

# FAMILY TIMES

A Home-school Newsletter for New Testament Christians  
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June, 2005 – August, 2005

## French in 10 Minutes a Day

Reviewed by Joye Sautter

Bilingual Books, Inc. has this series in Italian, German, Norwegian, Spanish, Ingles, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Hebrew, and Portuguese. Each book is about \$18.00. Their address is 1719 West Nickerson Street, Seattle, WA 98119. 800-488-5068. [www.bilingualbooks.org](http://www.bilingualbooks.org) [www.10minutesaday.com](http://www.10minutesaday.com)

Introducing a foreign language might seem daunting to new homeschoolers, but if approached simply, you will be surprised how readily your children will pick it up. Just like learning English, or whatever your native tongue, you begin by connecting names, objects, phrases to the words (sounds) you want your child to know, one word at a time. *French in 10 Minutes a Day* is a great workbook to introduce French to students from elementary level and up. What I like about this program is its special features and simple user-friendliness.

To start, the alphabet chart is listed with sample words given for each letter and the corresponding English sound to pronounce it. In fact, there is phonetics given for every word (example: the word for “who” is “qui” (key)). Although there is no CD or tape with this program, the phonetics given beside each French word helps you read the words easily. With French, understanding and using the nasal sound is very important, so this workbook adds “(n)” in the upper right of the phonetics to remind you to say the sound with a nasal tone. Other special features are plenty of sticky labels, puzzles, quizzes, flash cards, and laminated Pocket Pal to take with you. The text is lively with colored sketches and drawings on every page. Once you learn the alphabet, you compose questions, and then move on to nouns. That’s when the French sticky labels come in handy. (A dictionary in the back of the workbook helps here too.) Then there are the numbers, colors, days of the week/months of the year, common prepositions, and common verbs conjugated. Eventually words for travel and eating out are covered and that’s when the menu enclosed is a help. The laminated Pocket Pal has over 200 essential words, questions, and phrases.

The publisher is secular and therefore does not include words of a religious nature. The only page I did not appreciate was the one with a sketch of a woman dancer with her many petticoats showing (no skin or underwear showed). The wine/aperitif/alcohol list given in the beverage guide could be glossed over too.

*French in 10 Minutes a Day* boasts to simply teach the language by working or reviewing just ten minutes a day beginning at page one and progressing, not skipping about. By doing this you will have fun learning your new language.

## A Financing Option to Consider

Dawn Thompson [peterdawnt@highstream.net](mailto:peterdawnt@highstream.net) (812)273-5004

A couple of years ago when we were considering refinancing our house, we found out about a financing option that we had never heard of before—an interest only, adjustable rate loan. Had we not heard about this loan from a Christian we trust, I doubt we ever would have gotten past the words “interest only” and “adjustable rate,” both of which sounded dangerous to me. However, once it was explained to us, we decided it was actually a very good loan.

Please realize as you read this article that I speak of our experience. Your figures (amount you owe, your current interest rate, rates now available, etc.) will not be the same as ours, so your results may not be the same as ours, either.

This type of loan works quite simply. During the first ten years, the only payments required are the interest. However, if you pay any additional amount, it is taken off the principal. The interest each month is calculated on the principal balance, so assuming you do pay more than the interest, the interest charged will go down each month. At the end of the ten years, the remaining balance is restructured as a conventional 15-year adjustable rate loan. The interest rate for both parts of the loan is based on LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate). We chose to go with a rate that adjusts every six months, but could have chosen a one-month adjustable rate. Our rate started at 3.75% and has gone down twice during the two years we have had the loan. We realize that economic conditions have been in our favor on this, and that the rate may start increasing some now, but we are not overly concerned. We think rates are unlikely to jump dramatically over a short period. Our old loan had a rate of 7.25%. With the extremely low starting rate of the new loan, we figured that even if the rate went up a little every six months until it reached the cap of 12%, we still would save on the amount of interest paid over the 10 years. And that is if we never paid any additional principal!

Why would you choose an interest only loan? One reason might be the greater cash-flow flexibility this loan offers. For instance, it could be helpful if your income varies from month to month. Another reason could be for debt consolidation. Or, the money that is freed up could be invested, hopefully yielding a gain greater than the cost of the loan. In my opinion, the best reason to get an interest only loan is to reduce the debt on your house. In fact, we wouldn't do it for any of the other reasons. When we refinanced, we simply continued to pay the same amount each month that we were paying with our previous loan. The difference is that now about 66% of our payment goes toward principal, whereas before only about 13% went to principal. In two years with the new loan we have paid off almost four times the amount of principal as we did in two years with the old loan.

Is this type of loan right for you? The very first consideration, in my view, is your level of financial discipline. If you get the loan because your monthly income varies, will you pay extra during your good months to make up for paying less on your down months? If you pay only the interest each month, and live on the difference between that and what you used to pay each month, you are headed for trouble.

If you need to consolidate debt, you know already that you have financial discipline problems. Be careful, because many people who consolidate debt end up in even worse debt. They don't fix their spending habits that got them in debt, so they continue to accumulate debt above the amount they consolidated. Very honestly decide if you will *really* be disciplined enough to keep paying at least as much as you do on your current loan, no matter what. If you will be tempted to take the difference between your old payment and the lower interest only payment and use that money to live on, even “just this month” because of a financial crunch, or in order to buy X item that is on a fabulous sale, do not get this kind of loan! If you once fall to the temptation to pay only the interest, you will very likely fall again, probably much more often than you ever intended or thought you would. In ten years you will be much worse off than if you had stayed with the loan you had.

If you see this loan as an investment opportunity, use caution. All investments carry some degree of risk. To me, the safest and best investment is in paying off the debt on your house.

If you get the loan in order to pay down your principal more quickly, stick to that plan. Do not get side-tracked from your goal and use the money for anything other than principal reduction. Your reward will be paying off your loan much earlier than you would have with a conventional loan, and with much less interest paid. The second thing to consider in determining if this is a good loan for you is your comfort level with adjustable rates. It has taken me some time, but over the years I have become pretty comfortable with adjustables. If they make you nervous, you may want to stay away from this option. Have

your loan officer do the math, though. As in our case, you will probably save substantially over what you would pay with your current loan. I think you would have to have an amazing fixed rate to beat this kind of loan.

One word of warning. Most lending institutions do not offer interest only loans, so don't expect to find this loan available at your local bank or credit union. Our loan is from a major investment firm which offers not only this loan, but also other non-traditional loans worth considering.

We are very happy with our loan. Every month I look at the statement and see how the principal is going down. It is a great feeling! This type of loan is a good fit for us, but I realize it is not for everyone. If you are in the market to refinance, though, do give this and other unusual loans some thought.

## Phonics Reviews

Compiled by Wayne Walker

As curriculum review editor for Family Times, I recently asked members of the HomeSchoolers List to send me snapshot reviews of phonics programs that they used and either liked or did not like (and why) to share with you. I received three, besides my own. Here they are.

Wayne W.: We used Professor Phonics. We obtained an old set that was used, but it is still available new. The first thing that I like about it is that it is plain and simple. Basically, there is a phonics reader that begins with the short vowel sound of "a" with the consonant sounds of "m," "s," and "t." Thus, on the very first page, the student is combining the sounds to make simple words and combining the words to make simple sentences. There were also an advanced reader, a spelling and reading word list, and a manual of instructions, none of which we really used that much. The second thing that I like about it is that it is very inexpensive. The current version has various bells and whistles, such as a CD Rom, that can be added for those who want them, but the basic set can still be purchased rather cheaply (I think around \$35 or so), and I prefer the simplicity of it. In addition, we used Mrs. Silver's Phonics Workbook from Mott Media as an activity book to help reinforce the sounds of each letter, and the Bob Books as supplemental readers. It worked very well for us, and I would recommend it heartily.

Karen C.: We used/use Hooked on Phonics. This is a very simple program especially for a parent unsure of teaching this subject. It also helps with issues of accents. We have lived in many areas from way up north to the south and this can be an issue for a child first learning to read. This program has tapes (you may or may not want to use) that have the correct "unaccented" way to say the letters and sounds. It starts with the phonetic way to say the letters then combines the sounds to make simple words. They have little stories in the workbooks to read as they go along as well as readers. It keeps building adding new combinations. It also teaches sight words. There are 5 levels with workbooks, readers and the tapes. It only takes about 10 - 20 minutes a day. This is not inexpensive, you can buy these now at Sam's Club for \$150.00. That does seem like a lot but again for someone who is unsure in teaching this subject, as I was, it is a **very** simple program to use. My oldest daughter didn't even finish the 4th book and at the end of 2nd grade tested at a 7th grade reading level with a comprehension level of 7th grade. We are now using this with my 5 year old and she is already reading well. Again to some it may be too costly but I highly recommend it, it work extremely well for us. We also use A Beka "Letters & Sounds" workbook and the Bob Books as supplemental readers with our 5 year old.

Rhonda B.: We used Modern Curriculum Press "Plaid" Phonics workbooks to supplement our reading and homemade flashcards which comprised our phonics program. The first year we homeschooled we were given this book from the local school district as a suggested book, and continued to use the program through to the end. We liked these books because: As a new homeschooler I really liked doing something that institutional schools recognized as being valid. The boys (at that age) really liked doing "real school" and having their own books to do written "exercises" in. Basically each lesson or so a new sound was introduced and written exercises (appropriate to the age of the child; the first ones are pictures that you circle, etc.) helped the child practice where that sound might appear in a word. The books were really systematic and, at the end of each year, we had something tangible to show for the time. Each book covered an entire year and was about \$10. As the boys grew older and we grew more comfortable with homeschooling, the later books (moving from phonics to vocabulary) provided some structure and familiarity to a very eclectic curriculum. Of all of the materials I have used for all the subjects we have covered for the last nine years of homeschooling, I think I like MCP Phonics/Vocabulary workbooks the best, and would certainly use them again.

Oscar M.: I don't go out of my way to recommend very many things in this world, but Reading Reflex is one of them. Reading Reflex is published by Read America. Most people would call it a phonics program, but it greatly simplifies the concept of phonics as we all learned it.

It is complicated to explain why it works so well, but I will summarize briefly. Reading Reflex teaches reading English like every other language teaches reading. Anyone can learn to pronounce every Spanish word relatively quickly though you may not understand anything you read, because each letter (or letters) represents only one sound. Although English is very much more complicated, Reading Reflex takes the same approach. For every phoneme in English (around 40) there is one or more spelling. All children need to learn is the spellings of each phoneme — just like in every other language. In American English, many phonemes have several spellings, and some spellings represent more than one sound. Nevertheless, understanding English in this way is much easier than learning dozens of phonics rules **and** the multiple exceptions to most of those rules.

Reading Reflex does away with phonics rules which really don't work. For example, the various rules on adding an "e" to make the vowel long, such as in the words cake, home, and ride. The problem with the rule is that you have to learn so many exceptions that it doesn't sound like much of a rule. The o-consonant-e words are particularly egregious: done, some, love, dove, come, etc. These are not exactly obscure words. The Reading Reflex method is much easier: /o-e/ spells either the sound <oe> (we call it long o as in boat) or <u> (as in cup). Much simpler, right? Reading Reflex has reduced learning to read to two relatively small charts, one with consonant sound spellings and one with vowel sound spellings.

Reading Reflex also eliminates all the silent letters. (How in the world do we expect children to know by looking at a word which letters might be "silent"?) Instead it teaches them that the symbols (letters) n, kn, and gn spell the sound <n>. The sound <oe> (as in boat) can be spelled many ways, including "oa" and "ough." Doesn't that make a lot more sense than Saxon English which has children go to the board and cross out the u, g, and h in the word "though"?

Reading Reflex also does away with long and short sounds. All children need to understand to read is that certain letters and combinations of letters represent certain sounds. As children, they don't need to know the terms long and short. They can learn them later.

There are a few minor flaws, but once you understand the concept (it doesn't take long!), you can easily overcome them. I hate to be dogmatic, but I haven't seen a reading program that comes close to Reading Reflex.

You can purchase the program at Books-A-Million, and online at Amazon.com and Christian-Book.com, and you can read more about it at [www.readamerica.net](http://www.readamerica.net) (click Phono-Graphix).

Conclusion: There you have it. If you are a beginning homeschooler who is contemplating teaching your child to read, I hope that you will find the information about these four phonics programs useful. — Wayne S. Walker

## **Alphabet Island Phonics**

from Eagle's Wings Educational Materials  
reviewed by Bonnie Forsythe

I have planned on sharing about *Alphabet Island* with you guys for some time. My daughter and I have used it with my grandson the past two years and have loved it. I had heard a lot of good about it and now I see why. One thing I'd heard was from a lady with several children. She said the children with whom she used *Alphabet Island* were much better spellers than the rest. Having always had lots of trouble with spelling with my youngest, I was interested. He's the only one of my kids that was young enough to need a phonics program when we started homeschooling, and I just used your basic, simple things with him so I knew I wanted a different approach with Triston.

It is multi-sensory with a CD with the cutest little songs and colorful flash cards. You know how they say we learn best when we become involved emotionally? Well, the alphabets are each one a little character that lives on an island, complete with personality. The little stories about them teach all the rules they need to read and spell fluently, having fun all the while!

Here's what they claim (and we have proven to be true). "In three workbooks your child will learn to spell over four thousand words with consonant blends, digraphs, silent e, doubled consonants, short vowels, long vowels, diphthongs, and all other vowel combinations. It is the most THOROUGH, EFFEC-TIVE, and CREATIVE Phonics and spelling program available." A great handbook is included to be used

to 9th grade plus a great little kindergarten math book. It's a little over \$100 to get the whole package, but it's a 2 year program (plus the handbook which I've used for some remedial work with my son) and it's worth every penny and then some.

If you're looking for a really effective phonics program that will give your child a solid foundation without missing any steps you must check it out at [www.eagleswingsed.com](http://www.eagleswingsed.com). I just think that using this is going to save us lots of time and tears down the road since Triston is not just reading very well but spelling well also. It is such a good foundation. I'm sure it's pricey compared to lots of programs.

## **Will We Be Willing To Give Up Television?**

by Kent Heaton

The conditions in Sodom and Gomorrah were so wicked that the Lord destroyed them with brimstone and fire. (Genesis 19) It was the mercy of God that saved Lot and his family from being destroyed in the destruction. Lot's wife disobeyed the instructions of the angels who told the family not to look back and the two daughters of Lot committed incest with him in the mountains. Reading the story of Lot is not a happy one. As a family, they were destroyed in many ways. It all began when Lot "pitched his tent toward Sodom," (Genesis 13:12) and then when he moved into the city in the midst of the wickedness. Peter reminds us that Lot was a "righteous man" and his soul was "vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked." (2 Peter 2:6-8) The real challenge in the story of Lot is why he never left the city and removed his family out of the filthy conversation that was all around him. There may be an answer to that question in our own lives today.

Television has become one of the (if not the) most influential forces in our lives. We live by it, we get our news by it, we enjoy the entertainment it brings us, and we are able to see things never seen before. There are (or used to be) many good things to say about television, but those days are quickly fading into a distant memory. More and more what comes across the screen can be characterized by what Peter describes in 2 Peter 2:7 - "filthy conversation of the wicked." The real challenge the people of God face - those who Peter describes as "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people" (1 Peter 2:9) - is how to maintain being a chosen people, the royalty of our priesthood, a people that seek holiness in our lives and show how peculiar we are to God - and watch television.

Consider what is found on television on any channel. 'Sex and the City' is coming to TBS (rated TVMA on HBO), Ellen Degenerate now has her own prime time talk show on CBS, Rosie O'Donnell is flaunting her sexual immorality (her lesbian partner was interviewed by Barbara Walters), filthy language is common place, masturbation is highlighted on 'The 70's Show,' nudity is shown on prime time shows on many channels (some have those little black bars or blockers to hide various parts which does little to hide very much), cartoons exalt sexual immorality, and many commercials show men and women in underclothing, women taking showers (soap and body wash commercials), and drugs that will enhance sexual intercourse or enlarge parts of male bodies - and there is much, much more - and you and I know that.

Let's go back to Lot in the city of Sodom. Why did he never leave the city when he saw how wicked the city had become? His righteousness did not change the world about him and in the end he lost his wife, his two daughters, and his good name because he did not leave the "filthy conversation of the wicked" that was everywhere around him. We complain about how bad television has become and how terrible the things are that we see and hear and yet we still own three or four of them and even spend thousands of dollars for the newest design and hundreds of dollars each year for cable, satellite and movies.

I know the age-old answer is to turn the television off and that advice still holds value; but if we are more honest with what we see and hear, the television will rarely be turned on. Maybe that is the problem we have in understanding television - being really honest with what to do with it. Do we have a choice? Have we convinced ourselves that we cannot live without it? Psalm 101:3. "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me." Should this apply to the programs on television or the television itself? I wonder. Maybe we should do what they did in Acts 19:19. Imagine the amount of money we would discover. Imagine the minds that would be free from the influence of the box that has become the family altar. Imagine life without television.

**Please check your "to" line or address label to see if you need to renew!**

## **Lyrical Life Science - Vol. 3: Human Body**

Reviewed by Heather Sautter

This textbook, CD, and workbook curriculum is the third volume in the Lyrical Life Science series. This volume does an excellent job of introducing the human body and its systems in an easy-to-understand format.

One of the best things about the textbook is that it breaks down each system of the body (skeletal, muscular, nervous, digestive, etc.) by defining its function and analyzing it in a very simplified form. Along the side of each page in the textbook, there are illustrations and interesting facts for the students' easy comprehension. In addition to 12 chapters on the human body, a chapter on the study of Greek and Latin root words is provided to familiarize the student with the many branches of medical science.

If your student is an auditory learner this curriculum will be suitable for them. The CD (or tape) used with both the workbook and textbook is a musical aid to memorizing the parts and functions of the human body. The best part about this disk is that the lyrics are sung to popular camp songs and traditional patriotic tunes, not abstract or contrived melodies. This is the key factor to easy memorization.

The workbook tests the knowledge that the student gained from the textbook by fill-in-the-blank lyrics to the songs on the CD, multiple choice, short answer and dig deeper questions. Students can check their work in the answer key at the end of the book.

I believe this book will make anatomy easy for any student, no matter what age they are. Although I previously had biology, I learned more about the human body with this program.

It's available for \$30.00 at Rainbow Resource.

## **Home Educators Unite**

by Sally Anne Perz

Many may remember an article I wrote a few years back discussing the uniqueness of homeschooling families ("Families Who Teach At Home: Understanding Our Differences"). My point was that homeschoolers are often stereotyped and labeled, as if all homeschooling families have everything in common. I then discussed a wide range of issues about which homeschoolers share differing opinions. My plea was that we learn to respect one another in spite of our many differences. Obviously, this was not a plea to ignore any form of false doctrine, but rather for us to love other homeschooling families for who they are. I have received a great deal of positive feedback from that article over the past few years.

Recently, I have been considering an idea which is somewhat related to those issues, but takes on a slightly different form. As homeschoolers who are Christians we often share a kindredness that we do not share with unbelievers and with those who do not school at home. This presents many wonderful opportunities for us to share ideas and suggestions with one another. With resources like the homeschool e-mail list, we are able to discuss these ideas in a forum in which we may assume that all are, in the very least, friendly to ideas about homeschooling! This forum has been invaluable to many of us. We have made friends through discussions, sharpened spiritual swords, and heard wise council from older parents who have successfully raised godly children. This is a blessing indeed!

In spite of the many blessings of sharing our lives in this manner, there are a few issues that can arise if we are not careful and considerate. Many, if not most, of those who write public posts know firsthand how easy it is to step in where angels fear to tread. We deal with issues such as misunderstandings, skewed perceptions, unfair assumptions and various other things that arise from written communication with people who do not really know us. Many things cannot always be conveyed (sense of humor, tone, and motive). On one hand we make friends and influence people. On the other hand, we may offend others or take offense where none is intended.

We can take a blessing and make it into a curse. We can assume the worst and become defensive and offended when others disagree with us or speak of issues we think unworthy of discussion. We can sit back, lurking in judgment, unaware of the beam crushing our head. Or, we can take a blessing and make it an avenue to grow spiritually and to encourage our brethren. We can give the benefit of the doubt and keep an open heart and an objective mind. We can approach those who disagree with us with gentleness and love. We can offer our friendship and make every attempt to understand one another in spite of our differing convictions.

We are united in our desire to train up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Let us be united in our desire to seek first to understand and then to be understood. Let us be united in our desire to encourage one another on our journey. Let us remember that our personal opinions do not make us more or less spiritual than our brethren. Let us use God's word as our standard and not bind our personal standards on our brethren.

## Homeschooling for Eternity

by Skeet Savage

(Published in 2005 by Wisdom's Gate, P. O. Box 374, Covert, MI 49043; 800-343-1943;  
www.wisdomsgate.com; available for \$16.00.)

reviewed by Wayne S. Walker

Skeet Savage is a "veteran homeschooler," which, somewhat tongue in cheek, she explains simply means that she "was homeschooling when homeschooling wasn't cool." She is also the founder of Wisdom's Gate and publisher of both *Home School Digest* and *An Encouraging Word*. I already have many books about homeschooling in my library, but I am very happy to add this one. Many of the other books are "hands-on, how-to" books, and they have a lot of useful information. In contrast, this book is divided into thirty-one devotional chapters which seem primarily designed to explain why homeschooling is the best form of education for children and to encourage those who have chosen it in their journey. Yet, the book is more. It draws from Mrs. Savage's own experiences in homeschooling her six children to provide Bible-based instructions and suggestions about how to raise children generally. Written with a gentle wit and a wisdom born of first-hand knowledge, it will challenge all parents to work at developing the kinds of attitudes in themselves that will enable them to direct their children in the ways of the Lord.

The early chapters deal with such subjects as the "perfect" homeschool family, reasons for homeschooling, homeschooling amid opposition, and finding and giving real support. Later chapters discuss tuning your child's character, biblical discipline, knowing your child by heart, and when rebellion hits home. The author also addresses topics like burnout, over-commitment, socialization, and learning to let go. While affirming, "I am a serious homeschooler. I mean it. I want you to know at the outset—I am 100% sold on homeschooling," she also warns, "However, homeschooling, itself, does not guarantee you a positive outcome....So, if you're thinking of homeschooling as the end-all, beat-all, cure-all, fix-all, I can tell you right up front—it's not." Let me give you examples of some items that I found especially helpful.

Concerning "Finding and Giving Real Support," Mrs. Savage wrote, "There has been much discussion over the years about the nature of homeschool support groups: Should they be exclusively Christian or open and inclusive of any and all who wish to attend? I would rephrase the question: Should they be 'exclusive' or truly Christian? From what I have observed, the average American Christian is about as deep as a mud puddle and just about as pure. As a result, upon encountering one, the average American pagan has learned to sidestep them on sight. Yet, incredibly, we Christians are so worried about getting soiled by our contact with the world.

"What are we so afraid of? If we are convinced that we are right in all that we believe, do, and say, then what do we have to fear from someone who supposedly has less light than we claim to possess? If we have the vaccine, then what reason would we have to fear the disease? "The common ground of homeschooling provides a wonderful opportunity for outreach to unbelieving families. Just start with the things you have in common. These folks obviously love their children or they wouldn't be making the sacrifices necessary to home educate them. Plan family activities together. Have a cookout. Make plans to attend a used book swap or homeschooling seminar together. Just look for ways and opportunities to minister the love of God to them in the Name of Jesus. It is a rare individual that will turn away from genuine love!"

Concerning socialization, she said, "As homeschooling parents we have absolutely no Biblical admonition to 'socialize' our children. However, as mature Christians, we are called to be salt and light to this world. Homeschooling is the process by which we prepare our children to fulfill that purpose. The erroneous notion that we should send our impressionable Christian children into those pagan dens of iniquity commonly known as 'public schools' so that they can be 'salt and light' makes about as much sense as dropping them off down at the local neighborhood gay bar so that they can be a witness for Jesus—and learn tolerance to boot!"

Concerning separation from the world, she noted, “Allow me to clarify something here. In speaking of our Lord’s command regarding separation from the world, I’m not talking about some misguided, separatist, militia mentality that suggests we all should just head for the hills and hole up in the woods with our freeze-dried foods and ammunition. Separation from the world does not mean hiding out in the boonies where you don’t have to see, or deal with, anybody (although we all have days where we would gladly settle for that interpretation!).”

“Since separation from the world is not optional for the true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, what does it mean to be separated from the world? It means you don’t feed your mind on the world’s junk-food quality entertainment. You don’t wear their uniforms or desire their bounty. You don’t worship their idols or trust in their gods. You don’t sacrifice your children on their educational altars.”

Another observation was made which I found interesting since it so closely mirrors the beliefs of those of us who are associated with non-denominational, New Testament churches of Christ. “Today, in order to attract folks to their ‘activities,’ churches have gone to incredible extremes. Some are hiring professional marketing personnel to draw up advertisements that portray the church as being (and this is a quote) ‘non-condemning and user-friendly.’ This ‘come as you are, stay as you are’ approach offers no real hope to the desperate and hurting. One church even used money out of their tithes and offerings to bring in a circus! Another sent out a flyer announcing their upcoming ‘Bible’ school (though, I must confess, I have yet to find the following scenario in the Bible) that advised parents to have their children wear old clothes to church (here comes another quote) ‘where there will be face painting by the clowns at the church.’ (Look, folks, don’t get mad at me. I’m not name-calling—that’s their wording!) Think about that for a moment though—that is exactly what the world calls us; why would we want to give them ammo?

“The advertisement goes on... ‘Meanwhile, the teens are all invited to participate in the paint balloon fight that will take place out on the church lawn.’ (I’ll bet that really blessed the folks driving by!) The ad didn’t say what the adults would be doing and I just shudder to think of the type of nonsense they are probably involved in!

“To what are we attracting people with this kind of a process? How does any of this speak to a lost and dying world about Jesus? In what way are people being drawn to our God, or lifted out of their suffering, or called to forsake their sins and change their wicked ways? The world is not impressed by these types of shenanigans.”

Here are a few other recommendations for the book. “*Homeschooling for Eternity* is a must-read for all Christian parents, including those who don’t homeschool their children. Skeet Savage brings her vast knowledge of Scripture to bear on the foundational principles of child rearing” (Lee Webb, news anchor CBN News). “Warm, wise, and often witty, *Homeschooling For Eternity* gives those of us who are still in the middle of our homeschooling journey encouragement and reassurance” (Bruce N. Shortt, author of *The Harsh Truth About Public Schools*). “*Homeschooling for Eternity* is a must-read for all homeschool families who are serious about raising their families for God’s glory” (Christopher Klicka, Senior Counsel of the Home School Legal Defense Association). “Skeet Savage excavates for a sure foundation for teaching and training our children to be ‘faithful servants of the Lord, seeing as God sees’” (Brian and Betsy Ray, of the National Home Education Research Institute).

In conclusion, the crux of the book is expressed in the following paragraph. “How can we, as Christian, live in and reach out to this sick world, yet, maintain a safe and peaceful environment for our families? Is it possible to live purposefully and effectively for the Kingdom, or is life just a mere game of chance recklessly played against gambler’s odds?” While there may be a few specific statements with which not everyone will necessarily agree, I believe that if you are convinced that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,” for the most part Skeet Savage draws broad, general principles from Bible teaching that will help you to answer those questions.

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