutton, Autumn House Publishing, a division of Review and Herald Publishing, 2007, 137 pages.

Paperback                      List Price .....\$12.99                      Amazon .....\$11.04

Many of us have never had cancer and perhaps never will, but for sure, we know someone who has had it. We have had other adversity and problems and even yet get the dreaded cancer. Carolyn Sutton takes us with her on her journey battling cancer and she shows how there are other circumstances which eat away at our souls (if we let them) instead of using these times to strengthen our dependence on God.

After you read the epilogue you will fully understand why she says "When nothing is left you still have God. When you are stripped of everything, God remains. Only God can make a real difference." The ending is a big surprise!

**GROUP K --- LEADERSHIP**

**ELLEN WHITE ON LEADERSHIP**-see **GROUP C**