

SDA EDUCATION TIMELINE

- **1872** – The first Seventh-Day Adventist church school was established in Battle Creek, Michigan, USA, to train workers for the newly established church. The first principal was Goodloe Harper Bell.
- Today, worldwide, the church operates 9489 institutions of learning - primary, high schools, colleges and universities. These institutions employ 111360 teachers who instruct 2,044,709 learners [2022 stats].
- **Ours is the largest Protestant Church School system in the world.**
- **1918** – The first “coloured” congregation in the Southern Africa met in a shoemaker’s shop in Salt River, having been moved from the first Western Cape SDA Church in Roeland Street, Cape Town.
- **1929** – Later a church building, which still serves the Salt River congregation was built by Gawie Africa, uncle of the late Pastor Glen Africa. The cornerstone was laid by the late Pastor I.D.G. Lakay, a church building enthusiast, father of Fragrance, Veracious and Docile. Vicky Sutherland, great-aunt of Pastor G.T. du Preez, started a primary school at this church.
- E.G. White counsels – “Every church should have its’ own primary school. Churches built with backrooms for this purpose”, included: Salt River, Kennington, Elsies River, Wynberg, Mayville [Durban], Kliptown [Johannesburg]. Most church schools began with only one teacher, teaching up to 40 learners in several grades. All gradually grew in number of learners and teachers. They no longer operated behind churches, but owned and developed campuses of their own, with churches built on their campuses.

The Way We Where

- **E.G. White counsels:** “Church schools should be located in country areas, where our youth can be shielded from the influences and temptations of the cities.”



- **1930** – A farm on the banks of a river was bought, far from the city, and a new school was started with Vicky Sutherland as its first teacher. From Good Hope Training School, ministers and teachers graduated to serve the Cape Field for many years. There was also a small Sub. A to Std. 8 school.
- **It all began with a farmhouse** with a sand road leading to it, and not another building anywhere near. In winter the river flooded the field and sometimes the buildings, until it's canalisation much later. The old farmhouse, to the left of where the Southern Publishing Association building now stood, served as a hostel. An outside toilet and a zinc bath in an outhouse met toiletry needs. A tent pitched nearby was the first classroom. Then a men's two-room pre-fab dorm was built to the right of the Southern Publishing Association, which was used as another classroom during the day.
- Eventually came the first three proper classrooms near the front fence, which are still in use. A large zinc auditorium, for church services and camp meetings, was erected to the left of where the present church building stands [it was freezing in winter and stifling in summer].
- **Later the Daniel Theunissen Hall** [named in honour of the first coloured minister, brother -in-law of Vicky Sutherland] was built to replace the rusted-away, often flooded, but much loved Auditorium, which had also become too small for camp meetings.
- **Then came more classrooms** and the hostel[which housed the Good Hope Conference, CC. Bookshop, restaurant, housing and now MOWR] accommodated up to 60 boarders. But large housing developments had sprung up around the now fully-fledged college [Std.10 +2 years]. It was time to move to the country again.
- **1963 – Good Hope College** moved from Riverside to Kuilsriver, to the farm called "Vorentoe".
- When the College left for greener pastures, the Klipfontein Road campus was renamed Riverside. On site today we have Riverside SDA

School, Riverside SDA Church, the Danie Theunissen Hall, and the old hostel building.

- The school currently has eleven staff members: one secretary, one janitor and 9 educators from gr. R to 7. Due to financial constraints we have four teachers on fixed term contracts and we have lost learners due to outstanding fees and transport issues. Our total learnership as at 20/6/'22 is 134 learners.
- Diversity as at 2022 among learners are: South Africans – English; IsiXhosa; Zimbabweans - Shona

