

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, 1997

CHANGE IN OUR WWW SITE ADDRESS

Family Times has, for a while now, had an Internet WWW site where Christians can go to view and download information about home schooling. Our site has moved to a new address. You can contact us at:

<http://www.concentric.net/~depratte/familytimes>

We will try to remember in the future to post this address in our newsletter heading.

We have added a few new articles to the site and intend to add material from time to time. If you have never visited the site, we invite you to try us. If you have visited before, we encourage you to check out our new material and continue to check from time to time to see what's new. Please contact us if you have any problems with the site.

Also, please remember our new email address as shown in our heading. Actually there are several email addresses for us that work, but the one in the heading is the one we prefer. Thanks.

A SUMMARY OF THE HOME - SCHOOL MEETING AT FLORIDA COLLEGE

by David Pratte

Since many of you could not attend the meeting at FC, I thought you would be interested in reading a brief summary.

The meeting was begun with a presentation by Royce Chandler on behalf of Florida College. He expressed their interest in a closer relationship with home schoolers and discussed some of the policies the college has adopted. A summary of these policies is included elsewhere in this issue.

Following that, Mark Mayberry and I summarized the advantages and disadvantages of home schooling, giving the audience opportunity for discussion. The last part of the meeting involved a discussion of how to begin home schooling. Mark listed some helpful books and materials for folks to read to learn about home schooling.

We estimated that the audience was about the same size as last year — about 60-70. It was hard to judge because no one really took a count, and we met in a bigger room than we had last year. Several folks came in late and many left early, so people were coming and going, making accurate estimates difficult. We do know that several people came who were considering beginning home schooling, and many people came who were not present last year. Several folks mentioned that they had come to the lectures expressly so they could attend the home-school meeting.

Royce Chandler expressed the view that the college is definitely interested in making this an annual event. Dean Payne has contacted me since then confirming that this is his intention. Mark and I have already discussed some plans for next year. We would be glad to receive suggestions from other home schoolers about what you would like to see these meetings accomplish in the future.

We were able to meet several *Family Times* subscribers and other home schoolers whom we have had contact with over the years. It is nice to be able to put a face with the names.

We encourage everyone to be making your plans to attend next year. The lectures always begin on the first Monday in February. That means next year they will be scheduled for Feb. 2-5, 1998. The theme will be Christ and the Church, based on the books of Ephesians and Colossians. If you have vacation time coming, we hope to see you.

TAPES OF THE MEETING

Wilson and Carolyn Legg kindly offered to video tape the meeting. They did so with the understanding and agreement that they would be willing to sell copies to anyone interested. These tapes are now available -- see the note from them below about prices, etc.

I suggest that you order directly from them. Please do not send orders to *Family Times* — that simply takes more time and costs more money. Order directly from them at the price they have set.

Contact Wilson and Carolyn Legg, 92 Meade Dr., Gettysburg, PA 17325-8909.

Here is what the Leggs say about the tapes:

Our selling price for the tape will be \$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping within the United States for a total of \$18.00. The \$3.00 is the actual cost for US Postal Service Priority Mail.

We have concluded audio tapes are not practical for the following reasons: 1) Because of the audience participation, the audio volume varies too much. On a videotape, hearing is greatly enhanced by being able to see the speaker. 2) Because of the length of the meeting, it would require two cassettes. 3) The cost for two cassette tapes and their plastic albums at a minimum of \$5.00 each plus \$3.00 shipping approaches the cost of the videotape which we believe represents much greater value.

If someone absolutely must have audio tapes (perhaps because they don't have a TV/VCR), we do have the capability to copy the audio to cassettes.

WHAT FLORIDA COLLEGE HAS TO OFFER HOME SCHOOLERS:

Below are excerpts from the material Royce Chandler handed out at the FC meeting:

I want to emphasize to you our sincere interest in recruiting your children to Florida College. We appreciate your hard work, your dedication, your values, the sacrifices you make, and we in no way want or intend to come across as disinterested or hard to work with. There are issues and questions that arise with the home schooling groups that are different and which have to be researched and dealt with by Academic Standards Committees, Admissions offices, and Financial Aid offices.

Present Guidelines

On April 17, 1996, the Academic Standards Committee met and set the following guidelines in the unconditional admission of home schooled students:

1. Home schooled students must meet all Florida College course requirements, which include:

*4 years English

*3 years math (Algebra 1 and higher)

*2 years college preparatory science courses with labs

*2 years of social sciences.

*A total of 16 academic units is required which may also include humanities, behavioral sciences and foreign languages. A complete transcript (grades 9-12) must be presented with courses and grades included.

2. A minimum grade point average of 2.00

3. A minimum ACT composite score of 20 with no lower than 16 in each of the four areas tested: English, reading, science, and math

4. A personal essay along with an application, 2 references, medical form, and a housing form.

5. Be 17 years of age by day of registration in any given semester.

A home schooled student who plans to apply for federal or state-based financial aid must pass the GED exam. The GED is not required for acceptance into Florida College but is required for financial aid. However, after the student has completed one semester at Florida College as a full time student, he/she would then be eligible to apply for financial aid for the second semester. This requirement is based on our experience with the federal government and with financial aid auditors.

[Ed. note: Most home schoolers do not like the GED requirement. However, you may be interested to read the following recommendation, which was published in the *Home School Court Report*, March/April, 1997, p. 17. These are the recommendations being made to colleges by the National Center for Home Education, which is associated with the Home School Legal Defense Association.

The National Center offers the following guidelines to colleges wanting to make their admission policies home schooler-friendly. [sic]

1. An accredited diploma or GED should not be required (unless students accept Title IV federal financial aid.)

To eliminate the GED requirement, what we really need to change is, not FC, but the Federal government.]

Reviewed by Tina Meade

Christian Light Education

PO Box 1212

Harrisonburg, VA 22801-1212

Phone: 540-434-1003 (Order Dept.)

We use Christian Light Education. It is economical, which we need (with four children), and Mary Pride gave it an A in her *Big Book Of Home Learning*. Answer keys can be handed down, so it gets cheaper as you go.

Each subject comes in ten light units, so it is easy to know how much the kids need to do in a day. (They need to finish a light unit in each subject in about 3 1/2 weeks.)

It is easy for the kids to follow on their own. They don't need much paper, for most of the work is done in the books.

They are Mennonite, which I like because they are so conservative in the way they dress and live — so I like the pictures. Also, they don't believe that children need to do anything to be saved. However, you have to watch for false doctrine because they don't believe that baptism is for the remission of sins, and they don't believe that baptism is baptism — they believe in pouring. They don't believe in instrumental music in worship. They teach against Christmas trees and Santa Claus. They believe in one man for one woman for life.

Also, Christian Light has different plans. You may simply order material, or you may be in the full program, in which case they keep records of test scores. In the full program you may purchase achievement tests. And your senior may go take a test and get a diploma from Christian Light. I doubt that that would amount to anything because they've never sought to be accredited.

They will send you sample materials if you ask.

Full Program:

This is their recommended home study option. You get parent training by mail or at the CLE training center (we chose the mail route), with certificate. Also included are phone assistance for administrative and academic help, beginning testing and placement, record keeping with transcripts and permanent record, CAT and CTBS/4 Survey, grade 8 and high school diplomas. A one-time fee of \$100 covers the complete training program and certificate for one parent, along with the above-mentioned services. Then there is a \$50 fee for subsequent years — if sent in by June 30, after which it is \$65.

Training Without Services:

This includes a complete training program by mail or CLE training center. You may purchase and use CLE curriculum, except restricted tests and diplomas. No additional services. The home maintains student records. One-time fee of \$75.

Curriculum and Materials:

This includes no training or services and no extra fees. The home school may purchase and use all CLE curriculum (except restricted tests and CLE diplomas). The home decides what to order and maintains student records, using CLE forms if desired.

All the CLE representatives with whom I have spoken on the phone have been very friendly and helpful. They take credit cards, so it is easy to call and ask for help with ordering, then place your order in one phone call. In all the years that we've used them, I don't think they've ever made a mistake on our order. They apparently keep a close watch on their records because they immediately let me know if a score I report to them is out of sequence or if I get my report in late. (You must send your report of test scores and hours worked on each subject, as well as extracurricular work, by the 10th day of each month.)

I specifically asked whether any money we send them goes to any church. The lady said it does not. She said they are a non-profit organization and all the money goes to CLE.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Our thanks to those who have contributed to this issue. We especially thank Tina Meade for her review. And we want to again express our thanks to Florida College for allowing us to have our home-school meeting during the lectureship.

ONE OF OUR OWN MAKES THE NEWSPAPERS

[Editor's note: The following are excerpts from an article in the *Lake Villa and Lindenhurst Review*. It is written about Tara Banick, older daughter of Don and Jean Banick, who are Christians on our *Family Times* mailing list. A similar article was written in the *Waukegan News-Sun* and was quoted briefly in a recent *HSLDA Court Report*. Congratulations, Tara, Don, and Jean!]

When Lindenhurst resident Jean Banick began teaching her daughter at home [10] years ago, she never dreamed Tara would become a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. All she wanted was to provide her daughter with a sound educational background for college...

In addition to spending seven hours a day studying with Jean, Tara volunteers two afternoons a week at Lake Forest Hospital, performs with the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra, has a part-time job performing duets with her sister and plays with professional quartets...

Out of 14,000 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists in the nation, Banick is one of 79 home-school students...

... when Tara went to start [her education at a public school], her parents ran into a little difficulty.

"I was told by the superintendent I shouldn't have taught Tara how to read because it made her feel different from the other kids," Jean said.

Hearing this, the Banicks realized their idea of education and the school's were different...

For Tara, home-schooling has been fantastic. She doesn't feel like she missed a thing by not being in the high-school setting...

Tara has taken up horseback riding, golf, ice skating, and music lessons. Both she and her sister [Trina] have found their niche in violin and piano...

Being taught at home has actually been a benefit to their musical interests. For the last two years Tuesdays were spent taking music lessons and Saturday turned into an academic day...

Seven Keys to Raising Godly Children — a series (continued)

KEY #1: PURPOSE

by David Pratte

No one can succeed in any task without clearly keeping in mind what his goal is.

Imagine a baseball team that becomes so wrapped up in having beautiful uniforms and a beautiful ball park and making commercials that it forgets that its real goal is to win ball games. Uniforms and a ball park are helpful — even making commercials may be all right — but the players must remember their goal.

So we must keep clearly in mind what our responsibility as parents really is. What do you consider to be your goal as a parent? What would it take to make you feel that you had been a success as a parent? What would make you feel you had failed?

I. GOALS THAT ARE NOT THE MAIN GOAL

A. WE HAVE MANY IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD OUR CHILDREN.

- * We should meet our children's physical needs.
- * We should see that they get a good education.
- * We should prepare them for life so they can have a happy marriage and be good citizens and neighbors.

* We will even want to provide them some recreation, entertainment, and enjoyment.

1 Timothy 5:8 — If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

As Christians, we should provide wholesome benefits for our children (Matt. 7:9-11).

B. BUT THESE ARE NOT OUR MOST IMPORTANT GOALS AS PARENTS.

Many parents, even in the church, become so involved in caring for physical concerns that they actually harm their children.

Luke 12:15 — Jesus said "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." He then told of a man who obtained wealth but neglected God (v16-21). Then he died, so what good did it all do Him?

Matthew 16:26 — For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Likewise, what profit are we to our children if we give them all the world has to offer, but they lose their souls?

Many parents spend multiplied hours each week working to provide physical things for their children. But they work so much for money they neglect to give their children time and attention. We see the result of this approach as we consider the many children in our society who have multitudes of physical advantages, but are neither godly nor happy.

On the other hand, I have known Christians who were “poor” (by the world’s standards) — one old car, no TV, 4-room house, plain clothes, basic education. But their children knew God’s will, had close family ties, and grew up serving God faithfully.

Many kids today are spoiled by over-providing. They don’t appreciate what they are given and grow up thinking the world owes them a living.

Deuteronomy 18:10 — “There shall not be found among you {anyone} who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire...” Most of us would not think of throwing a child into the fire to worship an idol. But covetousness is idolatry (Col. 3:5). When we over-emphasize providing physical things for our children, we are throwing them to the idol of covetousness and worldliness.

II. OUR MAIN GOAL IS TO TRAIN OUR CHILDREN TO SERVE GOD SO THEY CAN RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE.

A. CONSIDER GOD’S GOALS FOR PARENTS.

Proverbs 22:6 — Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Our children will not always have us around to guide their decisions. We must instill in them the understanding and HABIT of doing right and avoiding wrong, so they will serve God when they must make their own decisions.

Ephesians 6:4 — And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

I once knew a lady in the church whose daughter was named high school homecoming queen. The mother said this was the most wonderful thing that ever happened to her! No wonder our children don’t serve God! If success in temporal things is our highest priority, why should our children want to serve God? And sure enough, that woman’s daughter never became a Christian.

Genesis 18:19 — Abraham commanded his children to keep the way of the Lord. This must be the determination of fathers who truly are faithful to God.

Psalms 34:11 — Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. To accomplish this, we must give our children many things money cannot buy: time, love, instruction in God’s word, guidance in dealing with problems of life, an example of godliness, and training and discipline in moral purity.

Joshua 24:15 — Joshua likewise declared, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” This was his determination for all in his family. We need to keep this goal constantly before us. As we make each decision, we should ask “What effect will this have on my child’s eternal destiny?”

Malachi 2:15 — God joins a man and woman in marriage. Why does He do this? He seeks godly offspring.

Our children are not given us to do with as we please. They are not our property. They are God’s children given into our care so we can raise them to be what HE wants them to be.

If your child grows up, gets a good job, has a happy marriage, is a good neighbor and citizen, but does not live the life of a faithful Christian, then his/her life is a failure, and we as parents have failed accomplish what we hoped for.

On the other hand, even if our children don’t have an outstanding education and live at a lower level than the average American and are not particularly good in sports or beautiful outwardly, nevertheless if they serve God faithfully, they have succeeded in life and we have succeeded as parents.

Throughout these studies, we will emphasize those principles that will help us as parents to lead our children to put God first in life and serve Him. This is why we are discussing raising GODLY children.

[Deut. 4:10; 6:7ff; 11:18ff; Tit. 1:6; Psa. 78:4ff; Jer. 32:39; 2 Tim. 3:15; Matt. 19:13ff]

B. CONSIDER THEN THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

Prov. 22:6 – Train up a child in the way he should go...

In an effort to console parents whose children did not turn out well, people often state that there may be exceptions to this rule. I agree that a diligent study of Proverbs shows that many of them are not intended to discuss all the possible exceptions [20:28; 21:2; 22:7,11]. In this case, to say there are no exceptions would imply that parents can totally determine the eternal destiny of their children.

If Christians have children that do not turn out well, we should all surely sympathize. Parents need to consider if they made mistakes. If they did, they should repent and ask forgiveness. What parents don't make mistakes?

But the fact remains that Proverbs 22:6 **is a general statement of truth**. It ought to give parents confidence that they can raise godly children if they follow God's word. In our effort to console the parents of ungodly children, let us take care that we don't give young parents the impression that raising godly children is nearly impossible.

I know a preacher who, when young, said repeatedly, "Every family has a black sheep." What passage teaches that? But he believed it, and sure enough, his children turned out to have some "black sheep." If you think you can't raise godly children, you're defeated before you start!

There may be occasional exceptions, but the rule is that, if we do our job right, our kids will turn out right. But in the Lord's church, the majority of kids don't turn out right. Instead of making excuses, let's just admit that many parents aren't doing their job well. Let's learn from our mistakes and start studying God's word to find out how to do it right!

I Sam. 3:12-14 – Eli was rejected because his sons sinned and he did not restrain them (cf. 2:22-25).

To a large extent, my children's destiny, **and my destiny**, depends on whether or not I train them as God's word says.

I cannot imagine any more terrible burden than to go through life knowing one of my children was unfaithful to God. "Wouldn't it be terrible to have a child who was born with a serious physical or mental handicap or who died young?" Yes. But how infinitely worse to know my child faces torment in a Devil's hell!

My job as a parent is to raise my children to serve God. If I don't get my priorities straight so that I raise them to serve God first, He will hold ME accountable.

Let us not make the mistake of that baseball team that forgot its real purpose. Let us realize the seriousness of our responsibility as parents and keep our eye on our goal. If we have gotten off track and put too much emphasis on temporal things, let us repent. And let us all accept the challenge to raise godly children.

(to be continued further...)