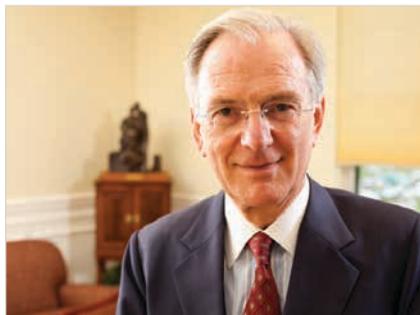


# FOCUS

Sowing Seeds of Grace | Angel on Walnut Street | The World at Your Doorstep





Niels-Erik Andreassen  
President

The current public discussion about education in America is focusing upon access and quality. President Obama restarted that conversation already during his run for election. He observed then that for America to be competitive in the world economy its children and young adults would need access to good quality education, also at the college level. Only with a good education will the next generation be able to take full

advantage of the rapid developments in high technology that impact all areas of our life. And at the individual level, a young adult with a college degree is likely to earn \$1 million more over a lifetime than someone with a high school diploma. Clearly the cost of falling behind in education will be high to individuals, our Church and society at large.

Adventist educators and leaders understood the importance of access to a good quality education almost from the time our Church began. They called it true education, now Christian education. For example, during the 30 years between 1874 when Andrews University was founded and 1905 when Loma Linda University was founded, 11 Adventist colleges were established in North America. That represents one new college every third year on average, or one new Adventist college for every 10,000 new church members on average. Each of those schools, except LLU, generally included elementary, secondary and college levels. And each institution was co-educational from the beginning, usually with a college building in the center and residences for boys/men on one side and girls/women on the other. From a front office in the central building the principal/president could keep a watchful eye on the students! This represented an enormous commitment by our Church to provide access to education for all, men and women alike, as the Church spread across the country from the northeast to the west and south. The plan was to provide a place in school and college for every young adult Adventist. The result of those initiatives was impressive. By 1960 when Andrews and Loma Linda universities were formed, one student attended an Adventist school for every four church members worldwide.

In our time that once impressive ratio has slipped so that we now enroll one student for every ten church members worldwide. That does not necessarily mean Adventist parents and church leaders have retreated from their commitment to education, but for whatever reason our Church membership is growing faster than our education enrollment. Clearly, new strategies will have to be employed in order for Adventists to keep their commitment to education strong. One of those strategies is the newly formed alliance between Andrews and Griggs universities. That alliance was voted by the General Conference Executive Committee, the Griggs board and the Andrews board last fall, and the move of Griggs to Andrews will take place this summer. A few Griggs staff persons will be integrated directly into Andrews service and support departments, such as Admissions, Academic Records and Student Financial Services. Most other Griggs people will have their offices in part of the Lake Union Conference building that is now being vacated by members of the Union staff. That whole facility will become part of the University once new Union headquarters have been constructed near campus, and more Andrews activities will transfer to the Lake Union Conference building. After the move we will work on accreditation, educational quality and standards to make sure that access and quality continue together in Adventist education.

It is our hope that the Griggs-Andrews alliance will set a new pattern in our church for making good quality Christian education accessible to all, even those who cannot attend an Adventist school or college, and even in places where adequate Adventist schools and colleges do not exist. Once the alliance of the two institutions is fully implemented, it is anticipated that Andrews will serve more than 10,000 students, about one-third on the campus in Michigan and two-thirds across the country and around the world. If God continues to bless and this initiative works well, it may establish a new pattern in Adventist education that offers access with quality to thousands of Adventist children and young adults who are now left behind.

# FOCUS

The Andrews University Magazine

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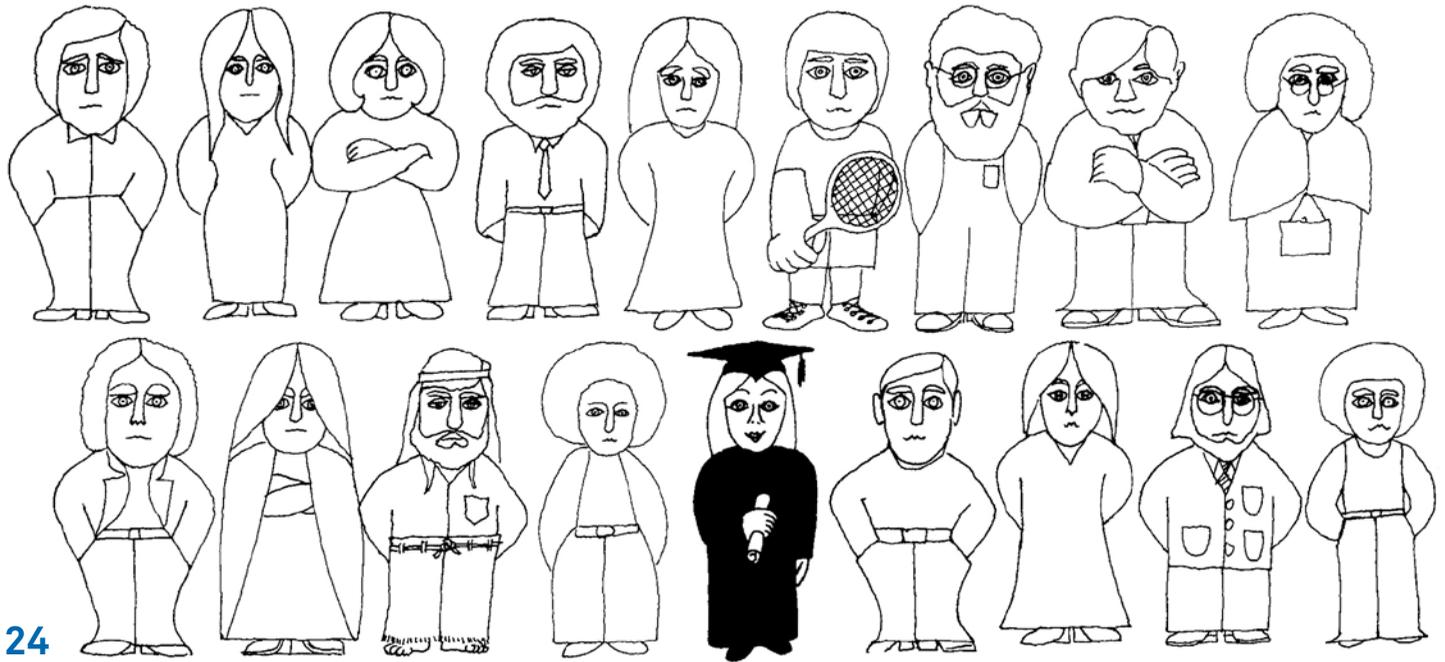
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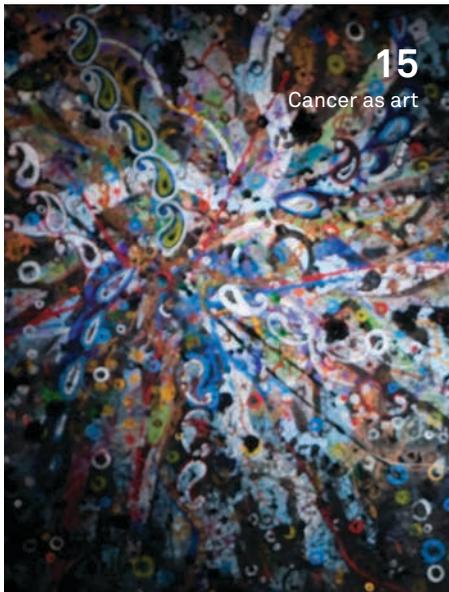
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On the cover: The staff of Home Study Institute in 1949. Front row, L-R: Mr. Evans, Edna Middleton, Christine Boss, Elsie Ford, Betty Gray, Verlin Wall, Dr. W. Homer Teesdale. Middle row, L-R: Unidentified, Ruby Kerr Parsons, Unidentified, Unidentified. Back row, L-R: Mrs. Bell, Barry Rowenfeld, Unidentified, Mrs. Brando. (Photo courtesy of Betty Gray)