



Results!

The Publication of Applied Scholastics for Oregon

Issue 1

What is Applied Scholastics?

Applied Scholastics is a non-profit, public benefit corporation whose purpose is to improve education worldwide.

This organization was established 25 years ago by educators who had achieved miraculous results using L. Ron Hubbard's educational methods known as Study Technology. It has grown into a vital hope for the world in the handling of illiteracy and educational failure.

Applied Scholastics™ programs now

operate in 29 countries on 6 continents. Oregon is the home of several Applied Scholastics affiliated organizations: World Literacy Crusade (WLC) Portland, Columbia Academy and the Delphian School.

In this issue we have focused on the work being done by Applied Scholastics in Oregon and elsewhere.

We hope this will help you open the door to educational success in your community.



Learning and Results



Over the past few years, I have had extensive involvement with Applied Scholastics and a wide range of programs that use L. Ron Hubbard's Study Technology. In fact, one of my most memorable experiences occurred a few years ago when I visited the original World Literacy Crusade program in South Central Los Angeles. I was thoroughly impressed with the unwavering faith these people had in what they were doing. However, being somewhat of a skeptic I wasn't as interested in good intentions as much as I was in results.

It would seem as though education results would be paramount in a society where schools are in crisis. Communities across the country find teachers, parents and school administrators are scrambling for solutions, and with good reason. The number of students being put on Ritalin in order to handle "learning disorders" is skyrocketing. To

make matters worse, it is estimated that 85% of juveniles who appear in court are functionally illiterate.

Who doesn't know a child who has had difficulty with a particular subject, is bored with school or perceives education as something to be endured rather than embraced? How will education help a child if a lack of understanding leads him or her to resort to sheer memorization, acting up in school or dropping out altogether?

All of these seemingly insurmountable problems brings me back to my own skepticism. After considerable inspection, as well as by teaching Study Technology to children myself, my skepticism disappeared. The answer to my original question about Study Technology, "Is it effective?" was a resounding "YES". I could tell you success after success from students who had been labeled "unteachable" whose lives were turned around by Study Technology—my 10-year-old niece included. In fact, the competence and renewed enthusiasm for learning in both children and adults that I have witnessed over the past few years as a result of the Study Technology would make even the greatest skeptic sit up and take notice.

We live in an environment of perplexed, yet well-intentioned teachers, parents and school administrators. I am not only relieved, but elated to tell you that, whether we are talking about solving the problems of the inner city or helping children who live in the West Hills of Portland, there is a solution. That solution is called Applied Scholastics. It is not a panacea, but a vital educational tool that should not be overlooked.

Hillary Larson
Executive Director
World Literacy Crusade

Rebuilding Communities Through Effective Education



Learning how to learn instills self-esteem in youth

Ronnie was about to spend the rest of his life in jail. Arrested for cocaine possession, this was his third offense, his Third Strike. His time was up.

He had been hooked on drugs for years. He had started sniffing paint and glue when he was eleven, and had worked his way through pot and pills to heroin, LSD, and finally, cocaine. He knew that he took the drugs to stem the pain of his illiteracy—Ronnie had a 2nd grade reading level—but he knew of nothing that could remedy that. He had been kicked out of almost twenty schools by the time he dropped out half way through 6th grade.

But then he had fallen in love and had married. He had even managed to stay clean for several years, and had run his own thriving hardwood floor finishing business. He had never learned to read beyond the 2nd grade, but his determination and love for his wife and the three young children they now had, seemed enough to carry him through.

But soon the demons wormed their way back into his life, and he found himself hooked on cocaine once again. Not only that, his wife was now hooked as well. He was about to face the judge on this, his third arrest, the final straw. He needed help, he needed it fast, and he needed it to work a miracle.

And that's just what he found. While living in a shelter, he heard of a group called the World Literacy Crusade, and he decided he'd better go and find out about it.

Ronnie met Reverend Alfreddie Johnson, the preacher that founded and ran the community center, and immediately started on one of the courses they offered. He learned right away about the Study Technology developed by L. Ron Hubbard.

"I love the study tech," said Ronnie in a recent interview. "It has given me a new life. I have the knowledge and ability to learn anything now. There are no limits, only those limits that I have put on myself." Ronnie is now drug-free, and works as a tutor teaching Mr. Hubbard's method to youth at risk in his local community. He has—within just the last six months—increased his reading level from the 2nd grade to the 6th grade. He is continuing in his studies, and knows he will make it to the top.

Ronnie's dramatic turnaround is something that Rev. Johnson has seen on a nearly daily basis since 1992, when he founded the Crusade's first literacy project in Compton, California. By the end of that year, the pro-



Ronnie Brown tutors for the World Literacy Crusade.

gram was so successful that it expanded to several other locations in the US. There are now chapters in San Diego, Portland, Sacramento, Orange County, Atlanta, Miami, Seattle and Harlem, to name a few.

"If you go into any American city and look into the eyes of the young people, you will see anger and alienation," said Rev. Johnson. "Why? They are surrounded by a wealth of opportunity in this country, yet are convinced such opportunity is not for them. This is the result of illiteracy.

"Kids in these neighborhoods don't have 'attention deficit,'" he adds. "They can play video games six straight hours, play sports all weekend, and chase down every dollar in a drug deal while drunk or high. Don't tell me they can't learn to read."

Rev. Johnson is convinced L. Ron Hubbard's Study Technology can resolve the literacy problem and is expanding the World Literacy Crusade to help even more. Thirty chapters and hundreds of volunteers now make up the World Literacy Crusade including one in Portland.

The World Literacy Crusade™ center located in Northeast Portland opened in

August of 1996. Legendary musician, Isaac Hayes—World Literacy Crusade's International Spokesman—came to Portland for the grand opening celebration, and with Reverend Johnson, was on hand for the ribbon cutting.

During the first year alone, over 100 adults and children ranging in age from 6 to 86, participated in programs offered at the center.

"It is alarming to see the literacy level of some of the children that walk through our doors. Some have been diagnosed with ADD. Others are on the brink of being put on Ritalin. Some have just lost interest in school and are just going through the motions. None of these children suffer from a lack of intelligence—they just need to be given the proper tools," says Portland WLC tutor, Dave McKevitt.

He continues, "What makes this program unique is that it is not just about tutoring people so they can do better in school or their jobs. As they are being tutored, they are learning to be tutors themselves which in itself raises their self-worth. We are not providing a service and letting them walk out the door with a better understanding of a particular subject. We are giving the knowledge of how to learn which they will take with them and use in life long after they have graduated this program."

Portland community leaders have seen the results for themselves.

A veteran advocate for Portland's youth, Rev. Robert Richardson, had this to say: "In my capacity as a gang specialist consultant, I feel it has been one of the most needed methods of empowering young gang members to excel to another level of understanding. One of the most impressive things about the World Literacy Crusade curriculum and method of enhancing young people to do better is giving them the ability to learn."

And what do young people say about this program?

When Nairobi Davis was in the 5th grade, she was reading at 2nd grade level and labeled as "learning disabled." After being tutored on Study Technology, she began reading at her grade level. Now in 8th grade she has been invited by four colleges to attend programs for gifted students. Nairobi said, "Before, I didn't want to go to school. Now, I understand and feel good about school. I have learned better methods of study. The program has helped me have a better life and I am very happy."

Jorge, age 16, stated, "The program has helped me a lot. It helped me to read better, to write better and I would recommend this program to anybody."

Ilean, another graduate of the program in Compton, had this to say: "I use the information in school to help get better grades for myself. I think the people at Applied Scholastics really care about young people."

And to sum it up, Cat, another young student said, "I learned that school means victory and power."

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