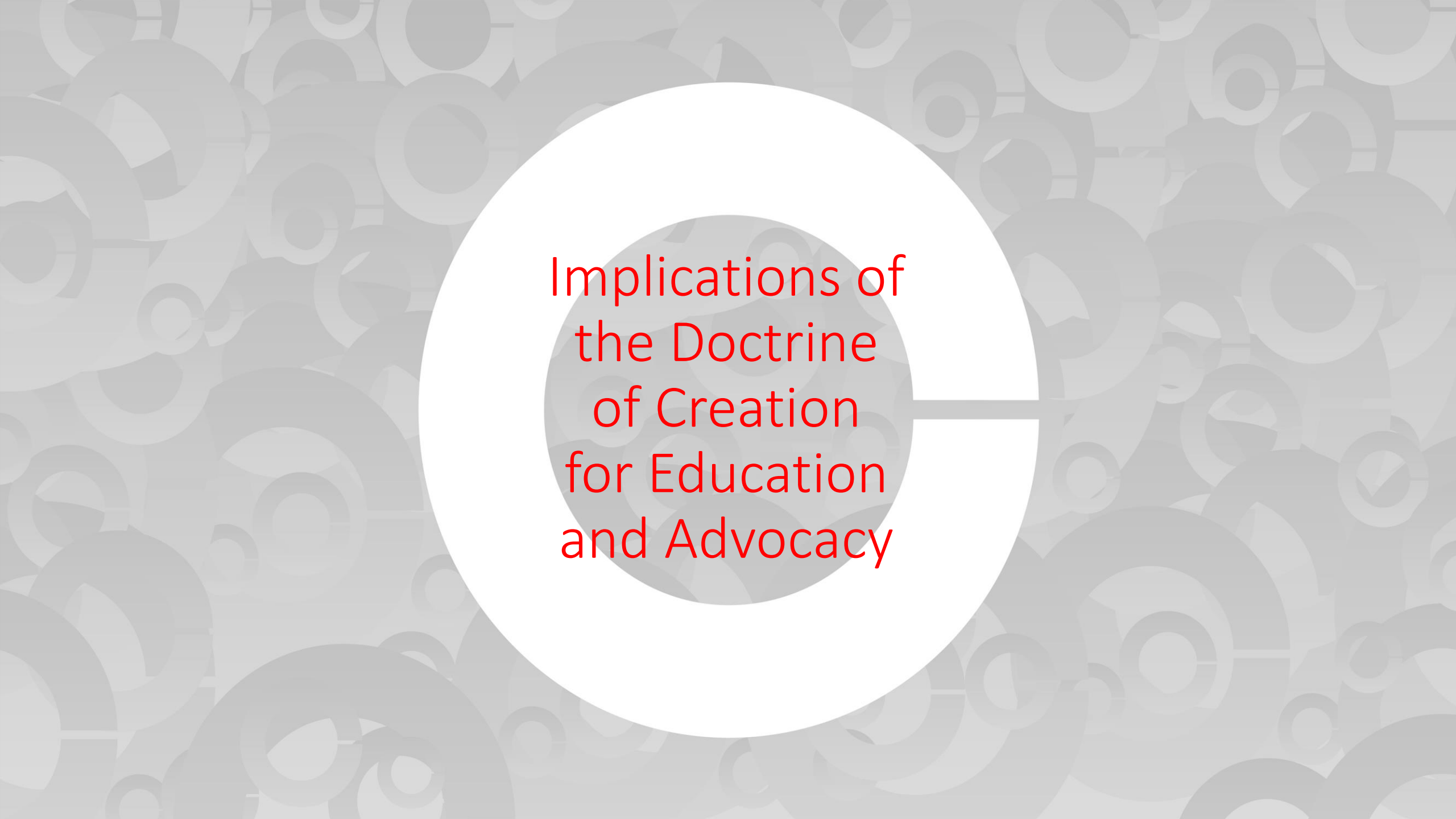




Lisa
Beardsley-Hardy
GC Director of
Education



Implications of
the Doctrine
of Creation
for Education
and Advocacy

Humans are Created in the Image of God (Genesis 1:26-27)

- Physically
- Mentally
- Spiritually

Capable of continuous growth to “more fully” reflect
“the glory of the Creator.”

The Eden School

“The garden of Eden was the schoolroom, **nature was the lessonbook**, the Creator Himself was the Instructor, and the parents of the human family were the students.” E. G. White, *Education*, 20. (Emphasis added)

The Book of Nature

“The book of nature, which spread its living lessons before them, afforded an exhaustless source of instruction and delight. On every leaf of the forest and stone of the mountains, in every shining star, in earth and sea and sky, God's name was written. With both the animate and the inanimate creation—with leaf and flower and tree, and with every living creature, from the leviathan of the waters to the mote in the sunbeam—the dwellers in Eden held converse, gathering from each the secrets of its life.” Ibid., 21.

The Book of Nature

“God's glory in the heavens, the innumerable worlds in their orderly revolutions, ‘the balancings of the clouds’ (Job 37:16), the mysteries of light and sound, of day and night—all were objects of study by the pupils of earth's first school. The laws and operations of nature, and the great principles of truth that govern the spiritual universe, were opened to their minds by the infinite Author of all.” Ibid., 21-22.

The Original Work Study Program

“To Adam and Eve was committed the care of the garden, "to dress it and to keep it." Genesis 2:15. Though rich in all that the Owner of the universe could supply, they were not to be idle. Useful occupation was appointed them as a blessing, to strengthen the body, to expand the mind, and to develop the character.”
Ibid., 21.

Learning Objective and God's Ideal is Godliness--Godlikeness

“[H]igher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness--godlikeness--is the goal to be reached.” Ibid., 18.

As a Consequence of the Fall

- The divine image in humans is “well-nigh obliterated”
 - Physical powers weakened
 - Mental capacity lessened
 - Spiritual vision dimmed

Expelled From the Eden School (Gen 3:23-24)

- Ground is cursed
- Thorns and thistles grow.
- Wearisome toil and pain and suffering emerge.
- Animals, every living thing and people die.
- But grace and hope are extended through One who would crush the serpent (Gen 3:15) and the covering of animal skin (Gen 3:21) foreshadowed the Lamb slain from the Foundation of the world.

Problem of Sin Shapes the Educational Enterprise

“To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the objective of education, the great object of life.” Ibid., 15-16.

Lessons of Good and Evil in Nature

“Although the earth was blighted with the curse, nature was still to be man's lesson book. It could not now represent goodness only; for evil was everywhere present, marring earth and sea and air with its defiling touch. Where once was written only the character of God, the knowledge of good, was now written also the character of Satan, the knowledge of evil. From nature, which now revealed the knowledge of good and evil, man was continually to receive warning as to the results of sin.” Ibid., 26.

Lessons of Good and Evil in Nature

“So far as possible, let the child from his earliest years be placed where this wonderful lesson book shall be open before him. Let him behold the glorious scenes painted by the great Master Artist upon the shifting canvas of the heavens, let him become acquainted with the wonders of earth and sea, let him watch the unfolding mysteries of the changing seasons, and, in all His works, learn of the Creator.” Ibid., 100.

Lessons of Good and Evil in Nature

“In no other way can the foundation of a true education be so firmly and surely laid. Yet even the child, as he comes in contact with nature, will see cause for perplexity. He cannot but recognize the working of antagonistic forces. It is here that nature needs an interpreter. Looking upon the evil manifest even in the natural world, all have the same sorrowful lesson to learn—‘An enemy hath done this.’ Matthew 13:28.”
Ibid., 101.

Congruity between the Bible and the Book of Nature

“Since the book of nature and the book of revelation bear the impress of the same master mind, they cannot but speak in harmony. By different methods, and in different languages, they witness to the same great truths. Science is ever discovering new wonders; but she brings from her research nothing that, rightly understood, conflicts with divine revelation. The book of nature and the written word shed light upon each other. They make us acquainted with God by teaching us something of the laws through which He works.” Ibid., 128.

Nature is a Source of Instruction and Delight

“To the little child, not yet capable of learning from the printed page or of being introduced to the routine of the schoolroom, nature presents an unfailing source of instruction and delight... And for those of older years...nature's teaching will be no less a source of pleasure and of instruction. As the dwellers in Eden learned from nature's pages...so the children of today may learn of Him. The unseen is illustrated by the seen. On everything upon the earth, from the loftiest tree of the forest to the lichen that clings to the rock, from the boundless ocean to the tiniest shell on the shore, they may behold the image and superscription of God.” Ibid., 100.

Specific vs. General Revelation

The Word of God enables us understand the Book of Nature, history, the plan of salvation, and the character of God.



Significance of the Sabbath

- Is revealed in Scripture and not in the Book of Nature.
- Sabbath was established in Eden, blessed by God, and set apart from work (Genesis 2:2-3).
- Sabbath defines what it means to be human: different from the animals also created on Day 6, nor incessant working machines, but rather, created to be capable of intelligent communion with the Creator.

Worship the Creator Rather than Created Things

- “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.” Romans 1:25
 - Humanism
 - Radical environmentalism
 - Animal worship
 - Setting one’s feelings and perceptions above the Word of God

Adventist Education as Evangelism

- Longest and largest evangelistic campaign ever held by the Seventh-day Adventist church.
- Duration of Campaign/year: 800 hours.
- All sixteen years: 37,400 hours.
 - 5-9 hours per day
 - 160-260 days per year

Worship the Creator Rather than Created Things

- “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”
Revelation 14:7

Connect Students to Christ

“[T]he work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, ‘other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus’....Under changed conditions, true education is still conformed to the Creator's plan, the plan of the Eden school. Adam and Eve received instruction through direct communion with God; we behold the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Christ.”

Ibid, 14-15.

SDA Education World Statistics

December 31, 2018

Level	Schools	Teachers	Students
Elementary	6,106	51,035	1,130,026
Secondary	2,548	40,747	575,881
Training Schools	34	536	7,350
Colleges & Universities	119	13,713	168,314
Totals	8,8079	106,031	1,881,571

TED Education Statistics

December 31, 2016

Level	Schools	Teachers	Students
Elementary	30	338	2537
Secondary	26	203	1038
Training Schools	3	139	15
Colleges & Universities	5	164	1315
Totals	64	844	4905

Baptisms in Adventist Education

445,843 baptisms:

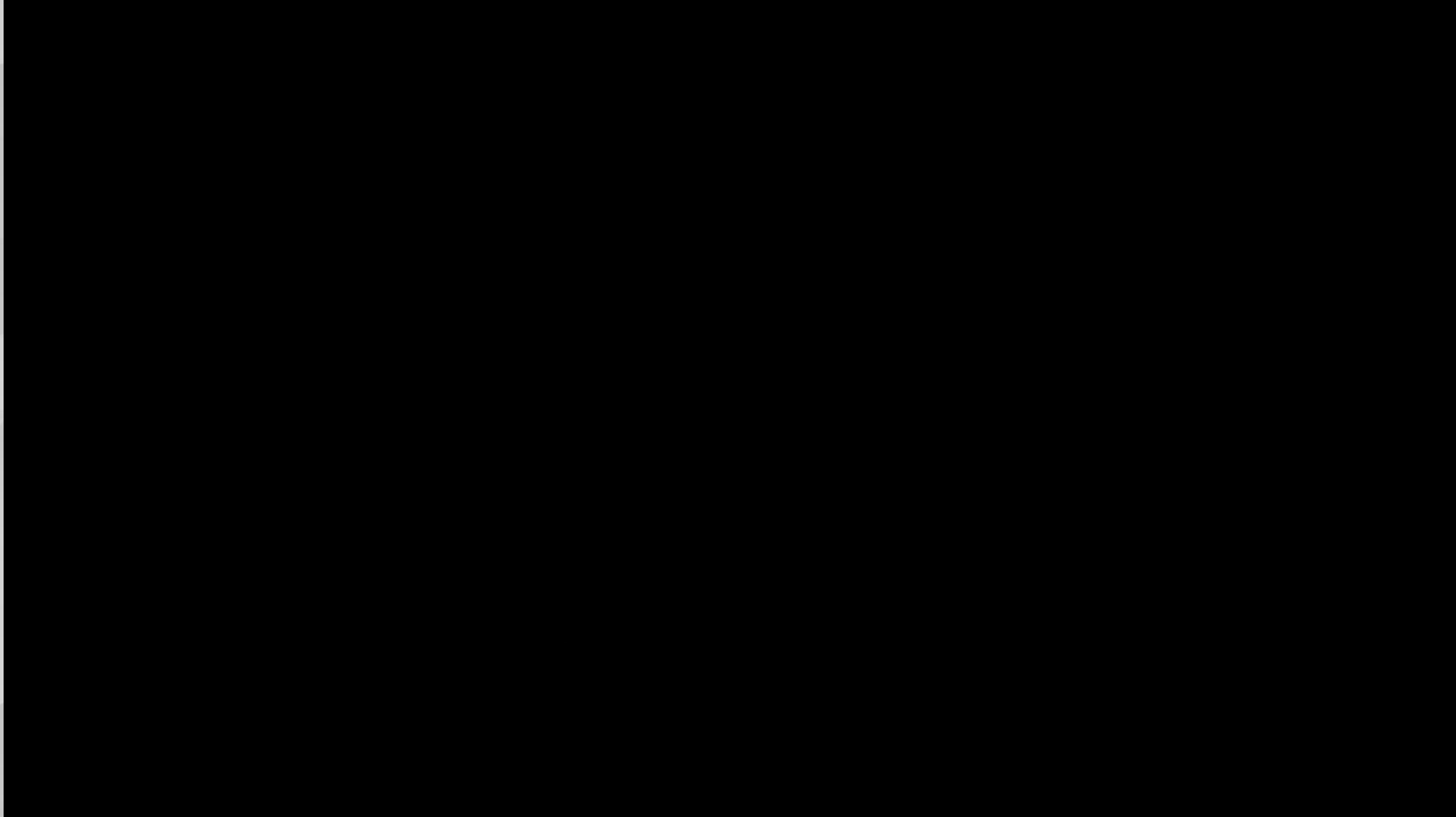
Equivalent to one conference established each year.

Year	Baptized
2007	33,766
2008	33,138
2009	40,415
2010	49,176
2011	50,752
2012	49,774
2013	48,604
2014	47,435
2015	43,475
2016	49,308

Celebrate Creation Sabbath on the 4th Sabbath in October Every Year

- Creation Sabbath is the fourth Sabbath in October every year, when the Seventh-day Adventist Church is “acknowledging God as our Creator and the implications that this biblical teaching has for us to create a worldwide sense of unity in promoting this belief in a positive light.”
- **October 26, 2019**
- **CreationSabbath.net**
 - Resources, videos, social media assets, banners, posters, hymns, children’s stories, bulletin inserts, templates and much more!

This is my Father's World



Responsive Readings, Posters and more

- His Love Endures #712—from Psalm 136
- Let Heaven Praise the Lord #706—from Psalm 14
- O Lord, How Majestic is Your Name #714—from Psalm 8
- Our Lord the Creator #719—from Isaiah 42 and 45



Creation vs. Evolution

- Stewardship of the earth and animals;
- Advocacy for those who are weak or disadvantaged, “ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” James 1:27
- "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will." Rom 12:2 (NIV)
- No morality attached to death
- Survival of the fittest to pass on their genes to the next generation
- Adaptation to the environment

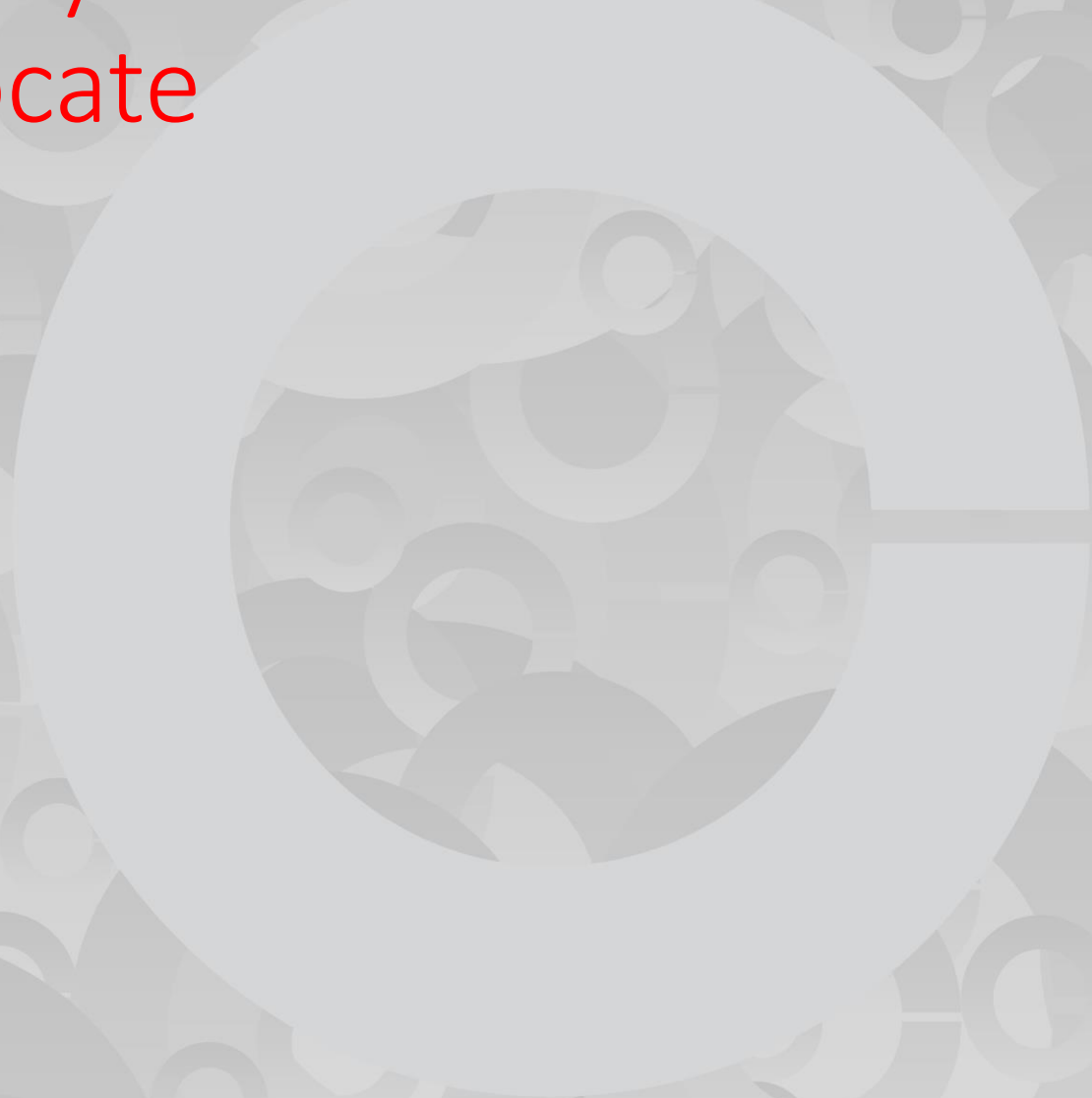
Advocacy for Out of School Children

- Every child. Everywhere. In school
- Download resources
- <https://inschool.adra.org/resources>
- Sign the petition
- <https://inschool.adra.org/-sign-petition>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=J5SNaeqUQIk
- <https://inschool.adra.org/resources>

Advocacy for Those at Risk of Landmines: HeroRats save lives

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0swUc492hU>
- Giant African pouched rats are being trained to detect TNT in landmines and TB.
- Sponsor a HeroRat and save a life.

Practical Ways to Learn From Nature and Be an Advocate



Other Resources

- Geoscience Research Institute (grisda.org)
- Download free copy of Faith Reason & Earth History by Leonard Brand and Arthur Chadwick, (textbook) from AdventistLearningCommunity.com
- AdventistLearningCommunity.com

Eden's Lesson Plan for True Education

- Celebrates creation.
- Has the redemptive purpose to restore the image of God.
- Achieves balanced, wholistic development.
- Is based on the Bible.
- Includes the Book of Nature.
- Fosters commitment to Christ and communion with God.
- Prepares students for time and eternity.

Prayer Requests

- Teachers who love children and follow in the footsteps of Christ
- Creation Sabbath on October 26, 2019



Let us
Worship
the
Creator!