



## PROFESSIONAL GROWTH BOOKS 2024-2025

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 2024-2025 school year, you should read the four 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. One book of your choice, which could be classified under any of these headings, may be substituted for a book on this list.

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## GROUP A – READER’S CHOICE

### *Future Ready: Innovative Missions and Models in Christian Education*

Lynn E. Swaner, Jon Eckert, Efik Ellefsen, and Matthew H. Lee, ACSI- CARDUS, 2022, 172 pages

Soft-cover \$16.99

Amazon \$16.99

This book is about how it’s more than past time for private schools to find ways to make themselves “future-ready”. With strong research to substantiate how enrollment declines, crumbling infrastructure and changing demographics have altered the landscape in private, Christian schools. Other factors such as low compensation, racial trends, and lack of innovation suggests that most Christian schools have been slow to identify and implement innovation and research-based practices. It was refreshing to read about the innovative models of current private schools throughout the country and how these schools are making strong strides toward the goals of sustainability in a new world. This is a great read for anyone connected with improving private, Christian schools, but it’s a must read for administrators!

### *The AI Infused Classroom: Inspiring Ideas to Shift Teaching and Maximize Meaningful Learning in The World Of AI*

Holly Clark, Elevate Books, 2023, 116 pages.

Soft-cover \$21.99

Amazon \$21.99

Holly Clark takes a firm position that the shift to teaching with AI generated methods and materials has begun and that effective teachers must master these new procedures in order to stay relevant. This book is not AI for Dummies. Readers, be alert that you will need either a pre-AI workshop or course in the latest trends otherwise you will might find yourself scratching your head in order to keep up and fully understand this book. Clark acknowledges that making the shift to AI does generate more questions than answers, but she deals with such issues with tact and current research on this

critical topic. A section on comments and reactions from in-service teachers was quite effective in analyzing how others have taken the leap to AI. Through it all, Clark asserts that the AI revolution does not replace the need for well-trained, highly qualified teachers. This innovation, like all others before it will only help make the teaching-learning enterprise more effective. It was interesting to note her answer (YES) to the question of whether or not AI was used to write this book.

### ***The Happiest Man on Earth: The Beautiful Life of An Auschwitz Survivor***

Eddie Jaku, Harper, 2020, 195 pages

Soft-cover \$11.31

Amazon \$11.31

This is an inspirational book about the horrific and challenging life that Eddie Jaku endured and survived while a prisoner of war in several notoriously famous concentration camps during World War II. It's easy to understand how the book became a New York Times best seller with his intimate, heart-breaking and excruciating detailed accounts of the brutality and hatred he experienced during his captivity. As a well-educated engineer, Jaku recounts how his training and his love for people helped him survive in the camps. After losing almost everything in the camps, including his nationality, his country, his freedom, his family, his religion, his health, his dignity, and his optimism, one wonders how he would entitle his book, *The Happiest Man on Earth*. After all of this, Jaku recounts that he never lost his hope that he would make it out alive. He speaks eloquently about the little things that kept him alive, a secret smile from a fellow prisoner, the small gesture of kindness from one of the guards, and lessons of survival he learned from his parents. It's an amazing book that one stays glued to until its conclusion; not so much for the gory details, but for the hope, wisdom, and love he experienced during his confinement and with the world after his release. Jaku's final thoughts after his concentration camp ordeal and after living more than 100 years are phenomenal. He said: "It's never too late to be a kind, polite, loving human being."

## *The Twenty Minute Manager: Giving Effective Feedback*

Contributors: Christopher Argyris, Steve Armstrong, Peter Baskette, Anne, Briggs, Richard Christiano, Harvard Business Review Press, 2014, 96 pages

Soft-cover \$8.79

Amazon Hard Cover \$21.34

This book is one edition in the 20 Minute Manager Series. It is essentially a brief, crash course with concise, practical information on a variety of topics of interest to the busy manager. This one on giving feedback is important because communicating with workers is as important in an educational setting as it is in business. Providing appropriate feedback especially to new/beginning teachers reinforces behaviors leading to more productive actions. This short, easy to read and understand book contains all the essential elements for appropriate feedback, including why feedback matters, when to give it, how to do it, and developing an action plan for incorporating regular, appropriate feedback throughout the organization/school. It was especially refreshing to note the book's inclusion that feedback is significant and necessary when providing praise for good work or correction for the teacher or administrator whenever needed.

## **GROUP B – DEVOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

### *Seeing God through STEM*

Ophelia M. Barizo, Westbow Press, 2023, 85 pages

Soft-cover \$ 14.99

Amazon \$14.99

As you will note with this edition of "Professional Growth Books", STEM-themed books are still in vogue. This one, however, is different. Ophelia Barizo uses her years of teaching science and her experience as an Albert Einstein Distinguished Fellow at the National Science Foundation to fashion a devotional book using STEM principles. And she does it with credible science and a real-life practical spirituality. Here is one of many examples that she uses. A man named George de Mestral went for a walk with his dog in the woods. After returning, he discovered burrs clinging to his clothing and the dog's fur. This observation and many years of research led to Mestral inventing the

scientific miracle of what we now call Velcro, used in fastening things together. Nature, the base of all science, including STEM, Barizo asserts “can thus be the inspiration behind many inventions that are important, necessary, and lifesaving to mankind”. Her devotional focus used Job 12:7-10 where God describes how humans can use the animals (nature) to teach, inform, enlighten and inspire. This book is beautifully written and can be useful to the classroom teacher or anyone seeking inspiration through STEM.

### *The Shepherd King*

David Metzler, Pacific Press, 2023, 383 pages

Hard-cover \$24.95

Amazon \$29.95

This is a well written daily devotional book on Psalms. It features excerpts from the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary and Ellen G. White’s writings. Metzler’s bio states that since retirement from the U. S. Naval Dental Corps that he enjoys researching biblical customs and historical events. This penchant is evident in this book focused on King David whose story has fascinated and inspired Christians and others for generations. Metzler captures David’s struggles with doubt, temptation, betrayal, sorrow and pride and so many other human failings in these selected Psalms. He does it with a specific focus on the human side of David who questioned so diligently many of the same issues most of us have dealt with. This is a beautifully written book for anyone seeking a refreshing, daily devotional guide on forgiveness, salvation and peace that David, “a man after God’s own heart” sought after and found in God.

## GROUP C – SDA CHURCH HISTORY

### *1922: The Rise of Adventist Fundamentalism*

Michael W. Campbell, Pacific Press, 2022, 133 pages

Soft-cover \$15.99

Amazon \$ 15.99

This is a great book for those who enjoy, teach or who just want to know more about the early Adventist church and specifically how its fundamentalist beliefs were established. Campbell takes particular emphasis on defining “fundamental” which he claims can be defined as a negative or positive expression based on an individual’s belief structure. Focusing his research on the Seventh-day Adventist published print sources during the 1920’s, Campbell sets forth the proposition that the “fundamentalist” label or conservative perspective best fit the church’s published and preached patterns. He supports his views with a well-documented timeline and photographs of historical and church events from 1906 to 1927. It should be noted also that this is a continuing historical narrative and follows Campbells last book, 1919: The Untold Story of Adventism. In both volumes, he emphasizes events that show how the Adventist church in its annual conferences and through the prophetic messages of its original and only prophet, E. G. White, established fundamentalist themes which characterize and identify the church to this present day.

### *Ellen White’s Afterlife: Delightful Fictions, Troubling Facts, Enlightening Research*

George R. Knight, Pacific Press, 2019, 176 pages

Soft-cover \$ 17.99

Amazon \$17.99

In this book, acclaimed author, pastor, speaker, university professor and theologian George R. Knight takes on the still vibrant and tough argument among many Adventists and others as to whether or not Ellen G. White was a prophet or plagiarist. He traces how she was viewed regarding her inspiration and her writings with careful documentation and excellent research after her death. He places emphasis on three time periods in the prophet’s life and provides ample examples of her influence on

SDA church attitudes and practices. Interestingly, Knights major theses is that our present beliefs regarding her inspiration is closer to that of what Ellen White believed about herself. His contention is that with more research and with an open mind about her life, her viability, and humanity that more and more will be unveiled about this acknowledged and still revered prophet of God.

## GROUP D – BACKGROUND FOR TEACHING

### *Love + Work: How to Find What You Love, Love What You Do, And Do It for The Rest of Your Life*

Marcus Buckingham, Harvard Business Review Press, 2022, 301 pages

Hard-cover \$15.99

Amazon \$15.99

Marcus Buckingham who already has a distinguished reputation with the Strengths Finder program and ten other books, takes on the subject of work-place balance with this current book. He does it artistically by focusing the book on the concept of love. Contrary to popular opinion, Buckingham makes a strong argument that people should not attempt to separate their personal lives from their work lives. His assertion, backed-up with ample research and personal perspectives is that there is no space between the two. The book provides practical examples and questionnaires for helping the reader determine how to love at work, home and school. These include asking yourself: “When was the last time I lost track of time, what do I love about my job, what do I hate about my job, is my work uplifting or soul destroying” Questions like these can help determine whether you are in the right job/position that fits your inner self according to Buckingham. Finding the right balance takes work, but involves intense meditation, imagining, and making decisions from your instincts about ways you can love your work.

## GROUP E – TEACHER’S PERSONAL GROWTH

### *From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness and Deep Purpose in The Second Half of Life*

Arthur C. Brooks, Portfolio/Penguin, 2022, 252 pages

Hard-cover \$15.26

Amazon \$15.26

It was relatively easy to understand why this book reached number 1 on the New York Times Bestseller list. It’s a fabulous read and offers so much hope, understanding and encouragement to those of us in the older, second halves of our careers. Arthur Brooks, has established himself as a happiness expert, acclaimed, social scientist, well known public speaker and Harvard Professor of Public Leadership. With this book, he provides with significant research, historical and examples and current biographies how to let go of our obsession with success. He advocates with extreme details that we should abandon the destructive habits of workaholism and success addiction and focus instead on what we can achieve as we age. Check out the “second curve” and be enlightened about how to find fulfillment in our declining years. This book should be read by every teacher, school administrator, pastor, and anyone seeking to climb the ladder of success. Read it from cover to cover, contemplate its profound, but interestingly simple formulas, read it over again, hopefully earlier rather than later so the concepts, practices and processes can be thought about, planned and implemented before it’s too late to appreciate their power.

### *Pathways to Possibility: Transforming Our Relationships with Ourselves, Each Other, and The World*

Rosamund Stone Zander, Penguin Books, 2016, 246 pages

Soft-cover \$18.83

Amazon \$18.83

This is a follow-up book to Zander’s first book co-authored with her husband which focused on teaching people to distinguish and make decisions about life categories. They called the categories: Downward Spiral and Radiating Possibility. This book seeks to illuminate new pathways for growth beyond the stories we learn in childhood. It’s an



inspiring book that lets us know that we can rewrite our own stories and transform our lives, relations with others, marriages, and careers. Various “life” stories are presented showing how people don’t have to be slaves to the patterns of early childhood, and that with a combination of mind games, human interaction and the right connections we can become the people we really want to become.

### ***Subversive Sabbath: The Surprising Power of Rest in a Nonstop World***

A. J. Swoboda, Brazos Press, 2018, 235 pages

Soft-cover \$18.57

Amazon \$18.57

This is not a normal book about the pros or cons of Sabbath observance. The title gives a hint to the idea that no matter how much evidence is presented to show that Sabbath observance is good, doing so almost always goes against the established system. With a broad understanding of the history of the Sabbath and ample research to substantiate its benefits, Swoboda makes a strong effort to establish evidence to show the physical and mental health, benefits, as well as societal benefits for keeping Sabbath. Early on, he makes the almost stunning assertion that keeping Sabbath is positive news for anyone seeking to live life God’s way for bringing Christ’s healing work in the world. It’s inspirational even though his definition of Sabbath is more of choosing any day for rest rather than choosing a specific day.

### ***The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry***

John Mark Comer, Waterbrook, 2019, 286 pages

Hard-cover \$13.99

Amazon \$13.99

This is an awesome, inspirational book about how we can slow down our busy, twenty-first century existence by purposefully and prayerfully eliminating HURRY in our lives. Comer, who is already a bestselling author, pastor, teacher and contented family man, sets the tone for the entire book by opening with the words of Jesus as found in Matthew 11:28-30, “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest...” In addition to practicing the words and ways of Jesus for finding rest in Him, Comer asserts through ample research findings how we are all just too busy to

rest. More about Jesus' examples of restful living were included in Part III of Comer's book. He called them the four practices or spiritual disciplines: silence and solitude, sabbath, simplicity, and slowing. At first glance, this seemed like a simple, almost deceptive, everything starting with an "s", formula, but it soon hit me as a powerful gut punch for unhurrying your life. In short, this book is a great read!

### ***You're Only Human: How Your Limits Reflect God's Design and Why That's Good News***

Kelly M Kopic, Brazos Press, 2022, 261 pages

Hard-cover \$14.99

Amazon \$14.99

Drawing on his experience as an award-winning author, pastor, theologian, popular speaker and college professor, Kopic tackles an issue that plagues almost all goal-driven, task-oriented adults in this fast-paced, computer-generated generation. That is the problem of how we can get everything that has to be done in only 24 hours. By introducing us to a relatively new term, "Finitude", Kopic asserts that we really don't have to get it all done, we were not built to get it all done, and that God in His infinite wisdom doesn't really want or need for us to do so. *You're Only Human* presents in a beautiful, human and some might call refreshing manner, a realistic, inspirational method for knowing our limits and measuring what we can and should do to make meaningful impact to ourselves and others.

## **GROUP F – TEACHING AND LEARNING**

### ***AI FOR EDUCATORS: Learning Strategies, Teacher Efficiencies, and a Vision for an Artificial Intelligence Future***

Matt Miller, Ditch That Textbook, Dave Burgess Consulting, 2023, 123 pages

Soft-cover \$24.95

Amazon Hard-cover \$31.95

Matt Miller brings his vast experience as a teacher, speaker and author of six books to this topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI). It was refreshing to acknowledge his assertion that he was trained in journalism, Spanish, and political science not computer technology. His approach therefore is that of a teacher who is able to inspire others with new ideas and perspectives. Accordingly, Miller states early in his book that its purpose is to help educators understand artificial

intelligence and how it might impact education. That, in this reviewer's opinion is what gives this book such impact. It's for teachers who are new to AI. It also contains a wealth of well-organized charts, graphs and tip highlights depicting aspects of AI for the beginner. In addition, it helps teachers understand the general concepts and how they will apply to day-to-day learning in the classroom. This is a must read for the teacher new to AI or for those interested in knowing and understanding its significance now and in the future. As Miller states so eloquently throughout the book, "Artificial Intelligence is no longer science fiction, AI is here".

### ***Bring It to Life: Christian Education and The Transformative Power of Service-Learning***

Lynn E. Swaner and Roger C. S Erdvig, ACSI, 2018, 161 pages.

Soft-cover \$16.95

Amazon \$16.95

Swaner and Erdvig, along with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) the publisher must be applauded for producing this book on Service Learning. While the merits of Service-Learning programs in public schools is a relatively new and widely used educational technique, Service-Learning programs in Christian schools has been almost non-existent. The book makes a strong point about the need to start more Service-Learning programs in Christian schools, but that such programs must be framed with a distinctive Christian perspective. In addition to the rich, well researched content, the reader will find practical worksheets and next steps for getting Service Learning started in their schools, how to locate community resources, budgeting for service learning and setting realistic goals and objectives. Finally, it was refreshing to show how the authors utilized scripture (Eph. 2:10) to support more Service-Learning programs in Christian schools.

## ***Choosing and Using Decodable Texts: Practical Tips and Strategies for Enhancing Phonics Instruction***

Wiley Blevins, Scholastic Teacher Resources, 2021, 127 pages

Soft-cover \$14.59

Amazon \$14.59

Phonics instruction has been around for a long time, but this book provides a fresh, new and innovative way to utilize this time-honored teaching method. It's called Decodable or Accountable texts. Blevins wrote this book after learning that the teachers in his school knew about Decodable text teaching, and had materials in their resource kits, but they were not using them. When Blevins asked them why they were not using these materials, he was struck by their answers. "These materials are boring and stupid" they quickly stated. This blunt and unexpected response by his teachers was the spark for Wiley Blevins to devote considerable time, energy, research and effort to write this book. The result is this outstanding follow-up to his earlier book on Phonics instruction. He goes to great length to explain why quality decodable text is an essential early learning tool and he demonstrates with easy-to-understand illustrations, charts, graphs and practical examples of how decodable text material can be used in the classroom. It's more than a solid reference book, and it's a practical, user-friendly tool written from the teacher's perspective for understanding and using decodable text in the classroom, a definite source for improving phonics instruction.

## ***How to Plan Differentiated Reading Instruction: Resources for Grades K-3***

Sharon Walpole, Michael C. McKenna, The Guilford Press, 2017, 284 pages

Soft-cover \$26.80

Amazon Hard-cover \$59.00

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the authors widely used, popular earlier book on differentiated instruction, and the results are obvious based on public acclaim and strong research results. The wealth of Information on differentiated learning is well researched and the utilization of practical charts and illustrations are first class. Particular attention was given to the lesson plans which are active, cover the spectrum of learning styles and are well in line with the "differentiated" instructional design. In short, the lesson plans

are classroom ready. If you are looking for the definitive work on instructional design in general and differentiated learning specifically, this is it.

### ***On Christian Teaching: Practicing Faith in The Classroom***

David I. Smith, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2018, 170 pages

Soft-cover \$18.98

Amazon \$18.98

With an outstanding reputation for teaching, writing and lecturing on the topic of Christian education, David Smith expands his repertoire with this book on the general topic of the integration of faith and learning. Smith argues persuasively that a large existing library of books on this topic tend to miss the mark. His intention is to go beyond typical “integration of faith and learning” models and to focus on what happens during the teaching process itself. With bold analysis and the use of existing models of pedagogy, Smith demonstrates his theories with much skill and persuasion. His focus is that teaching in such a way that “one’s faith informs the processes, moves, the practices, and pedagogy involved in the integration of faith and learning. He continues with a focus on face-to-face teaching with classroom practices steeped in the basic foundation of Christian love and faith for the students at all levels of education. In addition, he challenges established Christian education with a call for expanded research and writing on this broad, but still to be more clearly defined topic.

### ***Sounding Out the Sight Words: An Alternative to Rote Memorization***

Denise Eide and Cindy Kringelis, Logic of English, 2017, 162 pages

Spiral-Bound \$29.63

Amazon \$29.63

Cindy Kringelis wrote this booklet or workbook as a challenge. She was captivated by watching the 2014 Scripps National Spelling BEE and also wanted to help her own daughter learn some of the foundational levels of spelling and sounding out words that she observed from the young spelling geniuses. Soon, she discovered the work of Denise Eide in her groundbreaking book, Uncovering the logic of English. Using the principles found in the Dolch words list which focused on the 200 most frequently found words in books that children read, Kringelis created this series of “instant

lessons” to help educators and parents teach these words logically through phonics. It's a fascinating read with a new focus on teaching the skills needed to help students understand the connection between the spelling and sounds of words.

### ***The Formative 5 In Action***

Francis (Skip) Fennell, Beth McCord Kobett, Jonathan A. Wray, Corwin, 2024, 187 pages

Spiral-bound \$34.94

Amazon \$34.94

*The Formative 5 in Action* is an updated and expanded version of the authors’ best-selling, earlier book. This one contains all the elements of the earlier version with added emphasis on assessment for high school students. It also provides added focus on the importance of feedback in order to strengthen students understanding of where they were strong and where additional assistance is needed. The layout is awesome with plenty of easy-to-understand charts and graphs, including opportunities to “try out” formative assessment techniques and procedures. The sections on video technology resources (with QR codes) and exit tasks complete the formative assessment cycle and provides up-to-date innovation for making this often-difficult part of the teaching-learning process even stronger. This book with its color-coded module layout (thus the title), and so much more, is a model for teachers, administrators and anyone wishing to understand and practice state-of-the-art, formative assessment.

### ***The Talent Code: Greatness Isn't Born, It's Grown***

Daniel Coyle, Random House, 2009, 236 pages

Soft-cover \$18.73

Amazon Hard-cover 15.24

Coyle, who already holds credentials as a New York Times, Bestselling author, hits a homerun again with the book, *The Talent Code*. His thesis, as indicated in the title, asserts that talent is not born, but it is grown or developed over time with lots of focused, targeted practice. In addition to deep, targeted practice, Coyle introduces the reader to a relatively new micro logical substance called myelin. The theory behind this finding is that with lots of practice, the myelin wraps itself around nerve fibers and

increases individual ability in physical, mental and psychological activities. This includes sports, various talents and other unique abilities. In short, the more myelin an individual produces, the more skill, strength and ability becomes evident. Coyle's, challenge is to convince the reader with cutting-edge research and case studies from around the world that this ability to grow talent is far from some mystical wish, and that it can be created and nurtured in almost anybody.

## GROUP G – UNDERSTANDING STUDENTS

### *Culturally Responsive Teaching & The Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students*

Zaretta Hammond, Corwin, 2015, 173 pages

Soft-cover \$32.53

Amazon \$32.53

This is an important book. It's content dealing with cultural responsiveness and brain chemistry is critically important for expanding our knowledge and attitudes about how to be an effective teacher of minority children. Further, it's a topic whose answers have been difficult to prove and implement. It is even more important now (nearly 10 years after publication) because of a national trend in book banning, and loss of DEI (diversity, ethnicity, inclusion) programs in schools including colleges and universities throughout our country. Hammond's brilliant introduction lays out with great clarity the purpose of the book, its intended audience, research procedures, and action planning. Her purposeful charts and graphs are well configured and easy to understand. Her action steps for teachers interested in pursuing this topic are right on target. Hammonds must be celebrated for authoring this book, and whoever suggested it for Professional Growth must be commended, even though it's a bit dated.

## *God, Grades & Graduation: Religion's Surprising Impact on Academic Success*

Ilana M. Horwitz, Oxford University Press, 2022, 240 pages

Hard-cover \$13.49

Amazon \$13.49

This is a fascinating, well written book that looks at how people's religious upbringing plays a role in their children's educational journeys. Using data from thousands of cases based on the 10-year, National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR), Horwitz examines the "indelible role that character and personal responsibility plays in a student's ultimate ascent up the educational ladder". This also includes higher college graduation rates for students with religious backgrounds. This fact alone of the many startling facts gives extra credence to SDA educators justification about the important role that religion plays in our educational philosophy and practice. It's an encouraging, inspirational and studious read for all of us

## *Leading Insights: Mental Health and Well Being*

Lynn E. Swaner, Editor, ACSI, 2022, 152 pages

Soft-cover \$11.99

Amazon \$11.99

This book is a monograph on mental health in Christian Schools published by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). It tackles a well-known issue in Christian schools, but it is an issue that historically has yielded few answers or solutions. The book highlights with credible research details that many Christian school teachers and administrators were aware of, but for various reasons including religious dogma, disbelief, ignorance, or all the preceding have been unable to solve. Valuable research is presented detailing that many of the same mental health issues plaguing students in public schools also are present in Christian schools. This includes anxiety disorders, suicide, bullying and negative social media/cell phone practices to name a few. Fortunately, many Christian school administrators, due in part to monographs like this, are becoming more aware that their students are not immune to these trends, and that much more needs to be done to find and activate solutions. While there were some



references and resources, more practical ideas, programs and collaborative practices are needed to assist the Christian school community with this issue.

## ORDERING BOOKS 2024-2025

All books should be ordered directly from the publisher or the Adventist Book Center, not from the North American Division Office of Education. Prices also have been given, when available, for purchasing books from Amazon.com. Unlike list prices, those for Amazon.com are subject to change.

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