

# FAMILY TIMES

A Home-school Newsletter for New Testament Christians  
General Editors: Bev & Dave Hewitt, Karen & Dave Pratte  
Curricula review editor: Wayne Walker  
7846 St. Joe Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46835



All subs run by school year. Subs sent after September receive back issues. Subscriptions are: 3 years by email for \$6.  
3 years by regular mail, \$12. 1 year by regular mail, \$5 (USA only).

Send e-mail to [truth@gospelway.com](mailto:truth@gospelway.com), reviews to [wswalker310@juno.com](mailto:wswalker310@juno.com)  
Web site: [www.gospelway.com/familytimes/](http://www.gospelway.com/familytimes/)

See the web site for our reviews of home-school materials (code: Deut6:6-9-2003)

Send change of mailing address to 7846 St. Joe Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN – 46835.

To change your address for e-mail subs go to [www.gospelway.com/change.htm](http://www.gospelway.com/change.htm)

June-August, 2004

## Time to Renew Your Subscription!

*Family Times* subscriptions all run by school year, which means that subscriptions come due during the summer. Since we now offer multi-year subscriptions, your sub may or may not be due for renewal this summer.

To determine whether or not you need to renew this summer, do as follows: If you subscribe by e-mail, look at the name to which we e-mailed this issue of *Family Times*. If you subscribe by regular mail, look at the mailing address label on the envelope. If you see anywhere in parentheses or brackets a number “05” or higher, you do **not** need to renew. If all you see is an “04” without an “05” then you **do** need to renew this summer.

**To save us the trouble of billing you, if your renewal is due this summer, please send it as soon as you are able.** See the heading above for prices and mailing address.

Thanks so much for your interest in *Family Times*.

## Vilander Family Profile

by Cindy Vilander

We are the Vilander family. Kris used to be an electronics technician, but began preaching fulltime in November of 2002 when we moved to Danville, Kentucky. I have been a stay-at-home mom since our first son was born in 1993. Our children are Caleb (11), Joshua (9), Sarah (7), David (5), Anna (3), and Peter (1).

Kris and I chose to home school our children before we had them. Some dear friends of ours in Aurora, CO introduced us to home schooling and we decided that was what we wanted for our children. There are so many benefits to schooling your children at home!

Caleb was only three years old when I started buying workbooks at the grocery store for him to do. He enjoyed learning and keeping busy. Since we had already made the decision to home school, we went ahead and started a kindergarten curriculum when he turned four. Every child after him (so far) has also had a desire to learn and do “school” at about that age. All of the children enjoy reading, and Kris and I have a hard time keeping them supplied with good books to read.

Kris and I decided to use Rod & Staff curriculum after Caleb had gone through A Beka’s kindergarten curriculum. We like the bible-based textbooks without all the “bells and whistles.” We typically do book-

work for five days a week, for 36 weeks. We do not have set breaks, but take them as needed for field trips, teacher workdays (momma needs a break), and vacations.

Our family enjoys the closeness that home schooling allows. This past year has been especially nice with Kris at home studying, instead of working 12-hour shifts. We look forward to the coming years and the time that God gives us with our children as we try to raise them in the ways that He would have us.

## **Dr. Phil Says Spanking is Bad, but God Disagrees**

By Brian A. Yeager

For Christians the word of God should be the place where we look for advice on all things pertaining unto life and godliness (II Peter 1:3). Unfortunately, many Christians are looking to bookstores for books on how to raise their children. The world is looking to programs like "Dr. Phil" for advice on these matters. When I begin seeing that "Christians" feel the need to look elsewhere for an issue God has already supplied us information with, I begin to wonder if some still believe in the all-sufficiency of the scriptures. God has placed a requirement upon the parent to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). The scriptures fully equip us to every good work (II Timothy 3:16-17). Therefore, as we will see, God has not required a parent to properly raise a child without equipping parents with a "how to" guide.

### **What Does the World Say?**

As a growing T.V. show and a popular author, Dr. Phil (Phillip C. McGraw) is making an impact on many American households. His shows often deal with matters relative to child raising, marriage, etc. On one specific show Dr. Phil addressed parenting and the act of spanking a child. Dr. Phil's website has the following comments posted about this one show:

As Phil told Nickie and Brent, "If it's working so well, why does your child continue to push you to the edge?" Spanking your kids may work to suppress his or her bad behavior temporarily, but it isn't a learning type of discipline. The message they get from being spanked is "I'm a bad kid," which doesn't help your child figure out what he or she did wrong - or how to keep from doing it again!  
[http://www.drphil.com/show/show.jhtml?contentId=1012\\_disciplinedebate.xml](http://www.drphil.com/show/show.jhtml?contentId=1012_disciplinedebate.xml)

Dr. Phil has also listed the "cons to spanking" on his website which are:

Long-term consequences of spanking can include increased aggressiveness, antisocial behavior, and delinquency. Weaker associations for spanking such as a failure to learn right from wrong, subsequent criminal behavior, mental illness, and child or spouse abuse as adults, have also been suggested.

Physical punishment can send mixed messages to a child and reinforce aggressive behavior. When parents model aggressive behaviors by spanking, they reinforce the idea that physical aggression is the way to get what you want.

Spanking is associated with a poorer relationship between the parent and child. Children who were spanked feel less attached to their parents and less trusting of them. The more the child was spanked, the less close the parent/child relationship. [http://www.drphil.com/advice/advice.jhtml?contentId=par\\_discipline\\_research.xml&§ion=Parenting&subsection=Discipline](http://www.drphil.com/advice/advice.jhtml?contentId=par_discipline_research.xml&§ion=Parenting&subsection=Discipline)

Dr. Phil does not stand alone in his views of physically disciplining a child. His views and that of other "experts" in this field are forming the minds of Americans on how to raise a child. Many in the world in our current generation almost gasp for air at the idea of a parent posing painful physical consequences to a child for something that the child has done contrary to the will of the parents. Dr. Phil and many others have a case in abusive homes, but in godly homes wherein discipline is issued properly they have an opponent in God.

### **What Does God Say About Spanking?**

(Proverbs 13:24) "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him be-times."

(Proverbs 19:18) "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

(Proverbs 22:15) "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."

(Proverbs 23:13-14) "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

(Proverbs 29:15) "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

The scriptures quoted above makes God's view on this matter abundantly clear. The rod mentioned in the majority of these passages, such as in Proverbs 22:15, is defined by Brown, Driver, and Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon to mean: "rod, staff, branch, offshoot, club, scepter, tribe." Clearly, in correcting a child God did not instruct a mere tap on the finger!

If I have faith in the word of God - which I must have to please Him (Hebrews 11:6; cf. Romans 10:17) - then I must believe that God has more wisdom in this area than man does. Notice a few scriptures:

(Proverbs 14:12) "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

(Jeremiah 10:23) "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

(I Corinthians 1:25) "Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

God's instruction in the matter of discipline towards our children is just as clear as any other lesson.

### **Conclusion**

(Proverbs 22:6) "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." When I was growing up I spent the first fifteen years of my life with my mother. She did not practice any type of discipline and therefore never had the respect of myself or my brother when it came to her rules. Her way of dealing with us was "reward them when they're good, and also reward them when they're bad a little more so that they know you love them no matter what."

Having not lived with my father for fifteen years, I then moved in with him. I remembered from younger years that dad would yank me up and "take me behind the wood shed." Thus, I respected my father and feared the consequences of disobeying him. He had a look, much like my children say that I have, and when he looked at me, I knew I was in for it. I just wish that I would have had that all of my life. However, for the 3½ years of discipline, I can be thankful as it had a great effect on my actions as a teenager and still does today.

God is a God of discipline. Throughout the Old Testament that is made abundantly clear (Deuteronomy 28:15ff.). God is also a God who loved mankind enough to send His only begotten Son to die for us (John 3:16, Romans 5:6-9, and I John 4:9). There has to be a balance in discipline. A parent must reward obedience if they will punish disobedience. That does not mean one gives a child a cookie every time they listen to the smallest of instructions, but it does mean that we need not be one-sided.

God promises that a child will not depart from the training a parent gives. We can have faith in that promise. Children are commanded by God to obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1-2), and God has equipped us to help them do that. Teaching consequences in the home will prepare our child for making not only good choices in the flesh, but good spiritual decisions as well. Dr. Phil, other "experts," and anyone else who says "do not spank your child" are wrong. God has informed us, you have learned it, now become a parent who follows the Lord if you are not already!

[Editor's note: Our study of raising children is now online. See [www.gospelway.com/familytimes](http://www.gospelway.com/familytimes).]

### **Home-Schoolers Win Space Trek Design Challenge**

from Agape News Summary, 5/7/04 [www.agapepress.org](http://www.agapepress.org)

Two young home schoolers from Germantown, Maryland, were honored by former astronaut Senator John Glenn for winning "Best Overall" for their age group in the Space Trek Design Challenge with a project that proved a biblical worldview is no hindrance to scientific inquiry. Glenn congratulated young Grant Foster (grade 5) and Samantha Foster (grade 7) at the Space Day ceremonies May 5 and 6, where they were awarded for their project, an imaginative "electronic journal" that relied upon and cited information the youngsters found at the Answers In Genesis biblical apologetics website. Competing against more than 350 entrants, the youngsters created a website and posted creative journal entries to it about an imaginary journey to the comet Chiron in search of a hypothetical "nursery of comets" known as the Oort Cloud. With their mother's assistance the siblings researched the creationist point of view and, in their journal, presented their Undiscovery (that the Oort Cloud does not exist) as more consistent with a universe that is not billions but thousands of years old, as six-day creationists contend.

## Reading Books

by Sally Ann Perz

Reading is one of our family's favorite pastimes. This did not happen naturally. I have always been an avid reader. I read every day. Our home is full of books. It is no surprise that this formula created five children who love to read (our three-year-old who does not read yet loves being read to, even from chapter books). We have books galore and we budget money monthly to add to our home library. We spend lots of time reading a huge variety of books!

However, we never read anything which would make us ashamed. We look at each book we read in light of Philippians 4:8 and consider if it is worth our time. I will not mince words here: I censor my children's reading. I choose the books that come into our home. I will not apologize for this. I spent years as a babe in Christ "purifying" my mind and soul from all of the unacceptable things I fed on. Reading immoral books is like viewing pornography — though you may quit viewing it, you will remember it for many years (a lifetime of flashbacks). Suffice it to say that it will have an influence on you that you will spend much time overcoming. This lesson learned is one that I use to guard and guide my children's minds.

A few "bad things" in each book may seem easy to overlook, but it doesn't take long to get desensitized and "forget how to blush." It seems that we rationalize away the obvious so we can enjoy worldly pursuits. Most agree that it is ungodly to see a filthy movie with sex and profanity, but they read a book that is the same or worse. How much bad language, nudity, and sex does it take until we consider it unworthy? What would screenit.com say about your book? Most conscientious viewers check screenit.com before seeing a movie — it's impossible to argue with such a detailed list of the vulgar and profane.

Will the literature you choose for your children make them more obedient, stronger Christians, more godly youth? What about what we choose for ourselves? When you read a book in many ways you are letting the author come in and touch your soul. You may think that you can read it and pretend that it's okay for the characters, but not for you. But I ask, is it okay for your children to pretend ungodly things when they are playing (I pray that it is not!!)?

The idea that sin is sometimes okay for some people is exactly what causes many young people to sin. A good story line is not worth the corruption of our soul and the souls of our children. There are enough ungodly examples put on pedestals in this world, we don't need to glorify them in our pleasure reading. There is much good fiction available in which godly examples (or at least moral examples) are upheld and ungodly examples are condemned. Why bother with literature that condones what God condemns and makes ungodly examples the norm? What kind of example do we set for our children? If we meditate on the ungodly and preach "Jesus," what are we saying?

Lest I am misunderstood, let me make this point clear. I realize that in our educational pursuits (not to mention our dealings with sinners and many of our own extended families) we will come across ungodliness in all areas of study — history, literature, science. I am not suggesting that we must close our eyes to the world and its toil and pain. But, most of us will teach our children to measure that ungodliness by God's standards. We will not use the world's ruler (tolerance for all ideas), or soak it all in and get as much as we can. If we spend many hours reading things that are not godly, we will not be godlier for our effort, period.

## Studying World History with G. A. Henty and Other Good Historical Fiction

by Wayne S. Walker

Studying history is, or at least should be, an important part of any homeschool curriculum. Philosopher George Santayana is reported to have said that those who do not learn from the mistakes of the past are doomed to repeat them. The Bible is first and foremost a book of history, recounting the acts of God in His dealings with human beings on earth to bring about the redemption of mankind in Christ. Since God is the Creator and Sovereign of the universe, who rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He will, the history of the world is in effect "His story." The study of history in public schools has often merely the reading of a textbook, with little bits and pieces of predigested information, and then memorizing a number of name, places, events, and dates to be regurgitated on tests. Or, more likely today, it is the absolute exaltation of humanistic man and the complete denigration of anything related to God.

Homeschoolers can avoid both extremes. The classical or trivium model of homeschooling encourages studying history chronologically, covering first ancient, then medieval, Renaissance / Reformation / Age of Discovery, and finally modern history from grades one to four, again in grades five to eight, and once more in grades nine to twelve. Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer in *The Well Trained Mind* suggest using the *Usborne Book of World History* and the *Kingfisher Illustrated History of the World* as source guides to be fleshed out by studying original documents and reading fascinating, inventing, colorful history books. Harvey and Laurie Bluedorn offer a similar approach in *Teaching the Trivium: Christian Homeschooling in a Classical Style*.

Even if one does not follow a strictly classical model, he should approach history in a way that makes it interesting and informative rather than dull and boring. In our homeschool, we happen to prefer textbooks as a framework for knowing what happened when and where. One such excellent world history textbook is the two-volume *Streams of Civilization* revised and republished by Christian Liberty Press. A Beka, Bob Jones, and other curriculum suppliers have good resources as well. However, we also find it useful to supplement and expand the information by using good historical fiction to illustrate life in different times. Beautiful Feet, the Robinson Curriculum, and Sonlight all take a literature approach to the study of history, and Veritas Press, Elijah Company, and Greenleaf Press are all good sources for using historical fiction in studying history as well.

In our study of American history, we found “The American Adventure” series written by different authors and published by Barbour Press of Uhrichsville, OH, to be very helpful. Having completed those, we decided to broaden our reading to accommodate a knowledge of general world history, and we chose the historical novels written for young men by G. A. Henty as the basis for our literary study of the earth’s past. There are many other works of historical fiction, and some quite good as I shall explain later, so why start with Henty and his books? First, let me tell you a little bit about the author.

George Alfred Henty was born on Dec. 8, 1832, at Cambridge, England, and educated at Westminster School and Cambridge University. Leaving college to volunteer for service in the hospital commissariat during the Crimean War, he became correspondent to the “Morning Advertiser” while in Crimea. Then in 1865 he was appointed special correspondent to the “Standard” for which he traveled extensively and reported on many important historical events during the years 1866 to 1876. During this time, he also began to write books of adventure for boys, based on his own experiences or other historical events. His first was *Out of the Pampas* in 1868, beginning a series of over eighty stories, the last of which was published posthumously. He died at Weymouth, England, on Nov. 16, 1902.

Concerning Henty’s books, George Grant wrote in “World” Magazine (Apr. 13, 1996):

When I was growing up, the great historical epics of G. A. Henty were already becoming difficult to find. But whenever I ran across one in our local library I quickly checked it out, rushed home, and read it — usually without putting it down.... His fiercely accurate narratives range across the whole spectrum of human achievement, highlighting the greatest characters and the most decisive moments in history.... Henty was equally adept at telling the story of the Crimean War as of the Peloponnesian War, of the Franco-Prussian conflict as of the Norman conquest, of the adventures of the Conquistadors as of the trials of the Pharaohs. Apparently, his virtuosity knew no bounds. Indeed...these beautifully bound reprints give ample evidence of his remarkable range. These action-packed stories of courage, tenacity, and providential faithfulness left me as breathless and enthused re-reading them as an adult as they did some 30 years ago.

In an article “G. A. Henty and the Tradition of Adventure Writing for Boys” from Memoria Press, Martin Cothran suggests three reasons why Henty has become so popular among homeschoolers:

First, he wrote from a Christian perspective. His books not only assume the Christian world view, but contain occasional passages where the hero, always a young boy (usually, as G. K. Chesterton once pointed out, the same boy, only with a different name living in a different historical period), openly discusses his Christianity as it bears on some issue he happens to be dealing with in the story. His Christianity is definitely protestant in nature — a sort of broad pre-liberal conservative Anglicanism. It is protestant enough, for example, to take the form, on occasion, of a potshot at Catholicism — or, as in *Under Drake’s Flag*, a more exhaustive anti-Catholicism that has the characters fighting against the Spanish Inquisition itself. But this (the anti-Catholicism) seems to be more a rarity than a common feature of his books, and on the whole, even Catholics would find little to object to and much to applaud in Henty’s books.

The second reason Cothran suggests for Henty’s popularity is:

...because of the kind of books he wrote: historical fiction for young adults.... Good historical fiction is an ideal way to interest children in history. It alleviates the necessity of textbooks, which often leave out

the most important and interesting element of history: the story. While many textbooks do a good job appealing to the intellect, few adequately appeal to the imagination as well. Historical fiction does this; and good historical fiction does it well.

The third reason why Henty is so popular is:

...because he is old. Homeschoolers know what many of us have known for years: that literature often improves with age (or seems to). Whereas modern literature for young people must march to the tune of political correctness, the only song sung by the old books was that of old-fashioned morality — the kind that most homeschoolers are striving for anyway. Michael Medved said recently (and others said it before him) that he doesn't let his children read any books that were published after 1960. Generally speaking, that's a pretty good rule.

Although there are some exceptions to the 1960 rule, I have usually found it to hold true also.

Others have given high recommendations to the G. A. Henty books as well. Dr. R. J. Rushdoony, president of the Chalcedon Foundation, said, "G. A. Henty's books are good reading for young and old. Carefully researched to be historically accurate, the books are an excellent and exciting introduction to history. More than a few generations have learned much about history from Henty, and it is good that this teaching now continues."

Dr. Samuel L. Blumenfeld wrote, "I wholeheartedly recommend G. A. Henty's books for those homeschoolers who have developed a voracious appetite for good adventure books. They will learn a lot from reading Henty and be well entertained."

Doug Phillips's "Vision Forum" Catalogue says:

When your boy picks up a G. A. Henty historical novel, he will travel back in time to some of the greatest events in Western Civilization. He will rejoice with an ancient barbarian who receives Christ, ride with Lee through the battlefields of Virginia, travel with the Conquistadors to distant lands, and watch the fall of the Temple of Jerusalem. Most importantly, he will see the world through the lens of biblical Christianity. From these books, he will learn that men are to live a life of duty and sacrifice, and that God requires even little boys to act with nobility.... Once upon a time, the books of Mr. Henty could be found on the shelves of great leaders, including Nobel Prize winners, authors, historians, prime ministers, generals, and preachers. Now, Mr. Henty's volumes are once again available for a new generation of leaders. The fabulous heroes and histories of G. A. Henty have become best sellers in America's homeschool movement as many parents have come to realize both the academic and literary benefits of his writings.

I could go on to give other testimonials to Henty's books, but here is my own. We did not "begin at the beginning." Our first Henty book was *Wulf the Saxon* about the battle of Hastings in 1066. From there, we went back to *Beric the Briton* about the Roman occupation of Britain around A.D. 60. Then we started with *The Cat of Bubastes* from ancient Egypt in Moses' time and have been following them chronologically. I did *Wulf the Saxon* as a bedtime read aloud for our boys. They loved the adventure and excitement. In fact, while I would read, they would get their toy swords and battle-axes to fight along with the action in the book. My own curiosity was piqued, and in doing a little research, I found that the book is amazingly accurate from the standpoint of recording the historical events and circumstances in which the author placed his fictional hero.

There are two major objections that I have heard about the Henty books. One is that they contain a lot of fighting. That is true. But then, the history of the world is full of wars. War is a fact of life. In my experience with the books so far, war is not glorified, promoted, or encouraged, but merely reported as a historical event. Indeed, in each of the books that we have read, the heroes and the sides for which they fought never engaged in offensive wars of conquest but always in defensive wars to protect themselves from attackers, and even in that sought to abide by principles of right, always behaving as gentlemen.

The other objection that I have heard is that the vocabulary is a bit challenging. That is also true, but I look upon it as a good way to learn the meanings of perfectly fine words which are not used very much today and improve one's knowledge of the English language.

Of course, Henty's books do not cover all periods of world history, and are especially sparse regarding ancient times. We read Joanne Williamson's *Hittite Warrior* about the days of the judges and "God King" from the time of Hezekiah. These excellent books are both published by Bethlehem Books, and this company has many other works of historical fiction for young people that sound really good. Elizabeth George Spear's *Bronze Bow* set during the life of Christ is also a fine addition to the genre. As an Englishman, Henty's account of the Revolutionary War obviously sides with the British, so *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes would serve as a good counterpoint to that view. If you wish to pursue a more literary

approach to studying world history, there are several websites that list historical fiction chronologically by time period, including Paula's Archives, <http://www.PaulasArchives.com> and the Franklin Middle School (Chantilly, VA) Library, <http://www.fcps.k12.va.us>.

However, while we shall undoubtedly be reading other good books of historical fiction to fill in these gaps, Henty will remain the center of our focus. The Henty books are currently being republished by Preston Speed Publications of Mill Hall, PA. Some of them are also available from Lost Classics Book Co. of Ft. Collins, CO. These can be ordered from most homeschooling bookstores and catalogues. The Robinson Curriculum claims to have them all on CD Rom and now in printed book form too. However, buying new books can be expensive. Many people check them out of the library, but if you want to own your own copies, I found in doing some research for this article that used book websites such as Barnes and Noble, Alibris, and American Book Exchange list many of Henty's titles from used bookstores for as little as three dollars, two dollars, or even one dollar. You would actually pay more for shipping, but it is still often cheaper than buying a new book.

Something that can be very useful in using Henty's books to study world history is *The Boy's Guide to the Historical Adventures of G. A. Henty*, written by William Potter and published by Vision Forum. After an introduction on "Why Boys Should Read the Magnificent Adventures of G. A. Henty," Potter lists the 72 main books in chronological order and gives a synopsis of each story. Preston Speed is also publishing specific study guides for many of the individual books that some might find helpful.

The author of the article on Henty in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* wrote, "He overworked a not very bountiful imagination, and soon developed a formula, repeated wearily in most of his stories." Hundreds of thousands of homeschoolers, and many others too, would disagree and truly appreciate being able to look at the events of history from a decidedly Biblical worldview in an interesting and exciting manner.

### **"Defending Liberty: The HSLDA Story"**

Reviewed by David Pratte

"Defending Liberty" is a video tape produced for the Home School Legal Defense Association. It basically reviews the modern history of legal developments in the home-school movement, beginning in the early 1980's.

While it was produced as a promotion to encourage home schoolers to join HSLDA, it is in my opinion an excellent overview of major legal issues. Obviously it frequently mentions the involvement of HSLDA, but the approach is entirely calm, factual, and (I believe) accurate.

The tape consists primarily of interviews of families that personally faced the legal battles of the 1980's and 1990's, along with commentary by HSLDA lawyers who were personally involved in those struggles. You will learn (or be reminded) of the story of these valiant pioneers and will be challenged to appreciate once again the blessing of our current freedoms.

The message gives credit to HSLDA for its involvement in these legal victories, and rightly so. The ultimate thanks should go to God, as the video clearly portrays. But I firmly believe that God used HSLDA as His means to bring about those victories. I fear to think where home schooling in this country would be had God not raised up HSLDA to lead in these crucial conflicts. The presentation is not propaganda but is completely factual, as will be attested by many home-school pioneers.

You may not agree with the religious views of everyone at HSLDA or everyone in the tape. But that is not the issue. The issue is home schooling and the freedom to educate our children as we believe best. That is what HSLDA is about, and that service is provided without our needing to compromise our faith. Rather, I believe we ought to give honor where honor is due (Rom. 13:7).

Those of us who lived through the early years of the home-school movement will clearly remember the prayers, trepidations, and hard-fought legal battles that won the liberties home schoolers enjoy today. Those of you who are newer to the movement may not be moved to tears as I was in recalling those difficult and dangerous days, but you most definitely ought to develop an appreciation of how we got where we are. If we do not remember the dangers of the past, we will become complacent and lose our liberties.

My copy of the tape was obtained from HSLDA. I assume they have other copies available. Contact HSLDA, PO Box 3000, Purcellville VA 20134; Phone 540-338-5600 or visit [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org).

I urge all home schoolers to join HSLDA to protect your own freedoms and the freedom of all home schoolers. If you wish to receive information about our Family Times discount group to receive HSLDA membership at a 15% savings, please contact *Family Times*.

## BoonDoggle Afoot

by Norman Patterson, M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary (Submitted from an email list)

There is a new government boonDOGgle afoot. Can you believe the government wants compulsory dog training? Imagine having to send Fido to school.

This program has been adopted from other countries who have successfully trained dogs for years. In fact, it was so successful generations of dogs were affected. Social designers and manipulators of the USA observed and learned this method of mass dog control. They are planning to implement it here in our country.

One of the central tenants of this plan is to require you to turn your puppies over at an early and vulnerable age. It is traumatic to the young pup. This shock of being separated from its master is essential for conformity. Every year in the fall on the first day of dog-training classes owners will be seen standing on the street corners with their puppies in tow. Owners will try to prepare their young pups for this big day but alas, there will be many sad and pathetic yelps being heard as the traveling kennels roll down the street.

Some of these dogs will never recover from the trauma. This type of trauma will cause some of these dogs to revert back to their pre-paper trained days. Some will get sick, some will get listless, and some will not be able to stop yelping. What will they do for these puppies, medicate them to complacency?

In order for this program to work the dogs must spend a significant amount of time at training centers. They will be put in age-appropriate packs. In fact, their pack will become the central focus of their lives. How long before you have these pack-dependant dogs running around the neighborhoods, chasing cars, or harassing cats when they are not in these centers? I fear the social planners will use this as an excuse to get you to turn your dogs over for more and more time every year. By the time your dog finishes this program, he will be more likely to be pack dependant rather than dependent on you.

Every age-appropriate pack will have a trainer. These trainers are experts in behavior modification techniques. Puppies will be put through a series of training exercises throughout the day. They will be given rewards and punishments to further help them comply with the demands of the trainers. Before long these dogs will seek the approval and verbal affection of their trainers rather than their owners.

How would you like your puppy to be trained day after day to obey a trainer you barely know? Your influence over your puppy will diminish over time. Your dog will be taught to obey someone else. Every year there will be new trainers and new training techniques used on your poor unsuspecting pup. By the time some of these dogs finish this program they will be unruly, disobedient to their masters, and devoid of any motivation. That's all we need in this country, packs on mindless dogs.

These dog trainers want to steal the most important formative years of your puppy's life. They want to take your dog for most of the week. Not only that, they want to give training exercises when your canine is not at the training center. I ask you, if they have several hours of more training to do after they get home, when will we ever have time to enjoy our dogs. I fear by time these puppies get old enough they will want to spend what little time they have left with their pack from their training centers.

The social planners say it will be difficult initially to implement this plan. Many owners are fiercely loyal to their dogs. This is why they are trying to get laws passed requiring people to give up their pups. If they cannot get people to do it voluntarily, they will use the threat of governmental force. We will be taxed and taxed heavily for this program.

This program raises serious questions. Is it moral to take young puppies out of their homes at such early and impressionable time? Do they really need to have them for so much time? Isn't it irresponsible for owners to give over to the government what they could do either themselves or in cooperation with other dog owners? Won't these dogs become pack oriented and trainer dependant? How will they deal with packs of sexually mature dogs as they get older? Is our country able to handle the taxes it will take to pay for this?

I'm sure you have figured out by now I am joking about this boonDOGgle. The question remains, however. If our country wouldn't put up with the government doing this to our dogs, why in the world would we allow this to be done to our children?

### EDITORIAL NOTES

Thanks again to all our contributors: Cindy Vilander, Brian Yeager, and of course our regulars Sally Ann Perz and Wayne Walker. See you next time, and **don't forget to check your renewal date!**