

FAMILY TIMES

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

Subscriptions \$4 per school year* (USA only). Send to:
Family Times, 7846 St. Joe Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46835

* Four issues yearly. Subs sent after September receive back issues.

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DECEMBER, 1996 - FEBRUARY, 1997



SECOND ANNUAL HOME SCHOOL MEETING AT FLORIDA COLLEGE

The 1997 lectures will be held at Florida College on February 3-6. The college has again agreed for the editors of Family Times to conduct a meeting for people interested in home schooling. This meeting will be held on campus during lecture week.

We encourage all our readers to spread the news. If you can come, please make your plans to attend our meeting. If you know others who are attending the lectures and are interested in learning about home schooling, please inform them of the meeting and encourage them to attend.

Exact plans for day, time, and room have not been finalized with the college as of this writing. We believe the topic will relate to How to Begin Home Schooling, though that too has not yet been finalized. The college has, however, definitely agreed for us to have a meeting, so we are definitely planning one.

Since this is our last newsletter before the lectures, we will not be able to mail you further notice of the meeting. So here's the plan. We will post notices on campus bulletin boards announcing the meeting(s) and giving the specifics about time and place. As soon as you arrive on campus, start looking at bulletin boards. Our notices should be fairly obvious.

Last year's meeting was a great success, and we hope to have even more interest this year. We hope to see you there!

If you have questions, call us at (847)395-8937.

REVIEW OF MCGUFFEY READERS

Reprinted by Mott Media, 1000 E. Huron St., Milford MI 48042.

Reviewed by Terri Brinkley

These books were originally published in 1838 for public schools. My set includes two primers and four readers (covering phonics through high school), a *Progressive Speller*, and a *Parent-Teacher's Guide*, written by Ruth Beechick in 1985.

I prefer to use a different method for teaching phonics and early reading, but once a child has learned phonics and simple reading, I believe *McGuffey's Readers* are excellent. The books are plain, but have simple black and white engravings in the early readers. I believe this helps students learn to appreciate the printed page, without being distracting by many colorful pictures.

Stories in these readers have moral teachings in almost every lesson. Concepts taught include respect for God and other people (especially parents), kindness to animals, diligence in studies, and hard work instead of laziness. Most of the stories are beautiful, but a few are morbid or exaggerated (such as the story of a boy who was deranged for life because other boys frightened him).

Every lesson from the Second Reader through the Fourth has questions to answer and words to spell and define. Also included are rules or exercises to teach enunciation and proper pronunciation of commonly mispronounced words. The *Parent-Teacher Guide* explains different reading levels and how to teach phonics and spelling. It also gives a short summary or comment on each selection, lesson ideas, and a very helpful glossary.

The readings include poems, history stories, and even some science stories. The language is rich and beautiful. The only false doctrine I remember encountering is "soul sleeping."

I recommend *McGuffey's Readers* if your children enjoy historical stories like *Little House on the Prairie*. However, if your children dislike old-fashioned stories, you may prefer other readers. I am convinced these readers will help strengthen morals, improve grammar, and increase vocabulary. I enjoy reading them myself!

[Editor's note: As Terri mentioned, these Readers were originally used in public schools. It is amazing how much public schools have changed! Interestingly, however, the author William McGuffey received most of his education at home from his mother.]

TURNER FAMILY PROFILE

from Mark and Marie Turner

In high school while riding on school buses we often sang a song about "Who We Are..." We are the Turners. Our home school has the same initials as my old high school, Trenton High School. Our home school is the Turner Home School. My old high school's mascot was the tigers, but our children resemble tornadoes when they decide they are going to make a mess! We hope they will use their tornado-like energy in helping to spread the borders of the kingdom of God. For those who do not know the Turners, we are:

Mark is 37 years old, born 11/22/58 in Dayton, Ohio, raised in Trenton, FL, since I was 8, graduated from public school in '77, received an AA degree from a community college in '81, attended FC 83-85 and married in 8/10/85.

Marie (Arterburn) is 29 years old, born 6/6/66 in Columbus, In., graduated from public school in '84, attended FC spring of '85, and married the same time I did! Harry E. Payne, Sr., drove from Fl. to In. to marry us. We've always hoped to pattern our lives and home after those great things we saw in the lives and home of brother and sister Payne!

Our Heritage From the Lord, Our Children are:

Rachel Marie - is nine years old, born 11/12/86. We've known since Rachel was about three that we wanted to home school, even though we had never known anyone to have done it then or that it was legal or growing in popularity! It is what I call the natural instincts of most parents but an instinct that is generally repressed, ignored, or ridiculed as wanting to hold on to our children and be over protective. We started home schooling because of many negative reasons. Now we continue home schooling for mostly positive reasons.

John Mark (he answers to both his first and middle name and not the first name alone) is seven years old, born 10/8/88, is anything but like his older sister! She was a typical girl, and he was a typical boy full of mischief. Marie and I thought all kids were the same back then! We really did! When John Mark began to home school he had a way of using his endless supply of energy in a positive way. He really loves math. I cannot wait until he starts handling our taxes for us!

Deborah Faye is four years old, born 3/8/92. She is named for her grandmother, Karen Faye Turner, in Florida. She is a terrific helper around the house. Sometimes she has been more like her brother than her older sister! If we do not give them something constructive to do they will usually find themselves in trouble. Deborah is complaining about not being able to read yet. She wants to be like her older siblings.

Sarah Ruth is two years old, born 11/03/93. She is named for her grandmother, Ruth Arterburn, who lives in Indiana. Sarah is our clown! If our two dogs, Jack and Jill, are in the house around supper time they seem to find their way over to her seat and sit patiently knowing that

they will be rewarded just as soon as Sarah's mom and dad turn their backs for a moment! Sarah is a typical two year old and cunning as all get out!

We use the Weaver Curriculum and have a very unstructured home school! We may consider using a more structured curriculum as the children get older. We enjoy reading what others think of various teaching tools that are available. We have lived in N.C., Ga., Fl., and now In., because of my preaching. We are very happy working with the Woodmar congregation in Hammond, In. The closest we have lived to the children's grandparents' was while living in south Ga., and in north Fl. we were only two hours drive from my parents. We are currently only about four hours drive from Marie's mother. Children need the great influence of their parents including grandparents!

In our recent lectures at the Woodmar congregation Brent Hunter suggested that families have their own motto that they want their children to always remember when they grow up. In summarizing our family profile we offer the readers of *Family Times* our family motto with a further explanation of it's four points:

Family Motto: We are the Turners, To His Service in all things. Our priorities are: faith, family, friends and freedoms.

To His Service in: FAITH which comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

To His Service as: FAMILY of God (where the blood of Christ is the thickest) and our earthly family which our Father in heaven has blessed us exceedingly, abundantly, more than we ever asked for.

To His Service with: FRIENDS are those we show ourselves friendly toward knowing that, if we can't teach what we don't know, neither can we teach those who we don't know.

To His Service in: FREEDOMS to work and to play and to vote and so much more, including the right to teach our own children.

May God bless each of you and your homes!

To His Service,

The Turners — (Mark, Marie, Rachel, John Mark, Deborah & Sarah.)

BUY & SELL USED BOOKS

Second Harvest

Jeff Hamilton sent us the following information about Second Harvest, R. 1, Box 75, Humphrey, NE 68642; Ph. (402) 923-1682

This business is run by a home-school mom. She both buys and sells used books. You get 40% commission on the books she sells for you. A nice service she offers is to let her know what books you need and she will keep watch for them. A number of the area home schoolers first check with her for their books and then go to curriculum fairs to fill in the missing titles they need for the next year.

Home-school Associates

From Cindy Shaver comes this information about another group that sells new books but will also buy and sell used books. They pass out a sheet having the following information:

40,000 texts in stock; 294 publishers; they do accept major credit cards and you can order through mail; 1-800-882-2828.

Home-school Associates, 116 Third Avenue, Auburn, Maine 04210; Ph. (207) 777-1700.

SCIENCE SUPPLIES

Karl Hennecke sent us the following address. This company sells supplies for science experiments of all types, at very reasonable prices.

Home Training Tools, 2827 Buffalo Horn Drive, Laurel, MT 59044; (800)860-6272.

REVIEW OF MAGAZINES

by Cindy Shaver

The following is a brief review of several of my favorite resources.

Monthly Idea Books by Teacher's Friend Publications. Est cost: \$10.00 each.

These books have a calendar heading for each month that you can color and put above a calendar. Then there is a listing of some special event for each day. What I've done is make a blank calendar and then I make special daily numbers that tell what happened that day in history (assuming it is something I want noted). Then a student may read a book on that topic or look it up in the encyclopedia and write a brief report about it.

The books also include different themes and activities for that month. For example April's book contains creative writing ideas in the form of chickens hatching, thematic activities on bees, bugs, butterflies, parts of a flower, gardening, and the Olympic Games. These activities include puppets, word-seek puzzles, poems, pictures to color, etc.

The Teaching Home, A Christian Magazine for Home Educators. Issue price: \$3.75, subscriptions are \$15.00 year (6 issues) (1-503-253-9633).

This magazine has a resource directory of advertisers, great letters from readers who tell about their own experiences with home schooling, a cover family is featured in each issue, teaching tips, and usually there is a special folder section relating to some topic like learning through literature or higher mathematics.

The Mailbox, The Idea Magazine for Teachers, issue price: \$5.50, subscription price for 6 issues \$22.95. (1-800-334-0298)

This magazine is divided into grade levels (preschool, kindergarten, primary, and intermediate). It features themes also. For example the Oct/Nov issue had a look at colonial America, a reading list relating to colonial America, learning about pumpkins, Thanksgiving reading, punctuation practice help, a section on Italy, a look at volcanoes, etc. the magazine is for school teachers so it has reproducible activities and craft and bulletin board ideas.

Teacher's Helper, Reproducibles for Your Classroom, issue price \$4.25, subscription price for 4 issues is \$14.95.

This is strictly themes with reproducible activities for the kids. The Nov/Dec/Jan issue had turkey activities, quilt activities, a unit on the book "Mama, Do You Love Me?", an Arctic life booklet, and "Professor Groundhog's Weather School."

In order to keep school fun and interesting, I try to add extra activities to the three R's curriculum that I purchase. These magazines provide me with many of my ideas for those activities. The kids love to make the puppets and mobiles that relate to what we are studying. Since Kacey likes to read, she likes the literature activities that go with a book she may be reading.

Most of these are available at the school supply store or at some book stores. You might come out better if you look at each issue and decide if it is worth your investment. Some may only have one or two ideas you care to use, in that case, you may not want to invest the cost of the issue.

WHY I'M GLAD MY PARENTS CHOSE HOME SCHOOLING

by Sharon Pratte

I started school in the public schools (kindergarten through 3rd), but my parents never intended to leave me there because the middle school in our district had so many problems. In third grade, my mother (who volunteered in my class) learned that a friend and I were looking at the math tables to do our math lessons rather than memorizing them (we had a long talk about cheating after that!).

If only that had been the least of their concerns with the public schools! There were so many problems - between attending PTA and school board meetings, volunteering in classes, reading school textbooks to see what was there, producing a newsletter for other parents in the district,

and fighting the school board - they finally decided that home schooling would actually take less time and be a much more positive approach to overseeing my education.

So one day, my parents had a “family meeting” with my brother and sister and me to ask if we would like to school at home. “Cool!” thought I, “that will be a lot easier!” Foolish, naive little Sharon! How little you knew! My dad’s discovery that I still did not know my multiplication tables and was counting on my fingers brought intensive flashcard review, my spelling words went from “bus” to “elementary,” and I couldn’t get away with anything! I think I cried a lot at first, but (secretly) I was proud of what I was starting to learn.

After the first year, I started liking home schooling better. We had a very structured school day, but I still finished school much earlier each day than my friends (who all wished they could go to school at home). And my grades (which had been good to start with) became much better.

I missed a few of my friends from public school at first, but I didn’t miss some kids from public school at all! Also, I became closer with my friends from church (who were better friends, anyway), and with other home schoolers that we did things with (field trips, art classes, chili suppers, spelling bees, end-of-the-year recitals/celebrations, etc.). Mother often made comments about our being “too busy seeing people to be lacking socially.”

I don’t remember ever wishing to go back to the public schools. After what my public school friends described, I had no desire to be there.

Also, my family, I think, is closer because of home schooling. Tim and Susan have been my buddies (not that we never fought, but who else did I have to play with?). My mother remains my close confidant, and my dad knows how to find great puns in every subject (did you know there is a real fish named the humuhumunukunukuapooa fish? We had a great time with that one!). Every day, my family had devotions together (besides the daily Bible study that was always one of my school subjects).

And frankly, when your parents devote that much time and effort to teach you every school day of every year, can there be any doubt that they must love you and care about you a lot? My parents never gave me a better gift except knowledge of the Lord (and home schooling gave them more opportunities to teach the Bible, too). I thank God for them.

In high school, things became more difficult. I don’t think my parents expected to teach me in high school when they started, but each year they said, “Well, we can at least home school one more year.” Schooling took longer, brought unique difficulties (like not having a lab for science classes), and required more research to be sure I was getting what I would need for college. On the other hand, my flexible schedule allowed me to get a day job, and I didn’t have to run all over an enormous building to find my classes! Also, my SAT and ACT (college entry) tests, scored me in the upper 5% of college-bound high-schoolers (even in the dreaded math!).

After high school I went to Florida College. It was not nearly the shock that I thought it would be. I certainly had things to learn, but I really loved it. While all my friends were bored in zoology lab, I was excited because I had never dissected a frog before! I joined so many clubs and activities (Arete, YWTO, Phi Theta Kappa, drama, FC devotions, dorm devotions, etc., etc.) that I lived on 4-6 hours of sleep at night (kids, don’t try that at home!).

Not to brag, but simply to show that home school works, I graduated as salutatorian. I also shared the lower-division Bible award and several other awards. At the University of South Florida, I also graduated *summa cum laude* and with other honors when I received a degree in English - Technical Writing. I now write user manuals for a medical software company (which I love).

Home schooling is not for everyone. Not every public school has the problems mine did. But I feel that my life so far has been successful, and I attribute much of that to the love and care of my parents. I believe that home schooling gave me a closer family, a chance to grow spiritually before facing many of the world’s problems, and a much better education.

Perhaps the best way to sum up my feelings about home schooling is to say that, someday when the Lord blesses me with children of my own, I want to home school them myself.

RAINBOW LESSONS

by Mary Shackleford

I really like *Rainbow Lessons* by Jane Britnell. The lessons are designed for teaching basic Bible stories to preschool children. There are two volumes, Old Testament and New Testament, broken down into 52 lessons each. Each book has instructions for teaching in a Bible class setting or for teaching at home.

Each lesson has a summary of the story, a simple illustration, a memory verse, and questions about the lesson. Also included are directions for two simple "games" using the memory verses and questions. My 5 year old has really enjoyed the material.

[Editor's note: Jane Britnell is a member of a faithful church. Her material can be ordered from any bookstore run by brethren, including Pratte Publications.]

ALASKA RESOLUTION ON HOME SCHOOLING

Submitted by Lynn Schaufel

Oct. 13-19 was declared by the state of Alaska to be Home Education Week. Here are a few excerpts from the declaration as quoted in Sept./Oct. issue of "The Home School Court Report."

" WHEREAS home school families tend to be strong, healthy families who contribute greatly to Alaska society; and... WHEREAS home school students are proving themselves by excelling in college and in the state work force; and WHEREAS the state's home school students are increasingly being recruited by colleges around the country because of their academic achievements;

"BE IT RESOLVED the Alaska State Legislature approves of home schooling as an important part of Alaska's educational infrastructure meriting state sanction and state protection; and be it FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the right of parents to choose home schooling as the education alternative best suited for their children; and be it FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education, school districts, and regional educational attendance areas are encouraged to cooperate with parents who are teaching their children at home; and be it FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct the commissioner of education to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the department of Education, school districts, and regional educational attendance areas do not unnecessarily interfere with parents exercising their right to home school their children;..."

NO RIGHTS FOR PARENTS OF PUBLIC - SCHOOLED CHILDREN?

The following is reprinted from *Family Research Council Washington Watch*, 10/25/96. This paper is available free from Family Research Council, 801 G Street, NW, Washington DC 20001.

Parents effectively lose their right to direct the upbringing of their children when they drop them off at school, according to one federal court judge. Earlier this year, Judge Melinda Harmon, appointed by President Bush, ruled that Katy Independent School District in Texas did not violate parents' rights by allowing Child Protective Services to interrogate a student without notifying his parents, nor by instructing him to lie to his parents about the incident.

HOME SCHOOLER IN CONGRESS

Many of us have reason to be disappointed in the outcome of the Presidential election. However, the US Congress is another matter. There is reason to hope it will be, if anything, even more conservative than the last Congress.

A case in point is Jim Ryun, who was elected to Congress from the state of Kansas. Ryun once held the World Record in running the mile. Labeled as a radical in the election, he nevertheless won.

US News & World Report described Ryun as "a zealous home-schooling Christian."

— via *Citizen*, 12/23/96

SOME SUGGESTED GRADE SCALES

The following grade school has been used (at least for younger grades) by A Beka Correspondence School.	The following grade scale agrees with that defined by the S.A.T. test for use in high school.
A+ = 99-100 A = 96-98 A- = 94-95 B+ = 92-93 B = 89-91 B- = 87-88 C+ = 84-86 C = 80-83 C- = 77-79 D+ = 74-76 D = 69-73 F = 68 & below	A+ = 97-100 A = 93-96 A- = 90-92 B+ = 87-89 B = 83-86 B- = 80-82 C+ = 77-79 C = 73-76 C- = 70-72 D+ = 67-69 D = 65-66 F = 64 or below

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF CHILDREN

Dave Pratte

The bulletin from our Illinois state home schoolers' coalition included the following interesting story. It regards one of our state legislators who was being lobbied by a representative of a group "that professes to be interested in protecting the rights of children" (she did not name the group). At one point she asked this representative why he was opposed to mothers packing their own children's lunches. He said, "Because they probably don't know what food to put in them!"

So she asked him to describe the philosophy of his group. He said, "If you want me to tell you the truth, fundamentally, what we believe is the government ought to take over children at birth. You can't trust parents to raise them." (CHEC Report, Summer, 1996)

!!!!!!!

SEVEN KEYS TO RAISING GODLY CHILDREN

by David E. Pratte

(The first of numerous installments)

INTRODUCTION:

Young people in our society present a serious yet interesting contrast:

Generally, young people have been raised with the greatest material and social advantages any generation ever had.

Most have:

- * Material goods. Few lack necessities and most have luxuries unknown to previous generations: their own room, automobiles, telephone, radio & TV (and VCR and video games), etc.
- * Medical care — the average modern life span is far greater than that of past generations.
- * Education — as a percentage of overall government budgets, tax dollars for educating children are at an all-time high and still rising.
- * Leisure, entertainment, recreation — it is hard to imagine a society having more forms of sports, games, and leisure activities, and more time to spend on them.

One would think youth would be happy and trouble-free.

Yet young people today constitute one of the most confused and troubled generations in history.

Problems include:

* Drugs. Dr. Donald Louria, pres. of New York State Council on Drug Addiction, said: “A heroin epidemic has hit us. We must face that fact.” Dr. Barry Ramer, director of the Study for Special Problems (San Francisco), said regarding drug abuse: “In my wildest nightmares, I never dreamed of what we are seeing today.” (Quoted from *Dare to Discipline*, Dobson, pp. 2,3 — abbreviated DTD.)

* Crime — 2/3 of all violent crimes are committed by those under 21 (DTD, p. 4).

* Sexual immorality — venereal diseases, abortion, illegitimate babies, homosexuality, living together outside marriage, and premarital relations are all commonly accepted. Nearly 1/2 of teen brides are pregnant before their wedding.

* Depression, emotional problems, suicide, conflict with authorities.

Thousands of young people may not have these extremes but are unhappy or immoral in other ways.

This is not to say all young people have serious problems. Many are morally upright, religious, well-adjusted, and happy. But it cannot be denied that many have serious problems despite their physical advantages. And children of Christians are by no means immune. It is generally recognized that, in the average congregation, at least half the young people end up not serving God faithfully.

The purpose of these studies will be to consider how parents can raise our children successfully despite these problems & turmoils.

Proverbs 22:6 — Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

We will build these studies on the foundational belief that God’s word provides the best way to raise children. If we follow it we will, with rare exceptions, raise children who avoid the serious problems of crime and evil and who serve God faithfully.

Bible principles about child raising are so critical that we will refer to them as the “keys” that open the door to success. These principles can be grouped together in various ways, but we are going to consider them under seven headings. Hence, “Seven Keys to Raising Godly Children.”

As in other areas of God’s word, there are general teachings and specific teachings.

God’s word teaches us to have the Lord’s supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). But we realize by general authority that we are free to decide what time on first day of the week. Likewise, when God states a general principle regarding raising children, one family may apply that principle somewhat differently from another family, yet both may be following God’s word. And I may give advice in this study that harmonizes with Bible principles but may not be the only way to apply them.

But whatever we do must fit what God’s rules say. If what we say or do disagrees with God’s rules, then we are disagreeing, not with people, but with God.

Let’s consider together Seven Keys for Raising Godly Children.

... To be continued (and continued and continued)

EDITORIAL NOTES

We want to thank the MANY subscribers who have contributed material to this issue. Our thanks to Terri Brinkley, Cindy Shaver, Mark and Marie Turner, Lynn Schaufel, Mary Shackelford, Sharon Pratte, Karl Hennecke, and Jeff Hamilton. Your contributions make our work so much easier.

We continue to appreciate all of you who show such continuing interest in our work. We continue to solicit your material. In particular, we are seriously considering printing some kind of book or booklet containing reviews, written entirely by Christians, reviewing home school materials. Every review you send brings us that much closer to our goal.