

The main essential for quality education is the teacher. Buildings and equipment are necessary, but are secondary. Some of the qualifications for teachers and for administrators will now be considered.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Christian schools need teachers who are spiritually qualified. Teachers must be born again persons to whom God has given the gift of teaching, who find their natural place in the classroom with children. They must have preparation in Bible and a continuous desire to study God's Word.

Teachers must be able to lead students to Christ, be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and be wholesome, exemplary Christians. Their own faith must be lively and growing as they experience God in their personal lives. They must know how to pray and how to ask in faith for the wisdom that is from above.

Other qualifications include these: self-disciplined, conscientious, hard-working, respectful of authority, able to function as a team worker, healthy, possessing a sense of humor, patient, enduring, happy, not a murmurer, evidencing the fruit of the Spirit, and walking in the Spirit.

Christian schools need teachers who are academically qualified, well trained and competent in the content of the subjects they teach and in varied methods of instruction. Teachers also need an understanding of child growth and development. They must be willing to continue their education, earning at least the master's degree. Academic qualifications are essential because the quality of instruction will affect about sixty years of the child's subsequent life, if the Lord tarries. A Christian school should never offer a contract to a teacher to work in an area for which he is not trained.

To be properly prepared for teaching, Bible college graduates need training in academic subject areas, while graduates of other colleges need training in Bible. Since the school purposes to integrate a sound academic education with the Christian view of God in the world, both academic and Bible training are essential. There are no shortcuts. This preparation takes time, usually more than four years.

Christian school principals should meet all the spiritual and academic qualifications for teachers plus at least three years of teaching experience before becoming principals. Additional qualifications for principals include the following: (1) the spiritual gift of administration; (2) leadership ability; (3) graduate study in school administration, preferably in Christian school administration; (4) courage; (5) vision; (6) endurance; (7) the ability to work with adults as well as with children; (8) fiscal responsibility; and (9) the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:2-6, even though the school is not a church.

The greatest need in the Christian school movement today is qualified