

FAMILY TIMES

A Home-school Newsletter for New Testament Christians
Edited by Bev & Dave Hewitt and Karen & Dave Pratte



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MARCH-MAY, 1996

REPORT ON THE HOME-SCHOOL MEETING AT FC

by David Pratte

Karen and I attended the February lectures for many purposes. These included benefiting from the lessons presented and visiting with our daughter Sharon, who now works in Tampa, and visiting our son Tim, who is now a freshman at F.C. We also had high hopes to meet other home schoolers, promote home schooling among Christians, and encourage the college to be receptive to enrolling home schoolers. On all counts, the week was a success, but we will limit this report to the home-school aspects.

As you know, we have communicated with the college about the GED and related issues. This year Buddy Payne has returned from preaching in Eastern Europe and is back as Academic Dean. He and I were schoolmates at FC a few years ago. Now my son is a student in Buddy's calculus class! Before we arrived, Buddy told Tim that he wanted to visit with Karen and me. On Monday we went to his office and had an excellent visit.

Buddy made several very helpful comments, many of which he repeated at the open meeting for home schoolers later in the week. He said he believes that when home schoolers attend FC, it is a "win-win" situation -- both the college and the students benefit. Home schooling produces the kind of students the college is looking for, and the college is the best environment for home schoolers first leaving home. He said that the college has been studying the entrance requirements for home schoolers at other colleges in Florida, and FC wants to do all it can to encourage home schoolers to attend FC, consistent with the college's high standards. He asked our cooperation to do what we can to help FC find and enroll home schoolers.

Needless to say, we were appreciative of this attitude, to the point of being caught nearly speechless (well, at least I stammered a bit, but by Wednesday's meeting I had recovered)! We stated that we were glad to do what we could to cooperate, and we would appreciate all the college could do to encourage home schooling. We made clear that we and other home schoolers are independent people and will speak out about what we believe. We do not necessarily agree with all FC policies and will not be "yes men" for the college, nor would we expect him to be a "yes man" for home schoolers. With that understanding, we believe we can work together for mutual benefits in the education of our children.

We emphasized that home schoolers are not asking the college to lower its standards for our kids. We don't need that. In fact the reason we home school is because we insist on high standards, and we object to the lowering of standards in so many schools. All we ask of the college is to treat our students with the same fair standards they treat other students.

Specifically, regarding the GED, final policy decisions had not been approved by the college, but here is what was under consideration. In order to avoid possible conflict with the federal government, the college believes students need either a regular high school diploma or the GED for any student who applies for federal financial assistance (grants or loans). However, for other home-schooled students, who do not apply for federal assistance, a cut-off level will be set for the ACT score (or SAT). Students who score above that level and who have transcripts showing they have taken all courses to meet FC's entrance requirements, will be eligible for admission and for *college-sponsored* scholarships without the GED. If students score below the required test level, they will be required to take the GED and will be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis, just as is already done for other students whose qualifications are borderline. Again, these rules are not finalized and may be modified, but we consider them to be reasonable and a definite improvement.

On Wednesday we conducted an open meeting for home schoolers in a classroom provided by the college. The meeting was announced in the official printed program of the lectureship. We had no idea how many would attend, but we had high hopes. Our hopes were exceeded and, while no one said so, I think some FC administrators were frankly surprised. Tim counted 60 people present, not counting the six representatives of the college who attended. The room was full, with people standing in back. Discussion was "lively," much of it centering on FC's admission policies. But many parents discussed other aspects of their home-schooling experience, some asking questions, others giving advice. Overall, we were thrilled with the attendance, with the conduct and comments of the parents, and with the response of the college representatives. Our thanks to all of you who attended and participated.

Where do we go from here? Frankly, I am seriously hoping that home schooling is beginning to receive the respect it deserves among Christians. Major opportunities may be about to open up, and we need to be ready. Here are some specific ideas we are working on. All are tentative but definite possibilities.

We are discussing with the college the possibility of having ANNUAL home-schooling seminars during FC's lectureship. These would involve formal presentations about various aspects of home schooling, as well as open discussion periods.

We are also working on a comprehensive mailing list of home schoolers in non-institutional churches of Christ. This would be used to give notice of seminars, legal issues, materials published by Christians for home schoolers, etc. If you have not been contacted about this, we hope you soon will be. PLEASE HELP US MAKE THIS LIST AS COMPREHENSIVE AS POSSIBLE.

We are considering the possibility of publishing a book (or booklet) which would contain the text of the presentations at the FC home-school seminars. Specifically, we are considering having Christians write reviews of curricula and textbooks available to home schoolers. These would be published in the book.

All these ideas are tentative, and several other ideas are also in the works that may be revealed later. Progress will doubtless be limited by time, resources, and money. But if the iron is hot, we need to strike! You, the readers of this newsletter, will be a big part of these plans. We will not accomplish much without your cooperation. Please keep in touch and offer help where it will be needed.

We want to again extend our richest appreciation to Buddy Payne and all the FC staff for their cooperation with our efforts. We urge their continued effort on behalf of home schoolers. If any of our readers want to write to the college and express your views, write to Buddy Payne, Academic Dean, Florida College, 119 N. Glen Arven, Temple Terrace, FL 33617.

THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS

The fury of the election season is upon us. We believe that this is one of the most significant elections our country has faced in our lifetimes. The outcome could have major impact on all Christians and definitely on home schoolers. This is true at all levels of government, state and local, as well as national.

Voting in primary elections is often neglected, but in some ways is it just as important, if not more so, than the fall elections. Often the best candidates are eliminated because people who hold moral views just do not bother to vote in the primaries. Furthermore, because fewer people vote in primaries, those who do vote carry more weight. If you can influence a dozen people to vote, and they in turn can each influence a dozen more, a whole election might be swayed.

Being an informed voter mainly requires going to the right sources of information. The mainstream media does not accurately discuss moral and religious issues. However, several organizations publish surveys of the moral and family views held by candidates for national office. Many of these organizations also have state or local affiliates that publish the views of state and local candidates. If you write to these groups, in many cases they are glad to mail their information to you free of charge. You may not agree with them on every issue, but the information is very helpful.

After you are on the mailing lists, you will find that you can become an informed voter regarding moral and family issues by investing less time than most people spend reading their daily newspapers. By privately distributing printed information to other faithful Christians, you can also help them become informed voters without pressuring anyone or "arguing politics." Many will express appreciation for the information given them.

Here are some of the national organizations you may find helpful (you will not need to be on all their mailing lists — just two or three will do). Through them you can locate their local and state affiliates. Others of them provide helpful information about bills being considered by Congress or by state legislatures.

National Right to Life Committee, 419 Seventh St., NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20004 (202-626-8824).

Christian Coalition, PO Box 1990, Chesapeake, VA 23327.

Family Research Council, 700 Thirteenth St., NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005.

Eagle Forum, PO Box 618, Alton, IL 62002

American Family Association, PO Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803

Focus on the Family, PO Box 35500, Colorado Springs, CO, 80935 (1-800-232-6459).

We urge you to work for the election of morally upright, pro-family, pro-home-schooling candidates.

MEN & WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

by Karl Hennecke

A few years ago we developed some class material for the church in Columbia, Missouri. We called it Men and Women of the Bible (MWB). There are 96 lessons, all of them available on my home page. There they can be viewed or downloaded as individual text files, or as an executable program file (for each part, 1-4). Readers who have access to the Internet are encouraged to investigate this material for use in your home school.

Home page: <http://users.aol.com/khennecke/index.htm>

Reproduced below is the introduction for the lessons:

Men And Women Of The Bible

Men and Women of the Bible is a course designed to help the student learn more about characters in the Bible and to discover principles that are timeless in their application. It is the goal of this course to provide practical lessons which will benefit the Christian in his walk of faith.

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” Romans 15:4

Old Testament Part 1: Adam - Samuel (24 lessons) Part 2: Saul - Nehemiah (24 lessons)	New Testament Part 3: Life of Christ (24 lessons) Part 4: The Church (24 lessons)
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Writers of the Men and Women of the Bible series have been given freedom to develop their own understanding of the biblical text. Each writer has been permitted to state his own conclusions. Beyond the general editorial policies, the editors have sought no artificial uniformity, and differences are allowed free expression. A writer is responsible for his contribution alone, and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors.

Contributors: Craig Roberts, Kelly Hersey, Ben Holt, Mark Rochat, Robert Bassford, William Beasley, Paul Smith, Ron Bassford, Karl Hennecke

HILLARY CLINTON ON CHILD-REARING

by Mark Mayberry

Hillary Rodham Clinton, the patron saint of feminism, has written a book on child-rearing titled “It Takes A Village.” Actually while Mrs. Clinton claims to have written the book in longhand over the last 6 months, Washington sources reveal that she in fact used a ghostwriter. Be that as it may, HRC, hereafter referred to as Mrs. William Jefferson Clinton, reveals her liberal bias in the very title of the book. She thinks that it takes a village, i.e., “a community,” to raise children. Wrong! Families are the most important component in raising children! Yet, Mrs. William Jefferson Clinton, and others of her ilk, have continually pursued policies that weaken the family structure. At the same time, they define compassion and caring in terms of an ever larger bureaucratic community. Mommy and Daddy, not Uncle Sam, have primary responsibility for molding the next generation.

Community certainly has its place. God established both the state (a civil community) and the church (a spiritual community). Each has a divinely-ordained mission. However, the home predates them both, having been created in the Garden of Eden. Neither the state or the church can fulfill the responsibilities that God gave to parents. If the home, the state, and the church would each focus on their own work, and

remain within their divinely prescribed boundaries, the world would be a much better place. Society would be a much kinder place for children, and all other human beings.

OUR APPRECIATION

Our THANKS to Mark Mayberry and Karl Hennecke for the information they submitted to us for this issue. Special thanks to Jeff Hamilton for his career description and to the Berman family for their family profile. Cindy Shaver has submitted some very interesting information about Internet information available in connection with cable TV stations. Watch for it next issue. We are looking forward to receiving more good material for next issue. We are also hoping to begin publishing the reviews of curricula and textbooks that may eventually be published in a book. This newsletter could not exist without your help. Please remember especially that you can send material to us at our e-mail address in the heading. Thank you very much!

MORE HOME SCHOOLERS OVERSEAS

In past newsletters we have mentioned the Fritzes and the Maydells, who were preaching and home schooling overseas. We want to give you the addresses of some other gospel preachers that we personally know of who are preaching overseas and home schooling. We encourage all our readers to contact them or support them in whatever way you can. Also please send us the names and addresses of other faithful Christians home school overseas so we can include them in future lists.

Les & Linda Maydell, PO Box 12201, Clubview 0014, Rep. of South Africa

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