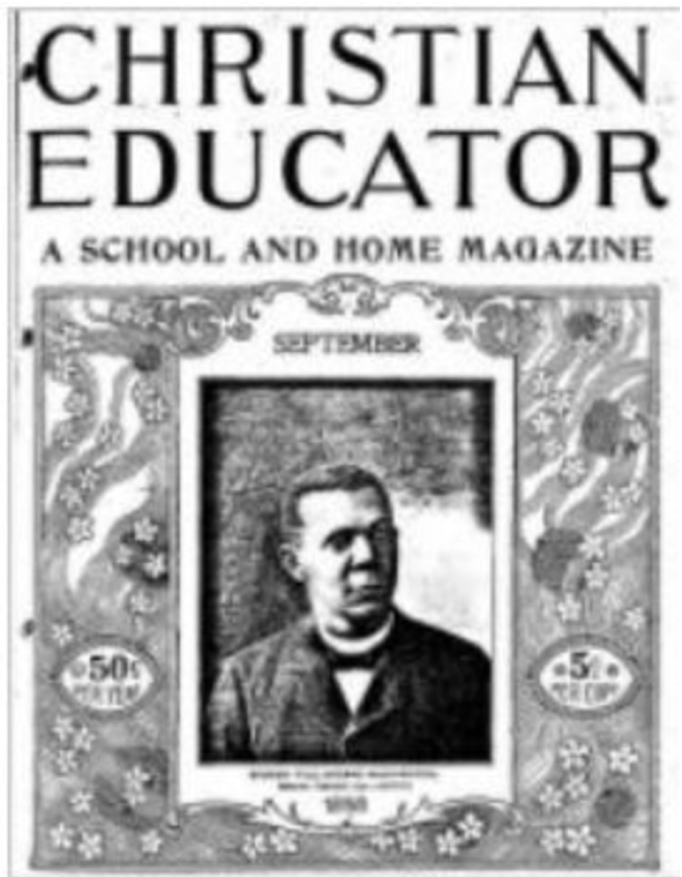


The Christian Educator

(1897–1899)

MILTON HOOK

Milton Hook, Ed.D. (Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, the United States). Hook retired in 1997 as a minister in the Greater Sydney Conference, Australia. An Australian by birth Hook has served the Church as a teacher at the elementary, academy and college levels, a missionary in Papua New Guinea, and as a local church pastor. In retirement he is a conjoint senior lecturer at Avondale College of Higher Education. He has authored *Flames Over Battle Creek*, *Avondale: Experiment on the Dora*, *Desmond Ford: Reformist Theologian, Gospel Revivalist* the *Seventh-day Adventist Heritage Series*, and many magazine articles. He is married to Noeleen and has two sons and three grandchildren.



The Christian Educator

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The Christian Educator was a monthly periodical devoted to the philosophy and methods of education in Seventh-day Adventist homes, elementary schools, academies and colleges. It was

produced under the aegis of the General Conference Education Department and printed at the Review and Herald Publishing Company, Battle Creek, Michigan. On its masthead it carried the declaration, "The true object of education is to restore the image of God in the soul." Frank William Howe served as its editor.¹

The first issue of *The Christian Educator* was dated July 1897. Extant copies run to June 1899, but it may have extended further because the last available copy advertised articles planned for an issue in July 1899. The columns of the first ten issues are crammed with type and have virtually no illustrations. Most of these early issues contain sixteen pages. The annual subscription was forty cents.² An improved format appeared in May 1898 with an attractive cover and some illustrations to break up the monotony of solid blocks of type. At the same time the size of the periodical was doubled to thirty-two pages and its annual subscription increased to fifty cents.³

Howe had attended Battle Creek College and was a bachelor at the time of his work as an editor. He showed a special interest in the role of agriculture in education, earning a Master of Science degree from the Michigan Agricultural College. Later in life he founded and became dean of the agricultural department of Syracuse

University.⁴ Many articles in *The Christian Educator* advocated the value of agriculture in the school curriculum.⁵ He also invited specialists in other fields of study to contribute articles to the periodical, one example being Dr. David Paulson's piece titled "How to Make the Study of Physiology Interesting."⁶

One of the chief characteristics of the periodical was Howe's survey of non-Seventh-day Adventist educational institutions where the classic curriculum was replaced with a balance of academic and manual training. One example was an article in June 1898 about the first established sloyd school, one located in Sweden that practiced the balance of work and study. At the time it was an unorthodox method of education.⁷ In December 1898 a similar article was published about a Jewish school in Chicago that followed the same work/study ethic.⁸ A further example appeared in February 1899 titled "The School of the Evangelists," describing a private school in Tennessee initiated by Dr. Stanley Johnson for the express purpose of training young preachers who did not have funds to attend a regular seminary.⁹ Columns such as these served to endorse similar enterprises in the Seventh-day Adventist educational system when the schools were still in their experimental years.

The Christian Educator was eventually replaced by a regular column about education in the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, beginning with the issue of December 3, 1903. The Education Department of the General Conference continued to carry the responsibility of supplying appropriate articles to promote Christian education and report news items from denominational schools and colleges worldwide.¹⁰ It proved to be an interim measure until periodicals devoted wholly to the Seventh-day Adventist educational system were revived later.

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NOTES

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 10. Frederick Griggs, "The Educational Department of the Review and Herald," *ARH*, December 3, 1903, 21.
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