



EARLY CHILDHOOD
PROFESSIONAL GROWTH BOOKS

SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



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PROFESSIONAL GROWTH BOOKS 2007-2008

The Southern Union Conference Office of Education is happy to share with you a listing of Professional Growth Books selected with early childhood education and care (ECEC) facilitators in mind. 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 renew a Conditional certificate, an ECEC facilitator must read at least one book from Group 1 and one book from Group 2. A statement of completion must be written on the provided form and submitted to the local conference Office of Education at the time of application for renewal.

To renew a Designated Service Certificate with an Endorsement, an ECEC facilitator must read at least two books from Group 1 and one book from Group 2. A statement of completion must be written on the provided form and submitted to the local conference Office of Education at the time of application for renewal.

GROUP 1

DEVOTIONAL, INSPIRATIONAL & PERSONAL GROWTH

The Next Door Savior

by Max Lucado. W Publishing Group, A Division of Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2003, 212 pages.

Hard-cover:

List Price.....\$22.99

Amazon.....\$16.09

“Will God really live on earth among people?” asks Solomon in 2 Chronicles 6:18. This book is Max Lucado’s answer to that question. “According to the Bible he was-and-is both, fully God and fully man. Our next door Savior.... The universe’s Commander in Chief knows your name. He has walked your streets. Endowed with sleepless attention and endless devotion, he listens. The fact that we can’t imagine how he hears a million requests as if they were the only one doesn’t mean he can’t or doesn’t, for he can and does.”

The Next Door Savior is one of Max Lucado’s most theologically complex books. The question of the dual nature of God has shaped all of the great historical church councils and is still debated in seminaries. If you are not a theologian who has to explain this mystery to others, it is still important to understand this central Christian concept. If we understand that we have a next door Savior, we also understand that “there is no person he won’t touch. No place he won’t go to find you. For even though he is in heaven, he never left the neighborhood.” Lucado’s soul-stirring, poetic stories of daily life help us grasp this reality.

To help us get the picture that there is no one Christ won’t touch, Lucado has subtitled the chapters in part one. “Every person, Shady People, Desperate People, Discouraged People, Suffering People, Grieving People, Tormented People, Spiritually Wary People and Imperfect People.” In the “No Place He Won’t Go” section, the reader follows Christ to “Every Place, Inward Places, Ordinary Places, Religious Places, Unexpected Places, Wilderness Places, Stormy Places, The Highest Place, Godforsaken Places, God-ordained Places and Incredible Places.” There is no place that anyone can hide from His touch, including you.

Since the nature of Christ is under subtle attack from within the Christian community and relentless attack from outside the church, this book is very timely. Because Lucado writes in such an entertaining way the deep truths sometimes surface unexpectedly, hitting with the force of a tidal wave. If you have never pondered the two-fold nature of Christ, read this book. You will be blessed.

The Book of Jesus for Families

by Calvin Miller, Bethany House, 2002, 175 pages.

Hardcover:

List Price.....\$15.99 Amazon.....\$11.19

The Book of Jesus for Families is an unusual book for children. The art is dignified, beautiful and inspirational. It's the kind of children's book that you might have found at the beginning of the last century. In fact, a number of the authors of stories included in this book, were written during the first half of that century. Interestingly, it is the author himself who provides an exception. Calvin Miller's own poetry is whimsical and almost Suess-like, but still respectful and educational. Here's an example:

Then Jesus went down
To the shore of the sea
And saw Jim and Johnny
Bar Zebedee.
He said, "Follow me,"
And they did—as did others
Like Peter and Andrew,
Who also were brothers.
Eight more soon followed—
One dozen in all—
Round, squat and fat ones,
Thin, skinny, and tall.
Simon was dense,
And Thomas intense,
And Judas Iscariot
Straddled the fence.

Here's how the publisher describes the book. "Calvin Miller presents, The Book of Jesus for Families, a keepsake collection of stories, songs, parables, and poems about Jesus Christ. Writings by Charles Dickens, Walter Wangerin, Pearl S. Buck, Calvin Miller himself, and many others depict the life of Jesus, his teachings, and the amazing things he did. Lavish, full-color illustrations bring the stories to life. The selections, some original to this collection, have been especially chosen for a young audience to help parents (or teachers) introduce their children to the greatest man who ever lived and help children identify with Jesus as a real person, not just a character in a story."

When Bad Christians Happen to Good People: Where We Have Failed Each Other and How to Reverse the Damage

by Dave Burchett. WaterBook Press, 2002, 243 pages.

Soft-cover:

List Price.....\$11.99 Amazon.....\$9.95

When Bad Christians Happen to Good People is a book you will find hard to put down once you have started to read it. You may argue with the author or you may say, "Yes, isn't that the truth!" but you will not be bored. The book begins with a heartrending personal experience of the writer; an example of how thoughtless and self-centered Christians can cruelly hurt others. The author talks about ways Christians treat others that give Christianity a bad name. He discusses the desire of some to legislate Christianity and the failure of many to live up to what they profess.

David Burchett writes as a lay person. He is an Emmy Award-winning sports writer for Fox Sports. This review may sound as if the author is anti-Christianity, but nothing is further from the truth. Burchett is a practicing Christian who would like to see Christians better represent Jesus.

Seabiscuit: An American Legend

by Laura Hillenbran. Ballantine Books, 2001, 253 pages.

Soft-cover:

List Price.....\$15.95 Amazon.....\$11.16

This is one of those real life stories that is larger than life. It's about a horse who became an icon for a once wealthy nation during hard times when hope was as tough to come by as bread or money. It's a story about losers who became winners because they formed a winning team.

The story begins when a broken-down horse with serious behavior problems is discovered by a man with few social skills, who communicates better with horses than people. They are soon joined by a one-eyed, too-tall, Shakespeare-quoting jockey who frequently got into fights and rarely rode a winning horse. There is one more person in the cast. At first he looks like the only winner in the bunch. He was a born optimist who had made good and was always imagining a better future. The only problem was that he was a grieving father trying to find meaning after the death of his only son. Actually, there is one more important character in this cast, the author Laura Hillenbrand. Illness had forced her to drop out of college. As that illness narrowed her world to her bedroom, using the phone and internet, she began the extensive research that led to the unfolding of this story. Seabiscuit tells the story of losses and losers who still hid deep in their hearts, far from the view of most people, a winning vision.

Read this book for the pure pleasure of a story well told. Read it to remember that even the most difficult child in your class has the potential to be a winner. Know that it often takes a team to make that happen. You don't have to do it yourself. Read it also to think of your own life and the team members you need to win the races God has set before you.

Checklist for Life

by Steve Parolin., Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2002, 317 pages.

Soft-cover:

List Price.....\$14.99 Amazon.....\$10.49

Checklist for Life contains timeless wisdom and foolproof strategies for making the most of life's challenges and opportunities. Each chapter begins with a brief inspirational essay and then introduces a life tool. After engaging your understanding the book encourages you to make a commitment by checking off sentences that start with "I WILL." The next step is action. A "Things To Do" list allows you to check those actions that you choose to do. To help you remember the key ideas related to this tool, the chapter closes with a list of Bible verses and quotes from famous people that give inspiration and hope.

There are two ways to use this book. It can be read as a devotional for the day or be used in an emergency as a disaster kit. You may want to take it in your car or keep by your phone for times of crisis. The checklists and Bible texts can power punch through the dark clouds of strong emotional storms letting the Son shine through. The book is equally effective if you read and meditate on it in the sweet, soft hours of the morning or grasp it desperately in the midst of a crisis. It will minister to you equally well in both circumstances. You will probably use it in many ways perhaps sharing your favorite parts in morning worship with other teachers or in your classroom.

GROUP 2**TEACHING AND UNDERSTANDING STUDENTS****Teaching the Faith: An Essential Guide for Building Faith-Shaped Kids**

by Donna J. Habenicht and Larry Burton, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2004, 480 pages.

Soft-cover:

List price.....\$19.99

As indicated by the title, *Teaching the Faith* is a comprehensive guide to teaching faith to children. Considerable background information on understanding children and newer techniques of teaching are included. Some information in this book pertains to organizing and teaching Sabbath School, but most is about teaching in any setting.

The authors begin by looking at how the lives of children are different in today's world resulting in differences in teaching today as compared to a generation ago. Focus is placed on understanding children and how they learn. In addition to general principles of teaching, *Teaching the Faith* discusses specific teaching strategies such as storytelling, use of music, getting the reluctant student to participate, and using group learning. Emphasis is given to character development and helping children grow spiritually. The last section of the book is concerned with helping children through the tough times in their lives. Chapters in this section include *Death, Divorce, Abuse, End-times, and Roadblocks to Embracing the Faith*. There is so much information included in *Teaching the Faith* you may wish to own a copy.

Two other books written by Donna Habenicht have been included on past Professional Growth Reading Lists. *How to Help Your Child Really Love Jesus* and *10 Christian Values Every Kid Should Know* are worth reviewing and can also be counted toward this year's Professional Growth Certificate.

William Bradford: Plymouth's Faithful Pilgrim

by Gary D. Schmidt. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 1999.

Hard-Cover:

List Price.....\$18.00 Amazon.....\$12.60

As the title implies, this is the story of William Bradford who became the governor of the Plymouth Colony. Like Moses, he did not seek to lead these freedom-seeking people to a new land. Nevertheless, he did it skillfully, never losing his faith that God had sent them on this mission and God would see them through. For thirty years Bradford governed the colony through relentless challenges often on his knees seeking wisdom and divine intervention. For those who look for the hand of God in history, this book will be a very powerful testament that God raises up people to do his work and that mighty things follow from their faithful lives.

Gary Schmidt, an English professor at Calvin College, begins the story with William Bradford's birth in Elizabethan England into a prosperous, farming family. By age 7 he was an orphan who had been moved from relative to relative as one death followed another. Illness also shaped his life when it spared him from becoming a farmer giving him a chance to learn to read. His own reading of the Bible convinced him that some of the things that were happening in the Church of England were not godly. By age 12, he had found a congregation of Puritans some miles from home where in spite of his neighbors' and uncles' strong opposition he insisted on attending. Conviction came early for him, as did the courage to follow his convictions.

The book describes the Puritans' search for a safe place to worship that led them to American and Bradford's thirty years as governor. While telling the story of Bradford and the Puritans, an important part of American history is covered. Since so many textbooks now minimize the spiritual motivation of the Pilgrims and discuss only their financial motivations, it is good to read the account of William Bradford written by another man of faith.

The 7 Laws of the Learner: How to Teach Almost Anything to Practically Anyone!

by Dr. Bruce Wilkinson. Multnomah Publishers, 1992, 350 pages.

Hard-cover:

List Price.....\$22.99

You may recognize the author as the one who wrote the very popular book *The Prayer of Jabez*. If you do, you'll know one important thing, he knows how to make the Bible relevant. Not only does he teach Bible stories well, he also is very good at teaching teachers how to teach the Bible. As founder of "Walk Thru the Bible," he spent several decades teaching teachers all around the world how to teach the Bible in life-changing ways. One reason that he is a powerful teacher is that he knows that the Bible is always team-taught. When we choose to really teach its truths, the Holy Spirit is assigned as our teaching partner.

Interestingly, in the process of teaching Bible teachers, he also discovered much about the basics of teaching any subject. So while the book is especially relevant to Bible teaching, it is also an excellent book on teaching in general.

If you want to learn how to BLOSSOM YOUR STUDENTS, the law of expectation is for you.

If you want to learn how to teach for LIFECHANGE so that your students actually are different people and experience lasting positive change, then the law of application is for you.

If you want to learn how to lead your students to WALK WITH GOD, then the law of revival is for you.

Transforming The Difficult Child: The Nurtured Heart Approach

by Howard Glasser and Jennifer Easley. Vaughan Printing, 1999, 250 pages.

Soft-cover

List Price.....\$22.95 Amazon.....\$18.36

Transforming The Difficult Child is written by "persistent therapists" who discovered a system to teach parents and teachers how to instill new patterns of success in difficult children. They know that great potential is there but that it is imprisoned by bad habits. As Glasser and Easley say, "This is actually excellent news in that what may appear to be a deep-seated psychological problem is far more likely to be simply a habit. Habits can be changed."

The key to their system is the understanding that "A difficult child, in particular must test every new adult they meet to see if that person can handle him or her." They explain why their program succeeds where others fail. "One predominant reason why conventional parenting and teaching approaches consistently fail with the difficult child is that efforts to provide positives and set limits are not well enough coordinated." The authors describe three steps that anyone can learn to work successfully with intense children.

While the book is written primarily for parents, there is a chapter for teachers on how to adapt the system to the classroom.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE
PROFESSIONAL GROWTH READING CREDIT
Form EC325



To receive credit for required reading from the Professional Growth Book List, please complete this form and return it with your Application for Certification (Form EC300) to your local Conference Office of Education.

Applicant's Full Legal Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Early Childhood Program / School: _____

- I am seeking a renewal of my Conditional Certificate.
- I am seeking a renewal of my Early Childhood Education and Care Designated Service Certificate.

To renew a Conditional certificate:

1. Read one book from Group 1 and one book from Group 2.
2. Write a 250-word summary for each book on how it has and/or will help you.

To renew an ECEC Designated Service Certificate

1. Read two books from Group 1 and one book from Group 2.
2. Write a 250-word summary for each book on how it has and/or will help you.

Please list below the books that you've read this year from the 2007 Professional Growth Book List:

1.- _____

2.- _____

3.- _____

- I have completed the Professional Growth Books reading requirement for renewing my current certificate. My summary/critique for each book is enclosed.

Signature _____

Date _____

Send to the local conference Office of Education with your certification application.