

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH BOOKS 2011

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 2010-2011 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 may 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

21ST Century Skills, Learning for Life in Our Times, by Bernie Trilling and Charles Fadel, Jossey-Bass, 2009, 206 pages.

Hard Copy List Price \$27.95 Amazon \$18.45

Bernie Trilling and Charles Fadel have written a book detailing how 21st century skills can be infused into stale, lifeless current day classrooms. They detail with examples, vignettes, and an accompanying DVD how a 21st century education can help our students successfully meet the challenges of the modern world. Their basic premise is that the world is changing, but too many of our schools remain the same. Skills needed in 21st century schools include critical thinking and problem solving instead of rote memory and lock step recitation.

More specifically, 21st century thinking is described as the process of moving away from Industrial Age values (manufacturing, assembly, marketing, distribution, products), to Knowledge Age values (data, information, knowledge, expertise, marketing, services)

Overall, the book provides an excellent overview of the problems our schools experience in light of the changing, global challenges and tells what educators need to do to turn the situation around.

GROUP B - DEVOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

A Life to Die For, by W. Clarence and Stephen Schilt, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2009, 285 pages.

Paperback List Price \$17.99 Amazon \$12.00

This is a great book as it is not often one finds a book written by two radically changed brothers who decide to put their stories in print. One is a pastor and the other a psychiatrist. The book's 21 chapters on Christ's transforming power are written individually by either brother but the flow of the content is smooth as they transition from topic to topic. Stephen, the psychiatrist, tells how his wife's struggle with kidney failure and her decision to terminate dialysis was a turning point from his hum drum life to a new energized, abundant life in Christ. Clarence, the minister's transformation was more gradual as he learned to lose self and trust in God.

The Other Side of Orion, by Gordon Kainer, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2009, 140 pages.

Paperback List Price \$12.99

I like books that list questions for further thought and discussion at the end of chapters. The author does this and goes a step further as he lists a book title for those who want to read even more about heaven and the new earth, *Heaven*, by Ellen G. White. His clear, picturesque views will intrigue and enlighten you as

he discusses some surprise topics like height and weight, race, procreation, unity and diversity and even sports.

If you are one of the many who believe in heaven but part of the fewer who understand what it is, you will enjoy unveiling the mystery of heaven in this foretaste.

GROUP C – SPIRIT OF PROPHECY AND DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

Blessings, by Jerry D. Thomas, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2008, 142 pages.
Paperback List Price \$15.99

Many of us have read *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*. *Blessings* is a contemporary version of this 1896 Ellen G. White publication. This new version is so clear and easy to understand. It shows how we can be like Jesus in today's words.

You will especially enjoy reading this contemporary adaptation of the "Sermon on the Mount". You will see yourself sitting there on the hillside listening to Jesus as he speaks to the multitude.

Humble Hero, by Ellen G. White, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2009, 382 pages.
Paperback List Price \$8.99

Humble Hero by Ellen White is an adaptation of her classic book, *The Desire of Ages*. In this adaptation, the editors of the White Estate have taken the liberty of telling the inspiring, life-changing story of Jesus using 21st century language. To start, they used the oxymoron format in the title (a combination of contradictory or incongruous words), adding just enough mystery to evoke interest in the reader.

While staying focused on the original intent, the book presents the love of God as revealed in His Son, to show the divine beauty of the life of Christ. From his inconspicuous birth in a rented stable, through the thirty-three years of his "humble" life on earth, his selfless death, resurrection and awe-inspiring ascension, he is the "hero" of our salvation. The book accurately traces in scrupulous but simple detail the roots of the plan of salvation from before the creation with Lucifer who wanted to be equal with God, to Christ's triumphal entry into heaven.

Experienced readers will recognize this book as being faithful to the Conflict of the Ages series. Readers who are new to the writings of Ellen White may be inspired by this adaptation to be encouraged to read the original editions of her works.

GROUP D – BACKGROUND FOR TEACHING

Differentiation, by Rick Wormeli, Stenhouse Publishers, 2007, 176 pages.
Paperback List Price \$23.00

We used differentiation in our classrooms we just didn't give it a name. Differentiation involves doing what is fair and doing whatever it takes for students to learn while focusing on each student's needs.

This book takes us from planning to practice for grades 6 – 12. It includes lesson plans, how to change lesson plans that are not working, differentiation learning experiences from various school subjects and an appendix with helpful approaches that can be photocopied and used as needed.

The Strategic Teacher, by Harvey F. Silver, Richard W. Strong and Matthew J. Perini, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2007, 272 pages.
Paperback List Price \$28.00 Amazon \$5.24

Selecting the Right Research-Based Strategy for Every Lesson – that's the rest of the title of this book. Five strategies are given in detail, they are: mastery strategies, understanding strategies, self-expression strategies, interpersonal strategies and four style strategies which is a combination of the first four.

Why it works, how it works, and a full lesson plan is given for each strategy type. The book is large, 8.5x11, don't let this discourage you and dampen your spirits as it has a very non-threatening layout and it's full of pictures and charts that enhance the reading material.

GROUP E – TEACHER’S PERSONAL GROWTH

Godencounters, by A. Allan Martin, Shayna Bailey, and Lynell LaMountain, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2009, 192 pages.
Paperback List Price \$14.99

This book is about a movement of young adults seeking a 24/7 experience with God. The movement is based on what the authors call “sacred discontent” which is described as what happens when an individual wants something more than just a religious experience or a good feeling about religion. Specifically, it’s about how an individual who experiences this yearning desires to live and work in order to experience a personal encounter with God. In this regard, the authors focus on seven “discipleship themes” as follows:

- Live Lives of worship
- Be agents of the gospel
- Grace – fully express compassion
- Pray without ceasing
- Embrace Sabbath as soul CPR
- Morph into His likeness
- Celebrate into jubilee

Finally, in an effort to make the experience real, readers are encouraged to write their own notes in a series of personal journal notes called “my experiences” at the end of each chapter.

Praying Like Crazy for Your Kids, by Tamyra Horst, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2009, 128 pages.
Paperback List Price \$12.99

This book is written about a parent praying for her sons but the concepts can be easily switched to a teacher praying for the children in a classroom. It is interesting and easy to read as one is constantly reminded that he/she is not praying alone and that He (God) is listening and caring and in control. There is a long list of suggestions of critical areas that need our prayers and not just a general “God bless our children.”

GROUP F – TEACHING AND LEARNING

Accessible Mathematics, by Steven Leinwand, Heinemann, 2009, 113 pages.
Paperback List Price \$21.25 Amazon \$17.99

The author lists 10 instructional shifts that raise student achievement. It is interesting that these techniques are called shifts. The title brings to mind a change of position or direction or attitude. The author vividly tells how the teacher needs to change much of how math is taught and some of what is learned. A road map is given here with all the necessary signs pointing to ways to strengthen the math curriculum. How math is taught gets the most attention since it seems to be the most critical area. The teaching of math is compared to the teaching of reading and it is suggested that math teachers can use many of the strategies reading teachers use.

Because Writing Matters, by National Writing Project and Carl Nagin, Josey Bass, 2006, 129 pages.
Paperback List Price \$19.95 Amazon \$9.50

This is a revised and updated edition of Carl Nagin’s award-winning book by the same title. This edition reflects recent research and reports on the need for teaching and writing. It also contains new sections on the impact of improved writing standards on English language learners, views on the use of technology in improving writing, and new insight on the writing process itself.

In addition to the factual, research-based statistical sections, the book has tons of practical, real life data

including a glossary of writing as subject strategies, and vignettes on how writing is being strengthened in various parts of the country.

As a nationwide professional journalist and educator, Nagin brings a unique perspective to this subject. His work with PBS sponsored broadcasts and national journals, including the New York Times, as well as his years as a high school and college professor give him the background and experience to speak authoritatively on the subject of writing.

Classroom Strategies for Helping At-Risk Students, by David R. Snow, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2005, 114 pages.

Paperback List Price \$19.95 Amazon \$4.92

Six general classroom strategies to assist at-risk, low-achieving students are provided the reader. These include: whole class instruction, cognitively oriented instruction, small group instruction, tutoring, peer tutoring and computer assisted instruction. All of these are common concepts but they will take on new meaning as you read this text and develop new techniques for these students who offer a different challenge for the teacher.

Never Work Harder Than Your Students, by Robyn Jackson, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2009, 245 pages.

Paperback List Price \$26.95 Amazon \$11.32

If you are interested in refining your craft and becoming a master teacher (many of you already are), read this book and apply these seven principles of great teaching. Throughout the book one can see how mastery of one principle improves teaching skills in other areas because of their interconnectedness. Mastery requires persistence. Don't look for immediate results.

The seventh principle is the title of the book, this principle alone contains enough information that makes the book an excellent read and worth its price.

The Inspired Teacher, by Carol Frederick Steele, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2009, 255 pages.

Paperback List Price \$26.95 Amazon \$22.67

This book by Carole Frederick Steele focuses on its byline title, How to Know One, Grow One or Be One. Basically using her own experiences as a teacher, both the positive and negative ones, Steele offers insightful advice for teachers at all levels to help develop the skills essential to effective teaching.

Steele even used her experiences learned outside the typical classroom to formulate her ideas about what makes an inspired teacher. During this period, she admits to lapsing into a period when she vowed to "never teach again", before being re-invigorated by volunteering in a community education program for homebound adults who wanted to earn a high school diploma.

As a national board certified teacher, Steele embarked on a quest to study and analyze thirteen factors she identified for successful teaching. There is also a practical narrative describing the inspired teacher's use of each skill area.

The Motivated Student, Unlocking the Enthusiasm for Learning, by Bob Sullo, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2009, 176 pages.

Paperback List Price \$23.95 Amazon \$19.38

Bob Sullo, with 33 years of experience as an educator and consultant, wrote this book based on interviews, research and his own experience. His basis premise is that good teaching is not enough for effective learning, our teachers also need to learn how to manage what is taught.

Current views are based on the premise that ideas about motivation are based on traditional "Reward and Punishment" theory. Sullo asserts that such thinking is wrong handed and that practices based on this flawed model should be changed. He acknowledges that such thinking leads to high dropout rates and low motivation in schools, and that instead, our educators should focus on the work of William Glasser whose monumental book on the Quality School in 1990 focused on internal motivation. Internal motivation,

according to Glasser is defined as a process of convincing students that working hard and doing a quality job of doing what the teacher wants them to do will add quality to their lives. He continues the basic idea that good teaching must be accompanied by efforts to get students to the point where they actually want to learn for maximum effectiveness.

The New Science Literacy, by Marlene Thier with Bennett Daviss, Heinemann, 200, 194 pages.
Paperback List Price \$32.50 Amazon \$7.16

The writers feel that educators are stressing literacy at the expense of science instruction and want to integrate these two areas for students in grades 4 – 10 in a way that neither area suffers but is strongly enhanced. Many practical teaching strategies are given to reach this goal
We understand how language clarifies science, with the reading of this book we can more readily understand how science strengthens student's language skills.
The appendix is very useful, it gives 37 pages of material for the teacher and students. Much of the material can be photocopied as handouts. There are charts, graphs, checklist, worksheets guides and guidelines.

GROUP G – UNDERSTANDING STUDENTS

Conferring: The Keystone of Readers Workshop, by Patrick A. Allen, Stenhouse Publishers, 2009, 216 pages.
Paperback List Price \$24.00 Amazon \$23.00

In this book, Patrick Allen, a twenty-year veteran teacher uses his own children as the basis for his emphasis on conferring with readers. He describes conferring as a way of communicating with young readers in a way that individualizes instruction and moves them to be able to think and act independently. Along the way, a really good conference between teacher and student provides opportunities for teacher and student to consult together and carry on productive conversation. Essentially getting to really know and understand one another.

After detailing what conferring is and is not, Allen spends considerable time flushing out the essentials of good conferring, including: Intimacy, the social context, rigor, the cognitive context, and inquiry, the analytical context

Allen's book is fun to read with interesting sub sections, eye-friendly tpestyles and, many quotable anecdotes based on his experience and research on the art of conferring.

Teaching Children to Care, by Ruth Sidney Charney, Northeast Foundation for Children, Inc., 2002, 447 pages.
Paperback List Price Amazon \$28.80

This book discusses classroom management for ethical and academic growth, K – 8. When you read this book it will remind you of how the Bible teaches one to hate the sin but love the sinner. Ruth Charney admonishes teachers to separate the deed from the doer. Oftentimes academic growth is the main thrust of the classroom and ethical growth is secondary. This book integrates these two aspects of life and shows how to help students become literate and ethical at the same time, thus becoming the people we want them to be.

A must read for the beginning teacher or the teacher who wants more ideas for classroom management.

A Whole New Mind, by Daniel Pink, The Penguin Group, 2006, 275 pages.
Paperback List Price \$15.00 Amazon \$6.28

I couldn't wait to read this book to find out who right brainers are and why they will rule the world in the 21st century, the conceptual age, and to find out which group I fit into. Right brainers are high touch, high concepts people. Left brainers are analytical people. These people dominated the computer technologic age. The writer feels that right brain people are in high demand now to complete societal demands in this conceptual age. Any act involves the use of both sides of the brain but the right brain people are needed to see the big picture. He further talks about 6 senses that will be needed to complement our left-directed

reasoning but they are not the senses are accustomed to, not even one matches one of our five senses.

GROUP H – ISSUES

How to Kill Adventist Education (and How to Give it a Fighting Chance), by Shane Anderson, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2009, 160 pages.
Paperback List Price \$12.99

“Between 1980 and 2005, Seventh-day-Adventist church membership in the North American Division increased by 75 percent. In that same 25 year period, K – 12 enrollment in Adventist schools dropped by nearly 25 percent”. This statistic seems to say that we already have done a pretty good job at killing Adventist education. This book addresses many of the issues that have caused this problem and shows how we will destroy Adventist education completely if we just keep doing what we are doing. It also gives proven effective strategies to get Adventist education on the road to recovery.

The Apocalyptic Vision and the Neutering of Adventism, by George R. Knight, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2008, 107 pages.
Paperback List Price \$10.99 Amazon \$5.99

The word “neuter” usually conjures up negative thoughts in one’s mind. Dogs are neutered, the Ethiopian Eunuch was neutered. Is this what we are doing to ourselves? You’ll need to read this book to discover three ways the Adventist church can-is neutering itself and why we need to be Christians and have the faith of Jesus and not be just Adventist. Even more significant it discusses why we are Adventist and whether or not early Adventist Apocalyptic views are relevant today.

The apocalyptic vision in Revelation is compared and contrasted to the synoptic apocalypse mentioned in the New Testament and the intermingling and importance of each is emphasized.

GROUP I – TECHNOLOGY

Global Education, Using Technology to Bring the World to Your Students, by Laurence Peters, International Society for Technology in Education, 2009, 166 pages.
Paperback List Price \$31.95 Amazon \$21.64

Laurence Peters who was educated in England wrote this book in order to show how the new web 2.0 technologies can improve teaching and learning. Most of the practical points are based on the “Flat Earth Project” which is the work of two teachers, one in India and the other in Georgia. They cooperated in linkages between the schools in their respective countries.

Their work was based on the award winning book written in 2007, Tom Friedman’s *The World is Flat*. Students in the two classrooms were grouped in pairs to explore topics presented in Friedman’s book by using a variety of communication and multimedia web 2.0 tools. More specifically, they were encouraged to explore the “flattening trend” or the (various internet inspired developments that promote faster ways to harness and communicate knowledge using: Wiki , Blogging, Podcasts, Skype and Ning. The author presents a very practical approach to using these new learning tools in the face of so many articles and books appearing on the subject.

GROUP J – INSPIRATIONAL

The Lord’s Prayer Through Primitive Eyes, by Gottfried Oosterwall, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2009, 160 pages.
Paperback List Price \$13.99

The very first thought that invaded my mind as I read this book was “Our Father”, the very first statement in The Lord’s Prayer, it says that we recognize that we are all sisters and brothers. This is so simple to comprehend yet so profound. The name Father does not mean the same thing to all people though, due to their culture and language, as is the case with many of the phrases used in this prayer for some of the unknown tribes in the interior of Palau, New Guinea. These tribes were taught to pray using translated

versions of this prayer as a model. You will understand why they wanted the Bible to be their book and Oosterwall's God to be their God. You also will get new and greater understanding of *The Lord's Prayer*.