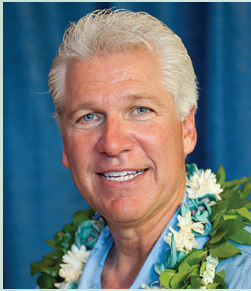


Hō'ike

April 2022

News and Inspiration for Seventh-day Adventists
in the Hawaii Conference



By **Ralph Watts III**
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"In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one" (Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 30).

Christian Education: A Value Worth Investing In

Aloha, Hawaii Ohana,

I always appreciate the opportunity to share a few thoughts pertaining to Christian education. It was a huge part of my upbringing, and to a very large extent I am who I am today because of the influence of teachers in my life. So many wonderful memories and experiences! Some of the best friends and relationships I have today come directly from attending Adventist schools. So blessed!

Seventh-day Adventist education is one of the amazing success stories of the Christian Church. We operate the largest church school program of any Protestant denomination in the world. Our phenomenal growth and worldwide influence have been greatly dependent on educating our children and training our leaders.

Do you realize that here in the Hawaii Conference we have a nine-month evangelistic effort taking place? We do it every year; it begins in the fall and ends in the spring. It's the largest evangelist effort and the highest-funded outreach endeavor each year. The purpose and plan of this effort is to present a clear picture of Jesus to each participant. By now you know I am referring to our

Adventist schools in Hawaii.

Would you be willing to pray and ask the Lord to impress you as to what you can do to support this major evangelistic event right here in Hawaii?

Here are a few suggestions:

- If you have school-aged children, consider the benefits of an Adventist education and ask God to provide.
- If your church has a school, think about becoming a volunteer, get to know the children's names, and hug a teacher.

- Since the primary goal of Christian education is to share the good news and model Christianity, commit to pray daily for our teachers.

I'd like to suggest to you that an Adventist education for our children is a value worth sacrificing for, because the major mission of every Adventist school must be to help our young people become personal friends with Jesus Christ. I think that's why we call it Christian Education. Let's make sure we keep Christ the center of what we do.

The Hawaii Conference has a long history of placing, practicing, and providing a Christian education for our children. Would you agree with me that it is a value worth investing in?

Because of Him, Ralph

Priceless!

Why Christian education? Indulge me while I make a long trip down memory lane to my childhood church school days.

Mrs. Crider, Mrs. Harper, Mrs. Noonan. I'm thinking back to all the elementary teachers I had since first grade. That's a long time ago for this 58-year-old grandpa to try to remember, but in my mind's eye I can still see their faces and remember their names—the faithful educators who did their best to help a rowdy crowd of kids learn something of worth to help them through life.

Mr. Bratt, Mrs. Worth, Mrs. Neal, Mr. Midkiff. Most of them asleep in Jesus, waiting for the trumpet call. Why do I remember so clearly these people from so many years ago, when most of the time I can't remember where I left my car keys five minutes ago?!

Growing up in a big family had its challenges, one of which was financing church school for nine kids on a pastor's salary. It was not an easy task, but somehow, by the grace of God and the kindness of friends and relatives, mom and dad made it work. Not easy at all, when just the cost of groceries alone for nine growing young'uns was more than the GDP of some small countries! But to them, Christian education was of paramount importance. Public school was not an option ever even considered, so by faith we were enrolled year after year in the local Adventist school wherever dad was pastoring at the time.

Elementary school became academy, but still the names and faces are clear: Mr. Keele, Mr. Bowers, Mrs. Hadley, Mr. Barber. All amazing people who spent the majority of their lives trying to influence sometimes stubborn and rebellious teenagers toward Jesus.

Mr. Dena, Mr. Parra, Mr. Thacker, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Mariani. The list goes on and on, and my eyes get a bit misty as I think of the sacrifices they all made to generations of kids who passed through the doors of the schools they labored at. Their influence on this pastor and many others will have eternal results. The value of their love and efforts for me cannot be estimated in this life only.

Here in beautiful Hawaii where I now am blessed to serve, Christian education began in 1895 in the old palace of a Hawaiian princess. Called the Palama Chinese School, it was taught by Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Brand, and the students played under a giant banyan tree on the aptly named Banyan Street.

Nowadays faithful educators still serve the young people of Hawaii at Hawaiian Mission Academy, Ka Lama Iki, Windward, AMES, and many other schools on the outer islands. The lives influenced for Jesus will testify to the

reason for Christian education for all eternity.

Why Christian education? Because of these teachers, their love for Jesus, shared with countless kids over the passing years. I know I won't forget them. I'll tell them how important they were to me when I see them again.

By Jay Warren

Why Christian education? Because of these teachers, their love for Jesus, shared with countless kids over the passing years.



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Children's Ministry

Were you ever told how your parents or caregivers prepared for your birth? Have you noticed in the background of your baby photos all the bottles, food, clothes, blankets, toys, crib, furniture, and all the other baby items that had been gathered together for you? Before you were born, many were in love with you already. Loved ones were excited and could not wait to meet you face to face.

God did the same for all of us. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). God created out of nothing by speaking. He said "Let..." and prepared the Earth and its atmosphere for His crown of creation: humans—who were not spoken into existence but formed. Every day for six days, God created in preparation for humanity. He must have been excited!!

His love for you has not changed, and He cannot wait to meet you face to face. He is preparing a home for us. Let us tell our children how we prepared in excitement before their birth and remind them of a God who is preparing a place for us, whose excitement we cannot imagine until we meet Him face to face.

By Madonna Taueu



Camp Waianae is ready for YOU!

Hey kids! It's almost time for summer camp! The 2022 season is going to be full of new friendships, wild adventures, fun activities, high-energy games, great food, and most of all, special moments to come closer to God. We can't wait to see you there!

MARK THESE DATES:

June 26-July 1: Adventurer Camp, ages 6-9

July 3-July 8: Junior Camp, ages 10-13

July 10-July 15: Teen Camp, ages 14-17

Registration: \$240 | Neighbor Island Registration: \$100 (contact us for the discount code)

Register here: [Campwaianae.org/camper-registration](https://campwaianae.org/camper-registration)

Contact us at (808) 595-7591 ext. 152 or youth@hawaiisda.com for any questions!



Ralph and Sharon Watts Bid Aloha to Hawai`i

Dear Hawai`i Conference,

As I write this, I find it difficult to believe it's been 16 years since Sharon and I arrived on these beautiful shores of Hawai`i to begin serving you as conference president. How have the years flown by so swiftly?

Solomon reminds us that there are various seasons we experience in life. Sharon and I have been sensing God leading us to a new season of life, which is to be closer to our family on the mainland. What that means for us is that I plan to retire on May 1. What that means for you is that at the constituency scheduled for April 24 the delegates will vote a new president.

I have shared this news with Elder Brad Newton; as president of the Pacific Union he will be the one to meet with and chair the nominating committee as they prayerfully decide who to nominate for president.

A tremendous amount of effort goes into preparing for a constituency, and I'm committed to support that process and be at the constituency to guide and chair the session. Then, it will be time for us to pack up and move. Sixteen years is the longest we have ever lived in one home, so you can imagine the emotions and memories in our hearts.

When I served as a pastor, it was always my goal to one day leave the church stronger than when I arrived. It was the same when I arrived in 2006 as your president. So, I want to praise God for what He has done and where we are today. I am grateful I can leave Hawai`i knowing that our working capital is at 100% and tithe in 2021 was the highest it has ever been (even in the midst of a pandemic). Our membership is up, even with the declining population in Hawai`i. Are there still challenges? Yes, of course. The work of a leader is never over, and there are several initiatives I was still wanting to accomplish. But I know there are others God has prepared to see these through. And He will!

As president, one of my biggest responsibilities is to be actively engaged to find, vet, and call gifted leaders to serve in various capacities. And I couldn't be more proud of them. It has been my privilege to serve and support our principals, teachers, pastors, department leaders and office `ohana. Have I already

mentioned how proud I am of them? So, whatever good has transpired over these years it's not about me but rather what God has done through them and the faithfulness of our members.



And to the executive committee, please know what a privilege it has been to journey with you. When I reflect on all the challenges we have addressed over the years, I can't imagine this journey without you. Your dedication, advice, and encouragement have been invaluable. God gifted you for such a time as this. You have been faithful. God has been faithful. Mahalo.

One of my favorite promises is found in Isaiah 43:19, "Behold! I will do a new thing!" This is God's promise to you, your `ohana, and this Hawai`i Conference. He IS going to do a new thing through you. And you can be certain that Sharon and I will be praying for you and cheering you on.

Sharon and I will leave Hawai`i with a treasure trove of precious memories. When we started our pastoral journey in 1980, we could never have imagined it would eventually bring us here with you. God has been so good to us. There are no words to adequately express the impact you have had on our lives. Your numerous kind expressions of aloha will forever remain in our hearts. We leave the islands, but the islands will never leave us—because of you.

I wish I had the time to travel the islands to personally express this to our Hawai`i `ohana in each church and school. The best I can do is a short video to share from our heart to yours our love and aloha.

Solomon is so right: life is lived from one season to the next. And we can hardly wait for that final season with you for eternity in our forever Paradise home. Together. `Ohana. Heaven. Home. Soon!

We love you, Ralph and Sharon Watts

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/iASullMJ8Yw>

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