

Education is relationships

By Margaret McIntyre

Consider the example of a tree...

The trunk

The trunk represents the leadership. Any obstruction in the trunk – a cut, a break from the force of a strong wind – prevents the sap from passing through the branches to the rest of the tree.

The branches

Each branch represents a teacher, with the leaves on the branch being the students. There should be a free passage of love from the head, through the teacher to the students. This produces a healthy, happy class. This is achieved through *communication*. If a problem or misunderstanding arises it is important not to suppress it, but to speak openly, in love, with the person concerned, NOT with others about it. Keeping the communication channels open is essential to a healthy atmosphere. Any obstruction at the point of junction between the trunk and branch affects all the leaves on that branch. So, any unresolved problems will affect the children in the class. There must be healing of faulty relationship to achieve wholeness in the children.

The leaves

The nourishment is in the leaves. The sun shines on them and creates food for growth. As food is produced it is passed on to the whole plant. If each leaf represents a child, then the nourishment of a loving attitude is passed from the teacher to each child. As each child allows the Son-shine of God's love to transform him/her on the inside, then they are equipped to contribute to the ministry and growth of the whole school. They can share His love with others in the school and also provide spiritual nourishment for people outside the school as they reach out in His love.

The fruit

The fruit is the result of the combined proper functioning of all the components of the tree. There will be abundant spiritual fruit from the whole school if each person is functioning in the fullness of God's love.