



Humberto Mario Rasi

March 23, 1935 - June 28, 2023

It is with great sadness that we share news of the passing of Dr. Humberto Mario Rasi, 88. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1935, the trajectory of his life and service impacted the global Seventh-day Adventist Church, evidenced by the many roles he held in his lifetime: editor, translator, educator, educational administrator, author, and ordained minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

A skilled, experienced educational administrator, Dr. Rasi served at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as an associate director of education (1986-1990) and director of education (1990-2002). With these roles came membership on THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION® Advisory Board, and in this capacity, Dr. Rasi was instrumental in shaping the tone and direction of professional development for Adventist educators, pre-K-higher education. Between 1987 and

“Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them’” (Revelation 14:12, 13, NIV).*

2005, he wrote 20 articles and editorials for the JOURNAL on topics ranging from helping educators to train students to think critically to assessing trends in education to what makes a school Adventist (see Sidebar 1 on page 45).

In addition to his contributions to the JOURNAL, Dr. Rasi launched *College and University Dialogue* (<https://dialogue.adventist.org/home>) in 1989. Known informally as *Dialogue*, this magazine was the first publication to publish content targeted directly to Adventist college and university students and faculty studying and working in public institutions. Dr. Rasi also initiated the Institute for Christian Teaching and, from 1987 to 2014, organized international seminars on the Integration of Faith and Learning (IFL) for Adventist educators. Through these seminars, Adventist educators in higher education received professional training on the “how” of IFL and conducted and presented



The General Conference Department of Education team, world division education directors, and invited retirees at the October 2011 Education Advisory.

their own research on integrating faith in the classroom. Their work, a collection of approximately 1,500 monographs, is currently available in the 40-volume *Christ in the Classroom* collection, which can be accessed through the Institute of Christian Teaching website (https://christintheclassroom.org/search_volume.html). *The Handbook of Integration of Faith and Learning* (Berrien Springs, Michigan: Andrews University Press, in press), a forthcoming publication sponsored by the General Conference Education Department, will be dedicated to Dr. Rasi.

More than just an outstanding leader, Dr. Humberto Rasi was a valued colleague, trusted friend, and dynamic mentor to many (see Sidebar 2 on page 46). We will miss him. “Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20, KJV).

By THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION® Staff

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Sidebar 1: JAE Articles and Editorials Authored or Coauthored by Humberto M. Rasi

Articles

Humberto M. Rasi, “What Does the Bible Teach About Our Relationship to the Environment?” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 76:1 (October/November 2013): 4-9: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae201376010406.pdf>

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_____, “Adventist Education in the 21st Century—Eight Significant Trends,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 72:5 (Summer 2010): 6-9: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae201072050604.pdf>

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_____, “Understanding Columbus and His Legacy,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 55:1 (October/November 1992): 5-9, 46: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae199255010506.pdf>

_____, “The Role of Adventist Education in Global Strategy,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 52:5 (Summer 1990): 11-14: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae199052051104.pdf>

_____, “Helping Students to Learn: Eight Methodological Factors That Can Make a Difference,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 52:1 (October/November 1989): 12-14, 38: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae198952011204.pdf>

_____, “Helping Students to Think Critically,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 49:5 (Summer 1987): 4-6, 28: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae198749050404.pdf>

Humberto M. Rasi et al., “Seventh-day Adventists and Scholarship,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 67:3 (February/March 2005): 16-18: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae200567041603.pdf>

Editorials

Humberto M. Rasi, “Teacher Relationships—Key to Satisfaction and Success,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 67:1 (October/November 2004): 3, 47: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae200467010302.pdf>

_____, “The Task Ahead,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 63:1 (October/November 2000): 3, 47: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae200063010302.pdf>

_____, “What Makes a School Adventist?” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 62:5 (Summer 2000): 4, 5: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae200062050402.pdf>

_____, “School Boards—A Key Role,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 62:2 (December 1999/January 2000): 3, 47: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae199962020302.pdf>

_____, “Back to the Real Basics,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 58:1 (October/November 1995): 3, 16: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae199558010302.pdf>

_____, “Passing on the Torch,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 57:5 (Summer 1995): 4, 5: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae199557050402.pdf>

_____, “A Matter of Mission,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 56:5 (Summer 1994): 3: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae199456050301.pdf>

_____, “Global Trends in Adventist Education,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 55:4 (April/May 1993): 4, 5: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae199355040302.pdf>

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_____, “Facing the New Quinquennium,” *The Journal of Adventist Education* 53:2 (December 1990/January 1991): 3, 25: <https://circle.adventistlearningcommunity.com/files/jae/en/jae199053020302.pdf>

Sidebar 2: Select Words of Reflection

• “Dr. Rasi was a mighty oak. The thick limbs of his intellect stretched out in leafy green, providing dappled sunlight in which seedlings could flourish. Over many decades, untold numbers worldwide grew intellectually and spiritually through his teaching, speaking, writing, editing, translating, and mentoring. He took people, their ideas, their questions, and the mission of Adventist education seriously. Dr. Rasi placed Scripture as the cornerstone of the academic enterprise. By teaching them how to build on this cornerstone, he challenged academics in various disciplines and educators at all levels to engage in deep analysis and application to integrate biblical faith and values with learning.”—Dr. Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, Director of Education, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

• “My beloved doctor . . . [even] at his age, it was difficult to keep up with him! He always had something going on. Restless, bright, committed, an example difficult to imitate. His broad smile, bright eyes, sharp thoughts, and gentle firmness will always be with me. Please, come, Jesus.”—Dr. Efraín Velázquez II, President, Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary, Puerto Rico.

• “We met 24 years ago in Abidjan [Côte d’Ivoire] for an integrating faith in teaching seminar, as indicated by the below picture. We will meet again in the morning of resurrection. . . Psalm 90:12, 13.”—Dr. Adrián Vyambwara, Democratic Republic of Congo,

• “He took us through a Faith and Science seminar at the Geoscience Research Institute in Loma Linda in 2007, and he mentored us to publish our articles in *Christ in the Classroom* in 2007. He was so strong and agile, we kept running after him as we visited

sites in California. May the Lord comfort his family. Thank God for a life of impact.”—Dr. Grace Tayo, past Dean of Sciences and Professor, Babcock University, Nigeria.

• “A cherished mentor, Dr. Humberto Rasi left an indelible mark on our lives and Seventh-day Adventist education. His journey was a symphony of devotion to faith, education, and literature. He was a dedicated educator, scholar, and supporter of Adventist ideals, and his impact is immeasurable. Dr. Rasi combined vision with action. He pioneered the integration of faith and learning, guiding countless students and professionals to embrace biblical beliefs in their chosen fields. His contributions are far-reaching through founding the Institute for Christian Teaching and launching the *College and University Dialogue* journal, among other initiatives. His wisdom, wit, and unwavering commitment to Adventist education will ever inspire us to seek knowledge, uphold Bible-based faith, and embrace the higher ideals of redemptive Christian education. His legacy will continue to shape and uplift generations to come.”—Dr. John Wesley Taylor, President, Andrews University.

• “Humberto Rasi was a gracious Christian gentleman, an excellent administrator and writer, and a strong supporter of the church’s professional publication for educators, *The Journal of Adventist Education*. Among his many significant achievements were the founding of *College and University Dialogue* and his commitment to the integration of faith and learning, which went far beyond lip service—his decades of well-organized seminars (Institute for Christian Teaching) were a blessing to thousands of people and produced a wealth of resource materials that will continue to have an enormous impact on Adventist education.”—Beverly J. Robinson-Rumble, Editor Emeritus, *The Journal of Adventist Education*® (JAE).



Faith and Learning Conference, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, 1999.

Rasi Scholarship

In honor of Humberto Rasi's life and legacy, the Rasi family has established the Rasi Scholarship to support theology students at River Plate Adventist University (UAP) (Entre Rios, Argentina) who are in their final year of studies but lack funds to finish their degrees.

Those wishing to make a tax-deductible donation (U.S.) can send a check made out to the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, writing in the memo line: "Rasi Scholarship UAP – Ar-

gentina." The check should be sent to: Attention: Eugene Korff, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A. To confirm the donation has been received, please take a photo of the check before sending it, then contact Gisela Sicalo (gisela.sicalo@uap.edu.ar/alumni@uap.edu.ar) to confirm that a donation has been made to the scholarship.

A comprehensive obituary of his life's work and contributions to the Adventist Church, globally, can be found online at the following links:

Adventist Review

<https://adventistreview.org/obituary/trailblazing-educator-humberto-mario-rasi-dies-at-88/>

Adventist News Network

<https://adventist.news/news/trail-blazing-educator-humberto-mario-rasi-dies-at-88>

Inter-American Division

<https://interamerica.org/es/2023/07/fallece-a-los-88-anos-el-destacado-educador-humberto-mario-rasi/>



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