

Keystone

The Journal of Christian Home Schoolers

of Australasia

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Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth. — Psalm 112:1-2

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A Christian at His Calling

by Cotton Mather, 1701

There are two callings to be minded by all Christians. Every Christian has a *general* calling, which is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. God has called us to believe on His Son, repent of our sin, and bear our testimony to His truths and ways in the world. Every man in the world should herein conform to the calls of that God, who has called us with this holy calling. But then every Christian has also a *personal* calling, or a certain particular employment, by which his usefulness in his neighbourhood is distinguished. God has made man a sociable creature. We expect benefits from humane society. It is but equal that humane society should receive benefits from us. We are beneficial to humane society by the worlds of that special occupation in which we are to be employed, according to the order of God.

A Christian at his two callings is a man in a boat rowing for heaven, the house which our heavenly Father has intended for us. If he mind but one of his callings, be it which it will, he pulls the oar, but on one side of the boat, and will make but a poor dispatch to the shore of eternal blessedness. It is not only necessary that a Christian should follow his general calling, it is of necessity that he follow his personal calling, too.

A Christian should be able to give a good account not only what is his occupation, but also what he is in his occupation. It is not enough that a Christian have an occupation; he must mind his occupation as it becomes a Christian. That a Christian may be able to give a good account of his occupation, there are certain virtues of Christianity with which he is to follow it.

(And although the language employed in this article may sound as if it is aimed exclusively at the male

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KEYSTONE

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KEYSTONE is intended to inform, challenge, encourage and inspire. The trustees of CHomeS believe that the Christian faith is being undervalued. Christianity alone is fully able to present a world view that is comprehensive, coherent, consistent and complete.

Committed to scholarship, the free exchange of ideas and the need to stimulate reasonable debate

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Editorial



There was quite a significant (and possibly important historically) Forum of home educators in Palmerston North on 5 and 6 February 1998. There were 15 home schooling organisations represented and delegates came from 19 different population centres on both the North and South Islands. The main items of business centred around how home educators should respond to the moves being made by state agencies to keep a closer eye on us all. It was sobering to hear from one delegate who had just returned from a spell in Western Australia as she described the raw abuse of power by state authorities to bring home educators under their heel.

It seemed from that time onward, every phone call into our house was from another corner of the country, wanting to sharpen up the presentation of their submission to Parliament's Education Committee, the one that is currently reviewing the Education Legislation Amendment Bill. I know home educators in Christchurch and Auckland and elsewhere are going to appear before the Select Committee to speak to their submissions, and the Committee is actually travelling around in order to hear those submissions. I was in Wellington yesterday to speak to the CHomeS submission. They didn't make any comment or ask any question regarding the point that the proposed amendment will equate homes with institutions, creating many iniquities. But when I got onto this issue of power, that the bill gives too much to the ERO, they became somewhat animated. Tony Steele, the chairman, especially seemed to think that the clause not giving them the automatic power of entry was sufficient. Neil Kirton seemed to see the issue a little and asked how I would re-word the sentences outlining the powers. When I maintained that the Education Act only requires that the child be taught at least as regularly and well as in a registered school, the operative word being "taught", and therefore it was unnecessary for the ERO to speak with the child or see any work, but only interview the parent/teacher, there seemed to be a general disagreement with me, and several asked how a review could be carried out without seeing the child or the work. "Was it an unreasonable request on the part of the ERO," they asked. I said no, but it was unnecessary. They asked questions right through my presentation, which tended to put me off my train of thought. So take note, those of you who are soon to give your submission!

Apologies to our Australian readers, as the material on pages 4 and 5 doesn't immediately appear relevant to you. But it is! Becoming a member of CHomeS would bring you all the same benefits. (The TEACH Bulletin is solely concerned with NZ developments, and Australian subscription rates reflect the fact that the TEACH Bulletin would not be included, unless requested.)

Letters



Correspondence School

Our family is interested in receiving NZ Correspondence School lessons for our home schooled children. We will probably pay the several hundreds of dollars (per subject) for Form 7 enrolment, so that our children will "have Bursary" and be able to attend University in popular courses. (E.g., at Auckland University you need a Bursary total of around 320 to get into the School of Engineering.)

It would be preferable if we could pay the "adult rate" for NZ Correspondence School lessons of only about one hundred dollars per subject, but for that the student needs to be 16 years old or more. I realise that the MOE believes that we home schoolers have chosen to opt out of the system and therefore we are not eligible for free NZ Correspondence lessons. But what about us getting the lessons at the adult rate? Why does the MOE subsidise the lessons for adults? Presumably because it is good for the country as a whole, to improve people's school qualifications. Wouldn't that be true for home schoolers as well? I think that we should lobby the Government for NZ Correspondence lessons for our children, at the adult rate. What do other home schoolers think?

Rosalind Peterson
Auckland

USA Pen Pal

Hello. My name is Mellissa Cassidy and I am an 18-year-old born-again Christian. I would like to be penpals with a person around my age in your country. Please send any information you can. Thank you so much. Love in Christ,

Mellissa-rose Cassidy
34 Bonny Drive
Mastic, New York 11950
USA

Pen Pal Wanted

I'm six. My name is Elizabeth. I like:
reading
swimming
dressing up
picking flowers
making up dances.

I would like a pen pal, a six year old girl.
Yours faithfully,

Elizabeth Rine
PO Box 40
Kaponga
New Zealand

Home Schoolers Did It



Stick to Your Guns....And Keep Firing !

by Genevieve Smith

(Back in mid-1994, home schooler Genevieve Smith of Palmerston North, NZ, then 14, began publishing a newsletter called *The Minority*. The purpose was to mobilise home schooling minors into appropriate political action. Recently she wrote this account of those days.)

After publishing the first issue of *The Minority* I thought I would take it along to my local youth group and give copies of it to those in my Bible Study Class.

They were impressed with the newsletter but were not so sure that they could write letters to the Editor after I spoke to them of the need to fight for our beliefs. Soon the subject of smacking came up and how it was soon going to be made illegal to smack children. One girl asked if there was a letter that they could all sign in support of smacking. I volunteered to write a letter that they could all sign and then send it to two local papers and Dianne Yates (MP who wanted to ban smacking).

It was published and Dianne Yates wrote back. Her letter moved one of my friends to write back because "Dianne Yates' thinking was off track." Within days of our letter appearing in the paper someone wrote a reply to it.

My friends at the Youth Group were appalled. They thought that our writing a letter had been a waste of time because we had had opposition.

It was actually quite the opposite. Our letter had stirred people up. It had made them act. Here we were, an apparently insignificant minority, moving a generation twice our age to thinking again about a very important matter. We had started a debate. So I wrote

another letter and got my friends to sign it. This time I met with opposition. One girl said that she didn't like her friends seeing her name in the newspaper. Others said that they agreed with the letter but didn't want to make trouble. Even so I still got a lot of people to sign it.

After the publication of this letter, Natasha received a private letter from a lady in her church. The lady, I believe, was not too impressed with the way Natasha was pushing her beliefs because, after all, we Christians are not supposed to get involved in the problems of the world. This is a very wrong way to view the world and its problems.

My father always used to say that there are three types of people in this world: Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who say "What happened?" As Christians we should be in the first group; we should make things happen and not wait for the non-Christians to take over.

The world is the Lord's and He has given us laws to govern it by. In New Zealand at this period of time a lot of non-Christians are doing all they can politically or otherwise to change New Zealand into a completely secular (with no reference to God or the Bible) country. It is our job as Bible believing Christians, to stop this. How? Write. The pen is mightier than the sword, and when a whole body of people (even a minority) rise up in unison over a matter things start to happen! Wheels start to turn and resolutions are made. Show that you won't be made to back down over a matter. Write to your local newspaper, MP, or organisation.

And remember: always glorify God in everything you do.

Dianne Yates wrote:

1 — Legislation may help in one way to eliminate some of the violence in our society.

2 — Violence begets violence.

Genevieve responded:

1 — Legislation to rule out smacking will not do anything except to make a lot of new law breakers out of otherwise peace-keeping individuals. Outlawing alcohol in the "Roaring Twenties" did not stop people drinking. It simply pushed it underground.

2 — Here Dianne Yates is equating smacking with violence. However, smacking and violence are two

Puzzle



A Logic Problem

Mr Smith owns a fix-it shop, and before he went on his holidays he contacted the owners of the six appliances which were still in his shop and told them to collect them by Friday. As it turned out, they all came in on Friday, but at different times. From the clues below, can you deduce who owned which appliance and at what time he came to collect it?

First Names: Jason, Ken, Les, Mike, Nat, Owen.

Last Names: Asher, Brook, Clark, Dolan, Ellis, Fox.

Appliances: iron, kettle, radio, heater, clock, lamp.

Times: 9am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm.

Mr Clark collected the iron. The heater was collected an hour after Owen had been. Four of the men came to the shop in this order: Jason, Mr Ellis, the one who collected the kettle, Ken. Mike collected his item before Mr Asher, but later than the man who collected the lamp. Les collected his appliance two hours earlier than Mr Brook came to the shop. Mr Fox collected his appliance one hour after Mike. Three of the owners came in this order: Nat, Mr Dolan, the owner of the radio. The clock was collected in the morning.

(Answers on page 19)

Puzzle



Answers to the previous puzzle:

What words can be written in the brackets to mean the same as the word on the left in one sense and the same as the word on the right in another sense? The dashes represent the number of letters.

1. recline (_ _ _) falsehood
2. pale (_ _ _) just
3. retinue (_ _ _ _) educate
4. skin (_ _ _) conceal
5. canine (_ _ _ _) persecute
6. join (_ _ _ _) corruption
7. huge (_ _ _ _) vulgar
8. cease (_ _ _) lame
9. obvious (_ _ _ _) unadorned
10. acquiring (_ _ _ _ _ _) attractive
11. ingress (_ _ _ _ _) enrapture
12. enthusiastic (_ _ _) sharp
13. comprehend (_ _ _ _) seize
14. plot (_ _ _ _ _) fascinate
15. enclose (_ _ _ _) fight

(1-lie, 2-fair, 3-train, 4-hide, 5-hound, 6-graft, 7-gross, 8-halt, 9-plain, 10-fetching, 11-entrance, 12-keen, 13-grasp, 14-intrigue, 15-fence)

Tough Questions People Throw Your Way



**How can you stick it? All day
everyday with the kids at home??
Aaaarrggghh!!**

We want the thrill of participating in our children's learning process. All parents remember how much pleasure there is in watching for, coaching, developing and announcing each child's first smile, first step, first word, first go on a bike, etc., etc. We get that thrill over and over as they learn to read, to write, to master maths, to put a science project together, or to see relationships in history. We also have the added bonus of knowing that they have learned and mastered that particular skill and not simply "experienced" it. The extra added bonus is that we have learned it afresh ourselves.

In fact, we find this home schooling so stimulating we actually get hooked on it. We would rather see the children learn than earn money. But then we see all activities as learning activities, earning money included. We have sought and found ways for the children to help us earn our income: assisting us who are self-employed by doing unpaid chores around the house for us, freeing us up for the paid work; directly helping us in running our home business; developing their own cottage industries, earning their own pocket money; several pairs of eyes and ears are better than one in locating bargains around town. The emphasis in all this is not on teaching as it is in the schools, but on learning. The children will learn virtually automatically when they can accompany and participate to even a small degree in some common everyday activity like pulling the weeds, shopping, changing a tyre, repairing the back fence, banking, posting.....the list, like the tasks to be done, is endless!

But children learn by helping you do the tasks. This is killing two birds with one stone: teaching the kids while doing all those chores and errands at the same time. They not only learn about the myriad mundane tasks that make up a day in the real world, but also come to see the place each task plays in the overall picture. In other words, they form a world-view based on the reality of your life in the home, the community and the market place rather than some Marxist/feminist academic's spin-doctored theory about reality as he/she sees it from his/her ivory tower. Children learn local geography, economics, maths, time management, manual skills and more just by doing what you do during the day. It may take you longer to get through

your list of chores, but because you are trying to look at these tasks through the eyes of your children, you will see these tasks in a totally new perspective. It will revitalise your own "boring" and "routine" day in a way you would never imagine to be possible.

We haven't found home schooling to be expensive. I mean, even at "free" public schools the parents are continually shelling out for uniforms, books, fees, field trips, etc. "Free" public schools are also very time consuming and stressful for the concerned parent. There are all those delicate relationships with all those teachers and administrators, the other parents at PTA meetings, the tense debates at the school committee meetings, and the continual fund raising activities. And of course there is the transportation here, there and everywhere. Home schooling also takes time, but it is not time spent, it is time invested! And again, maybe as little as two hours a day is formal instruction, the rest is instruction "on the job" as you go about your necessary routine.

I believe the main reason that sympathetic friends do not themselves home school is because they do not want themselves or their children to be different. Sure, they want them to be better than average and distinctive in many ways, but not really different. But we do not want our children to be the same as all the others around, so that's why we home school. We don't want ours to be as cheeky, disrespectful, dishonest, disobedient and destructive as so many kids are today. We don't want our children trained to be pleasure-seeking hedonists. We don't want our kids to be so group-oriented that they cannot think, reason, evaluate, decide and then personally commit themselves to a course of action without the consent of their peers.

We are doing the best we can, I repeat, the best we know we can do, to maintain religious and civil freedoms in NZ by home schooling our children. The world-wide trend seems to be toward centralisation in government and ecumenicalism in religion. We aim to train up Biblically individualistic, independent thinkers, who are unafraid to shoulder responsibilities, but who are afraid of sin, who will, by God's grace, evaluate all things by the principles set forth in the Bible. By so doing we will have produced children who will not be so easily pushed around by Big Brother, nor will the world be very successful at intimidating them to conform to its mould. We are not trying to produce anarchists. By training our children to be thoroughly Biblical in thought, word and deed, our children will be thereby effectively restrained from fulfilling their selfish desires and at the same time constrained to do that which is right.

We are doing the best thing possible to help the public, the private and the Christian schools.....providing them with some stiff competition. And I mean stiff. An average home with average access to resources with average parents with no special training are routinely producing children with top academic and social skills, while schools with masses of money and mountains of resources and highly trained and paid professional

teachers, counsellors and administrators are having mixed results. Virtually any parent with only a half-measure of concern for excellence in their children's education can easily raise up a family of superior academic and social accomplishments. Impossible, you say. Only natural, I retort. A home schooling parent is a private tutor. With only two hours of quality one-to-one tuition a day an average parent will certainly accomplish far more than all but the most exceptional teacher, contending with 30-40 mixed ability children in a classroom, can accomplish in a whole week...or longer. Almost every teacher will grant you that. And on top of that, who but you, the parent, is more concerned and motivated toward your children's success? Who knows and understands your children better than you? You know when they are truly having an off day and when they are just having you on. Who else but you can ensure they get the morals, values and world outlook that you want them to have? I am sure you have heard the old saying, "If you want something done right, you've got to do it yourself." This holds just as true in the realm of education as anywhere else.

It is a shame that the state educationalists are today perceived as the "professionals", the "experts", as if they alone held the keys for unlocking the child's abilities to learn and for unlocking the mysteries of God's creation that it may be understood. There is an exceedingly strong argument which can demonstrate that humanistically-trained state teachers do more to thwart children's learning abilities than to unlock them. The fact that these same teachers are bound by law to

teach from a secular or God-less perspective guarantees that they will not unlock the mysteries of God's creation or ever properly understand them. I believe every parent must no longer allow herself to be intimidated, disparaged, patronised or put down by anyone within the state education system.

Instead of belittling her own abilities, I believe every parent must first of all seriously consider teaching her own children at home because in most cases she can do a superior job of it. If that is indeed totally out of the question, parents should then consider the Christian school, giving thanks and praise to God that there are so many dedicated Christian teachers and administrators with the vision for Christian schools.

The state schools are there as a last resort. That was partly why they were established — to provide and ensure a minimum of education to all NZ children. Yet I know of no parents who consciously say they want the minimum education being offered by the state. Parents desire more, much more. Therefore they owe it to themselves to seriously consider the home schooling option.

Over a Cuppa



A Higher Standard

by Sara Rimer, New York Times

In 1985, Ruth Simmons became head of Smith College, one of America's most elite institutions of higher learning for women. Simmons, the great-great-granddaughter of slaves, began her journey to Smith on a cotton farm in Texas, where her parents were sharecroppers.

Later the family moved to a poor part of Houston. There her father worked in a factory and her mother scrubbed floors for white families. How did such humble beginnings spawn a career that led to the top of academia?

"I had a remarkable mother," says Simmons. "She would sometimes take me with her to work when I was a little girl, and the thing I remember vividly is how good she was at what she did. She was very demanding in terms of her own work. 'Do it well, do it thoroughly,' she'd say, 'whatever you do.'" At her inauguration, Simmons carried a Bible her mother had given her father on the day they were married. "I know the Smith board of trustees thinks I'm trying to live up to the standards it set for me, and that's OK," she says. But she is aiming toward a higher standard. "Every day that I'm here," Simmons says, "I try to be the kind of person my mother wanted me to be."

The Stranger

A few months before I was born, my dad met a stranger who was new to our small Tennessee town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up I never questioned his place in our family. In my young mind, each member had a special niche. My brother, Bill, five years my senior, was my example. Fran, my younger sister, gave me an opportunity to play big brother and develop the art of teasing. My parents were complementary instructors -- Mom taught me to love the word of God, and Dad taught me to obey it. But the stranger was our storyteller. He could weave the most fascinating tales. Adventures, mysteries and comedies were daily conversations. He could hold our whole family spell-bound for hours each evening.

If I wanted to know about politics, history, or science, he knew it all. He knew about the past, understood the

present, and seemingly could predict the future. The pictures he could draw were so lifelike that I would often laugh or cry as I watched.

He was like a friend to the whole family. He took Dad, Bill and me to our first major league baseball game. He was always encouraging us to see the movies and he even made arrangements to introduce us to several movie stars. My brother and I were deeply impressed by John Wayne in particular.

The stranger was an incessant talker. Dad didn't seem to mind — but sometimes Mom would quietly get up while the rest of us were enthralled with one of his stories of faraway places - go to her room, read her Bible and pray. I wonder now if she ever prayed that the stranger would leave.

You see, my dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions. But this stranger never felt an obligation to honour them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our house-not from us, from our friends, or adults. Our long-time visitor, however, used occasional four letter words that burned my ears and made Dad squirm. To my knowledge the stranger was never confronted. My dad was a teetotaler who didn't permit alcohol in his home-not even for cooking. But the stranger felt like we needed exposure and enlightened us to other ways of life. He offered us beer and other alcoholic beverages often. He made cigarettes look tasty, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished.

He talked freely (too much too freely) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I know now that my early concepts of the man-woman relationship were influenced by the stranger.

As I look back I believe it was the grace of God that the stranger did not influence us more. Time after time he opposed the values of my parents. Yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave.

More than thirty years have passed since the stranger moved in with the young family on Morningside Drive. He is not nearly so intriguing to my Dad as he was in those early years. But if I were to walk into my parent's den today, you would still see him sitting over in a corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name? We always just called him TV.

Answers to Puzzle on page 16

Ken Asher collected heater at 4pm

Nat Brook collected clock at 11am

Les Clark collected iron at 9am

Jason Dolan collected lamp at 1pm

Mike Ellis collected radio at 2pm

Owen Fox collected kettle at 3pm

Theologically Speaking

Baptism



I once asked some good Christian friends how they, as rational, intelligent people, could go along with this crazy idea some people have of baptising or sprinkling infants. They laughed in such a way as to indicate that I wasn't the first person to ask such a question. They didn't answer but simply gave me a slim book to read, *William the Baptist*, by James M. Chaney who wrote it back in 1877!

It was a great little human interest story, a bit of a romance really, describing the doctrinal worries of a Baptist gentleman as he courted his Presbyterian sweetheart. I couldn't put it down.

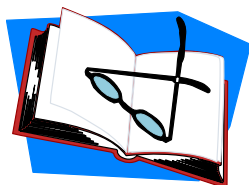
When I did, I cannot say I understood the doctrine of infant baptism. But I could see that it wasn't the obvious open-and-shut case I had thought it was. A fair bit of further study followed, and by borrowing some comparative diagrams from some authors and working them over myself, I came up with the table below,

which I trust is reasonably accurate as I tried to soften the dogmatism in the originals. This only barely begins to explain the difference between the two main positions within the Protestant camp. What seemed more important or significant was that this doctrine, like most others, cannot be considered in isolation, but is inextricably entwined within the wider range of doctrines, the whole of which makes up one's theology.

In other words, we must be slow to speak ill of another's theology unless we are familiar with the bigger picture. If we as home schooling parents disparage another denomination, we have already transgressed and set a bad example as well. I know how easy it is to do...I have had to make two public apologies for just such offences within the last five days. Ripping into others' ideas on baptism, for example, mainly because they don't match your own, breeds the ugly bigotry we Christians are always being accused of displaying. Note the two areas of total agreement below: #1 and #12. Symbolism is not an exact field of study but very subjective. And none of us can possibly know the state of a person's heart. Therefore we must learn to show patience, long-suffering, mercy and compassion to others, just as our Lord has shown to us. Even though it may be obvious to us that the other guy doesn't have it all together, remember...neither do we.

Believer's Baptism	Infant Baptism
1. Is symbolic only and causes no change in the one being baptised.	Is symbolic only and causes no change in the one being baptised.
2. Signifies a believer has turned to the Lord.	Signifies a child has been set apart to the Lord.
3. Is done on a profession of faith by the one being baptised.	Is done on a declaration by the parents of the one being baptised that they will rear that one in the Christian faith.
4. Demonstrates a sharp discontinuity between the OT and the NT: believer's baptism is unlike anything which had gone before in the same way that being born again as a Christian is unlike anything which had gone before.	Demonstrates a close continuity from the OT into the NT: bringing infants of believing families into the covenant community of God's people is continued, although the accompanying rite of circumcision is changed to the bloodless rite of water baptism.
5. Portrays the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.	Portrays a setting apart, being sanctified, made holy.
6. The believer is identifying self with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, promising to live thereafter for Him.	The parents acknowledge that God has total claim to the child's life but also claim God's promise to bless the children of faithful believers.
7. Water symbolises cleansing from sin.	Water symbolises cleansing from sin via the Holy Spirit coming down upon (pouring or sprinkling).
8. Indicates that God works with individuals.	Indicates that God works with individuals through the context of families.
9. It is a badge of membership in the Body of Christ.	It is a mark of ownership by God.
10. It confirms that the believer has accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour.	It confirms that God has accepted the child into His covenant family by virtue of confessing parents.
11. Centres upon man's believing.	Centres upon God's fulfilling His promise.
12. Sometimes the one baptised appears to be unregenerate after all.	Sometimes the one baptised appears to be unregenerate after all.

Book Reviews



The Basic Steps to Successful Homeschooling

by Vicki A. Brady

(Review by Rosalind Peterson., Auckland)

Who remembers the family who gave home schooling workshops all over NZ in 1990? Well, this book is written by the mother in that family! (She even lists CHomeS NZ in the Appendix.) Since then she has been hosting a radio show ("Homeschooling Live") in the U.S.A.

I have on my bookshelf a stack of books that I desperately want to read -- when I have a spare moment...in between feeding the baby, cleaning up the 3-year-old's mess, marking the 7-year-old's schoolwork (from last week)...But when I got this book everything else just had to wait, (except feeding the baby, of course, because I could do that while reading!) I then phoned my husband at work, to tell him about when Vicki and Terry almost lost their children to an over-zealous Social Welfare worker. As soon as my husband came home from work he started reading Vicki's book too!

The book is excellent for people just starting off home schooling, but it is also a great help to "veterans" like us. The Brady's plan to come back to NZ in March/April. I sure hope that they can.

A.B.C. Pre-school Series

published by Rod & Staff Publishers, Inc.

(Review by J.S. van Kampen, Tauranga)

The A.B.C. Pre-school Series is made up of seven books designed for children to use with the instruction of their parents. The aim of the authors is to provide constructive guidance on important pre-reading and writing skills. In addition to these academic skills, children are intended to learn valuable character qualities such as courtesy, honesty and neatness and the foundation is laid for good work habits.

Adventures with Books is the first in the series and covers the topics of basic handling of books, following simple instructions, recognising colours and shapes, and practising cutting and pasting.

Bible Pictures to Colour is a colouring book which accompanies a story book called *Bible Stories to Read* - (also available: price \$8.85)

Counting with Numbers reviews some skills from previous books and also introduces new maths concepts and word meanings.

Do it Carefully begins the child on printing letters of

the alphabet and hearing some initial consonant sounds, as well as reviewing previous skills.

Everywhere We Go encourages children to be observant of the world around them and offers a variety of review exercises.

Finding the Answers is the final book in the series and seeks to develop the child's mental and language skills and at the same time reinforce important values and good work habits.

Each book has an outline detailing its aims and purpose and specific instructions are given for parents to guide their child through the exercises. All pictures are clear and well set out in black and white. The first books have larger pictures without too much detail, then progressing to some smaller more detailed work in the final book.

I would recommend this series to anyone who is looking for good, sound instruction for their pre-schooler. I have thoroughly enjoyed working through part of the series with my four-year-old daughter (who loves her "schoolbooks") and look forward to completing the series with her.

(Available from Geneva Discount Books, 79-95 Johnsons Rd., R.D., Whitemans Valley, Upper Hutt, \$4.95 each.)

Trading Post



For Sale:

The Big Book of Home Learning
by Mary Pride, Vol. I.

Exhaustive listing of curriculum suppliers, educational philosophies, learning styles, etc.....\$14

How to Home School: A Practical Approach by Gayle Graham. Excellent ideas and teaching tips, especially good for unit studies.....\$18

A Strong Start in Language by Ruth Beechick. Teaching language arts in a natural easy way.....\$5

All books are either in new or good condition.

Contact:

Susan Peek
6 Central Ave.
Wanganui

For Sale:

Learning Language Arts Through Literature, Red Book, (2nd Grade Skills).....\$10

Building Spelling Skills, Christian Liberty Press

Book 1.....\$5

Book 2.....\$5

Contact:

M. Posthuma
35 Hythe Tce., Mairangi Bay
Auckland 10

CHomeS Roundup



Have Realistic Outlooks

The cartoon below from Gary Larson's *The Far Side* is scary for how close to the bone it cuts. Sure, things will be different in the year 2005, but is it realistic to expect that young people skilled in computer games will be in high demand by employers? We mustn't let our children's abilities in one area cause us to slacken off their work in developing other areas. Some things never change: the basics are always basic. By that I mean reading (including listening and comprehension), writing (including penmanship, spelling, grammar, note-taking and composition) and arithmetic (including memorising tables and being able to estimate) are basic skills none can do without. To that list I would add oral communication skills, the ability to think and speak on your feet. My experience as a student on Massey University campus last year and this indicates that all these basic skills are sorely lacking among first, second and even third year students.

In addition, even though there are encouraging signs that evolution is being soft-peddled in the sciences these days since it is increasingly recognised as a hopelessly inadequate theory, the arts and humanities are thoroughly evolutionary, humanistic and anti-Christian to the core. Sure, you can mention Christian standards of morality or Biblical facts, but you will be sniggered at or worse since these are not seen as ideas or concepts or facts of a scientifically empirical nature. Even in the most inexact and least empirical of all areas, philosophy, sociology and social policy, the Christian perspective is unknown and unwelcome. Radical feminist ideas, lesbian and homosexual issues are treated with a great deal of respect and awe.

Most Christians on campus seem to keep their mouths shut and heads down and just do the work. I open my mouth and trust I do not bring shame upon His Name in what I say, but I cannot remain silent. Consequently I've been marked down, shouted down, let down and become a person on which to look down. Your teenagers need to be aware of what it's like if they want to exercise their faith on campus and not let the reigning, politically correct philosophies cause them to see Christianity as irrelevant.

Finally, is a tertiary degree all that wonderful, is it that great doorway to opportunities unimaginable as we parents were usually told? Well, yes and no. If that degree is essential to you, then you have to jump through the tertiary hoops to get it. But so much of what is offered on campus is freely available in the

public library. If it's an education you want, you can achieve that yourself. If it's a paper qualification you want, you have to pay the fees and pass the exams. More and more private employers out there are beginning to recognise that having a qualification is not the same as having an education.

Report on Home Schooling Information Workshop

by Christine Whetton
Clevedon, NZ

(A similar workshop, in expanded form, is being held on Auckland's North Shore on Saturday 25 April 1998. Refer to enclosed information sheet. Established home educators often think they don't need another workshop, but there are at least two major blessings such an attitude overlooks: the excitement and motivation of being among so many like-minded people and the comparatively vast amounts of experience and wisdom you can share with the many newcomers there who have zero experience. Sign up and come along! — Ed.)

“Iron sharpeneth iron...”,
so it is when home
schoolers get together.

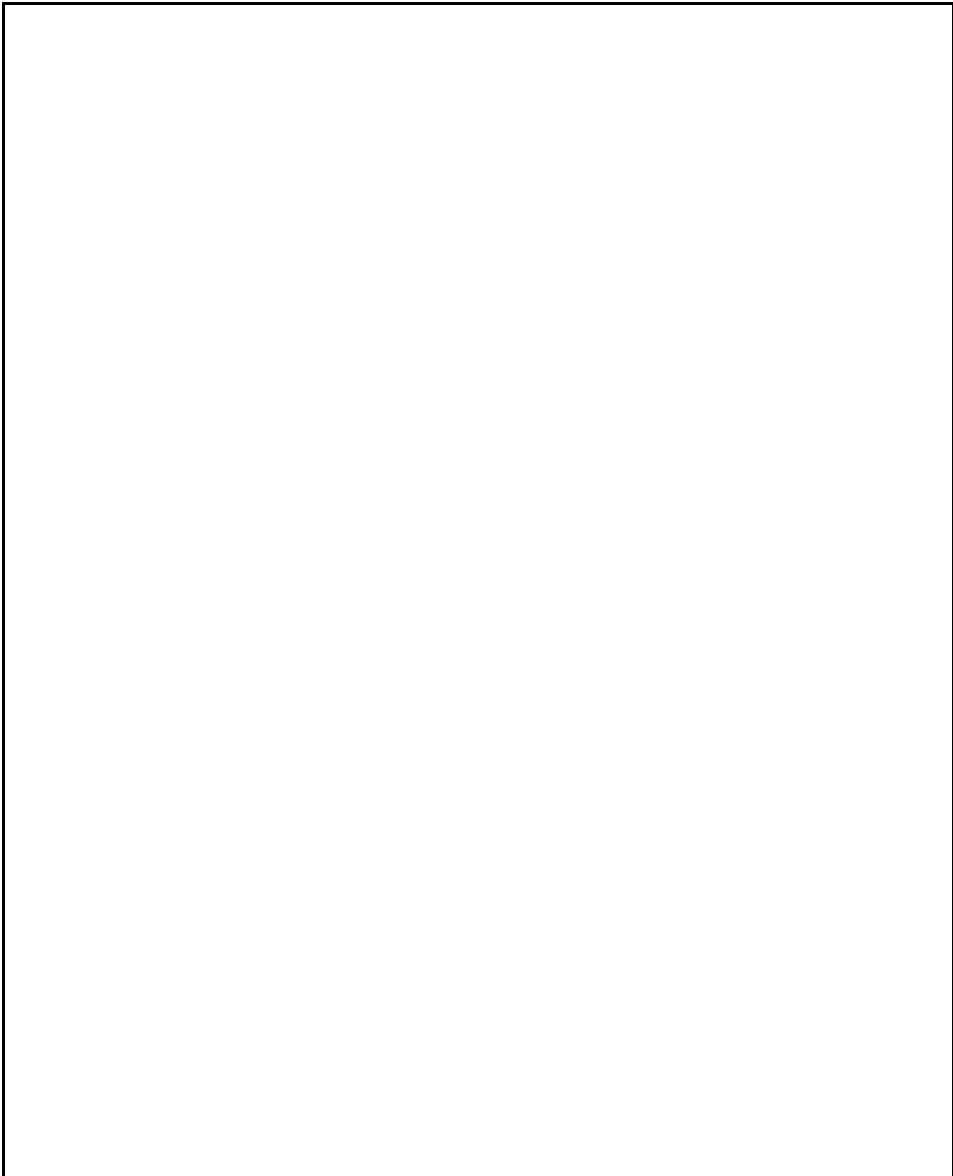
The 21st June, 1997, was a cold, wet, blustery day, but the atmosphere at Windsor Park Baptist Church, Mairangi Bay, was warm and genial as homeschool parents met for an “Information Workshop”, organised by Shore Home Schoolers.

After a short message of introduction and welcome by Dorinda Duthie, we were addressed by Craig Smith on “The Current State of Home Schooling in N. Z.”. Home Schooling in N.Z., Craig believes, is in very good heart. The public, in general, are becoming more and more comfortable with it as a viable option, home schooling parents are feeling increasingly confident about their choice, and the MOE professes to be satisfied that most Home Schooled children are being well provided for educationally, socially and emotionally. Not

that we should become complacent, of course. “The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.”

For the morning workshop we had six available sessions to choose from. Without hesitation, I opted for “Home Schooling Teenagers”. It was taken by Barbara Smith, assisted by Denise Walmsley and two girls who had been home schooled throughout their teenage years. Why this choice? Well, when your son reaches the age of twelve and won't take his nose out of books about World War II except to talk about bombers, battleships and aircraft carriers, is not too keen on writing, and wishes maths would just go away, it's a bit of a worry.

So you steal furtively into the workshop, hoping against hope that maybe, somewhere, there just might possibly be some obscure shred of hope and direction for you to latch on to. Surprise! Surprise! There are six other parents there with sons just like yours! Better still, there are parents there whose sons once lived in a dream world of weapon mania, but have now matured into purposeful, motivated students, working towards careers of a less adventurous nature! Can you believe it?



The session dealt with the skills teenagers need to equip them for life. Emphasis was put on the importance of giving children our full support in setting and pursuing goals, as motivation is the key to their acquiring the skills and knowledge that are to equip them for life. If we were concerned about qualifications, we were given a list of exams and standardised tests which our children could take. At the same time, qualifications were put in perspective -- they are nowhere as important as traits such as good attitude, honesty, reliability, communication skills, commitment, etc. Listening to the voices of practical experience made the task ahead seem much more practicable.

As of July 1996, 5196 children were registered as being home schooled. Thirty-six percent of these were 12 - 16 year olds. There is no doubt that teenagers are being successfully equipped for life from the home base and without the help of the public school system. And if the two teenagers present at that session were representative of how home schooled teenagers turn out, then it's for me!

In the afternoon, I chose the "Support Group Ideas" option. That provided a lot of food for thought too. But there was a wide range of topics to choose from, and I doubt if anyone would have left feeling they had not benefited greatly from the day.

Attending Home Schooling conferences can call for quite some effort on our part, but it's well worth all the effort. Rubbing shoulders with other like-minded people is such a "shot in the arm" and a real antidote to burnout and feelings of isolation or inadequacy.

Thank you so much, Shore Home Schoolers! Roll on 25 April 1998!

Elemental Discovery

The heaviest element known to science was recently discovered by physicists. The element, tentatively named Administratium, has no protons or electrons and thus has an atomic number of 0. However, it does have 1 neutron, 125 assistant neutrons, 75 vice-neutrons and 111 assistant vice-neutrons, for an atomic number of 312. The 312 particles are held together by a force that involves the continuous exchange of meson-like particles called morons.

Since it has no electrons, Administratium is inert. However, it can be detected chemically, as it impedes every action with which it comes in contact. According to the discoverers, one reaction that normally requires less than one second was extended to four days by the presence of a minute amount of Administratium.

Administratium has a half-life of approximately three years, at which time it does not actually decay but instead undergoes a reorganisation in which assistance neutrons, vice-neutrons and assistant vice-neutrons exchange places. Some studies suggest that its atomic mass actually increases in each reorganisation.

Research at other laboratories indicates that Administratium occurs naturally in the atmosphere. It tends to concentrate at certain points, such as government agencies, large corporations, universities and churches, and can usually be found in the newest, best appointed and best maintained buildings.

Scientists point out that Administratium is known to be toxic at any level of concentration and can easily destroy any productive reaction where it is allowed to accumulate. Attempts are being made to determine how Administratium can be controlled to prevent irreversible damage, but results to date are not promising.

The Bible and Crime

Prisoners who serve time reading the Bible are less likely to commit crimes after release than those who don't, according to a new study.

Two groups of inmates — 201 criminals who attended Bible study and 201 who did not — were monitored after release, and only 14% of the ex-cons with the Christian instruction were arrested again. Members of the group without Bible study showed a 41% arrest rate after release from the four different New York prisons, according to the research by Lamar University criminologist Byron Johnson.

Mr Johnson and other researchers said at a news conference this week that the study may not have a national application, but it suggests a workable solution under certain circumstances. "Programs targeting core values can be effective in reducing recidivism," or repeat offences, said Dr David Larson of the National Institute of Healthcare Research, which sponsored the research. "Current prison programs have not proven to be effective, as current rearrest rates, from 50 to 75%, continue to climb."

James Q Wilson, a University of Southern California political scientist who studies crime, said in a telephone interview he could not comment on the research's rigorousness but added that it is far more hopeful than most.

"Many people who study this, including myself, are not very optimistic that anything can be done with prisoners to change them," he said. "Most criminologists today are looking at childhood intervention as a solution."

In the new study, the inmates who had the Bible instruction did so with Prison Fellowship, the largest of several prison ministries nationwide.

(From *The Washington Times*, 12 April 1997, p. A5.)

No Pain, No Gain?

by Andrea Schwartz

Why do believers sometimes feel that they are most holy when they suffer? Is it because the Lord warned us that in this world we will have tribulation? But, didn't He also say that He has overcome the world? Why is it so hard for us to believe that God wants us, in fact orders us, to rejoice?

Years ago, my family and I became aware of the fact that the 10% tithe (or Levitical or social tithe) was not the only tithe there was. In fact, there were two others: the poor tithe (Deut. 14:28-29 & 16:12-15); and the rejoicing tithe Ex. 23:14-19, Lev. 23:33-44, Deut. 12:5-28, 14:22-27, 15:19-23, & 16:13-15.

For now, consider the rejoicing tithe. It was a tithe paid by the believer to be used by the believer to rejoice before the Lord. How? In any way he and his family desired providing that it was not an ungodly activity. It was to be paid yearly and its purpose can be summarised by the doctrinal truth that the chief end for man is for man to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

What does this mean in practical terms? In principle it is tied in very closely with the idea of a weekly Sabbath. God commands us to rest one day in seven. By implication that means that we are to work diligently in our specific calling the remaining six days. When we obey and enjoy His Sabbath rest, we are taking our hands off our lives and stating that this day represents that all our days are God's and are for service to Him. But, there is a wonderful by-product of our obedience. The weekly Sabbath rejuvenates us to be able to more fully serve when we return to our labours.

In the same way, setting aside time and then taking that time to have a period of feasting and celebration done in the presence of the Lord has its wonderful by-products as well. It is a time to reflect and indulge in the knowledge that *If God be for us, who can be against us?*, and that *Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ*, and that *All power in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus Christ*. In other words, it is a time to reflect upon God's grace in leading us into home education, the blessings our families have received and have yet to receive as a result, and to be rejuvenated to serve Him in our home education endeavours in the following week.

In physical exercise the expression "No pain, no gain," may well be true. However, in the exercise of our faith the truth lies in the command, "Rejoice, the Lord is King!"

But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; let those also who love Your Name be joyful in You. — Psalm 5:11

(Continued from page 1)

heads of households, the language of the introduction is clearly inclusive of all believers. Dads, this means not only you, but Mums at your calling as home educators and children in your calling as students.)

The Virtue of Industry

A Christian should follow his occupation with industry. It seems a man slothful in business is not a man serving the Lord. By slothfulness men bring upon themselves poverty, misery, and all sorts of confusion. On the other side, a man by diligence in his business, what may he not come to? A diligent man is very rarely an indigent man. Would a man rise by his business? I say, then let him rise to his business. I tell you, with diligence a man may do marvellous things. Young man, work hard while you are young: You'll reap the effects of it when you are old. Yes, how can you ordinarily enjoy any rest at night if you have not been well at work in the day? Let your business engross the most of your time.

Come, come for shame, away to your business: Lay out your strength in it, put forth your skill for it; avoid all impertinent avocations. Laudable recreations may be used now and then, but I beseech you, let those recreations be used for sauce, not for meat. If recreations go to encroach too far upon your business, give to them that put off.

The Virtue of Discretion

A Christian should follow his occupation with discretion. It is a dishonour to the profession of religion if there be no discretion expressed in the affairs of its professors. Every man should with a praiseworthy emulation strive to get the praise once given to Joseph: "There is none so discreet as thou art."

More particularly, one memorandum for you is this: Let every man have the discretion to be well instructed in, and well acquainted with, all the mysteries of his occupation. Be master of your trade; count it a disgrace to be no workman. And as discretion would bid you to have an insight in your business, thus it also bids you have a foresight in it. Let every man therefore in his business observe the most proper time for everything, for there is a time to every purpose. The wise man says, "There is a time to buy and a time to sell," and a wise man will do what he can to discern the time.

The same discretion must show a man how to proportion his business unto his ability. It is an indiscreet thing for a man to overcharge himself in his business. For a man to distract his mind, to confound his health, to launch out beyond his estate in his business is a culpable indiscretion. Be therewith well advised by the rules of discretion with another caveat: And that is, suit your expenses unto your revenues. Take this advice, O Christians: It is sin, I say it is ordinarily a sin — and it will at length be a shame — for a man to spend more than he gets, or make his

layings out more than his comings in.

The Virtue of Honesty

A Christian should follow his occupation with honesty. Truly, justice must be exactly followed in that calling by which we go to get our living. A Christian in all his business ought so altogether justly to do everything that he should be able to say with the apostle Paul, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience (Acts 23:1). A Christian should imitate his Lord, of Whom it is said, "He is righteous in all His ways." In your business you have dealings with other persons, but certain vein of honesty, unspotted and resolved honesty, should run through all your dealings. You aim at the getting of silver and gold by your occupation, but you should always act by the Golden Rule.

Shall I be more particular? I say, then, let a principle of honesty in your occupation cause you to speak the truth, and nothing but the truth, on all occasions. Don't conceal from any customer that which you ought in equity or charity to acquaint him withal, and more especially if your customers do rely upon your sincerity. Don't exceed the truth, either in commendations or disparagements of commodities. Don't assert anything that is not truth about the kind or the use or the price of them. In every bargain that you make in your business, let a principle of honesty keep you from every fraudulent or oppressive action.

Wherefore, take no advantage either from the necessity or from the unskillfulness of those with whom you are concerned: It is uncharitable, it is disingenuous, it is inhumane for one man to prey upon the weakness of another. And therefore also, never, never make any bargain with such as you suspect have no just propriety in what you go to purchase from them. If you fear that stolen goods are offered you, never touch those burning coals nor incur that brand.

Are there also any manufactures that you are to work up for others? Let them all be well wrought. Give every manufacture its due perfection. Cheat no man with anything that shall be unserviceable to him. Do nothing slightly, do nothing basely, do nothing deceitfully. But I have yet another thing to say: Let a principle of honesty cause you carefully to pay the debts which in your business must fall upon you. Run into debt as little as you may, but being in debt, be as ready to get out of it as ever you were to get into it. Finally, I have yet one more to say: Let a principle of honesty cause you to keep your word in all your business. You sometimes give your word; let that word then be as good as your bond.

The Virtue of Contentment

A Christian should follow his occupation with contentment. A Christian should not be too ready to fall out with his calling. It is the singular favour of God unto a man that he can attend his occupation with contentment and satisfaction. That one man has a spirit formed and fitted for one occupation, and another man

for another, this is from the operation of that God, Who forms the spirit of man within him. Count not your business to be your burden or your blemish. Let not a proud heart make you ashamed of that business wherein you may be a blessing. For my part, I can't see an honest man hard at work in the say of his occupation, be it never so mean (and though perhaps driving a wheelbarrow), but I find my heart sensibly touched with respect for such a man.

It is possible you may see others in some greater and richer business, and you may think that you might be yourselves greater and richer if you were in some other business. Yes, but has not the God of heaven cast you into that business which now takes you up? Is your business here clogged with any difficulties and inconveniences? Contentment under those difficulties is no little part of your homage to that God, Who has placed you where you are. Fall not into any fretful discontent, but with patience make the conclusion of the prophet: "Truly, this is a grief, and I must bear it! I must bear it!"

And hence, another thing to be pressed upon you is this: Let all persons take heed of too suddenly leaving that business wherein God has fixed them. When a man is become unfit for his business, or his business becomes unfit for him, unquestionably he may leave it. And a man may be otherwise invited sometimes justly to change his business; I make no question of it. But many a man, merely from covetousness and from discontent, throws up his business. And how many, do you think, repent of their doing so?

The Virtue of Piety

A Christian should with piety follow his occupation. O, let every Christian walk with God when he works at his calling; and in his occupation with an eye to God, act as under the eye of God. It is a wondrous thing that I am going to say: A poor man that minds the business of his calling and weaves a thread of holiness into all his business may arrive to some of the highest glories in heaven at the last.

(Cotton Mather, 1663-1728, American colonial historian and theologian, was born in Boston. Intellectually gifted, he entered Harvard University at age 11 and graduated in 1678. He became an assistant to his father, Increase Mather, at Boston's Second Church, and from 1685 to 1728 held a joint or sole pastorate at the same church. Widely celebrated as a scholar, he was one of the founders of Yale College, a member of the Royal Society of London, a leader of the conservative element among the Puritans, and author of approximately 450 books on a variety of subjects. He gave generously of his time and money to the poor, established a school for educating slaves, supported the building of churches in poor communities, and came to the aid of needy ministers.)

CHomeS Comment: Some today would argue that the Rev. Mather's ideas, written before the industrial revolution, hold little relevance for today. Steeped as

he was in the Scripture and the traditions of a God-fearing society, we might do well to examine why such an argument might, or might not, be accurate.

The entire concept of a calling from God is questioned by many. They would say we end up in this job or that job because of the circumstances of the times. My very first summer job seemed like that. I was delivering ice to the drinking cans of the workers in the vineyards and orchards of central California, and shifting bins of fruit and field toilets. Most of my peers were picking the fruit in the 42°C heat. Anticipating the questions I would be asked, the friend of the family who got me this plum job told me to tell others I just happened to be at the right place at the right time. But even if that had been the case, and knowing that the friend and the boss whom he greased on my behalf and me too at the time were all total unbelievers doesn't change the fact that Jesus is Lord. The Lord Jesus got me that job using the family friend's relation with the boss. The Lord is the One who orchestrates the affairs of men, and not we ourselves. That's what "Lord" means. That comes with the territory when One is God. If He didn't have such all-comprehensive power, He would not be the God of the Scriptures.

It is quite liberating knowing that the job I have is exactly where the Lord wants me to be.....unless, as Cotton Mather also says, there is a definite inappropriateness about the job, an inappropriateness which is not borne of discontent, laziness or selfish ambition.


But more than just being where God wants me to be at the time, He has a whole swag of reasons why He wants me there at that time. As Cotton Mather says, to be content in the job, even when it is "clogged with any difficulties and inconveniences" is part of the homage I am to pay to my God. James tells us to count it all joy when we meet various trials, such as a swine of a boss or lousy working conditions, for the benefits that follow (James 1:2-4). And the Lord also assures us that all things work for good to His people (Romans 8:28). And our work, whatever we do, being from God can be fulfilled by us as an act of worship, bringing glory to God (I Corinthians 10:31). The Scriptures tell us to work this way (Colossians 3:23-24) and promise great reward as well (I Corinthians 15:58).

These principles are very easy to see when we consider our calling to home educate our children. It makes me all the more determined to work for the maintenance of our ability to fulfil our duty to home educate with a minimum of state interference.

Now this old fashioned idea of industry being a virtue really seems past its use-by date these days. Some will argue that most jobs are dead-end affairs, with no hope of promotion; that the "system" no longer rewards industry, but only cunning; that the jobs aren't there anyway; that there are gender and racial and cultural barriers; and that some jobs (such as child rearing, homemaking, and volunteer societies), being unpaid, will never be rewarded, no matter how hard you work. These viewpoints have varying amounts of truth to them, reflecting the fact that we live in a fallen world and in a nation that has turned its back on the God of the Bible. But all these viewpoints also completely ignore the God of the Scriptures...and He is not bound by the iniquities of our present society. He can ensure that the hard-working and diligent will be rewarded..... perhaps by being in the right place at the right time. We cannot know how He will accomplish His ends, but as long as we trust in Him and not ourselves, our efforts can be part of the solution to the problems, rather than just remaining part of the problems (Proverbs 3:5-10). Remember, He is still Lord, and totally in control.

If more of us could get a handle on what Rev Mather and the Bible say about contentment, our lives would be a lot less hectic and much more fulfilling. I think most of us home educators have figured out that we probably cannot both educate our children at home and maintain a show-home degree of orderliness and tidiness at the same time. I mean, sometimes the beds don't even get made. How come with all the labour-saving devices, we are all working harder than ever before? Is it possibly because of discontent? Do we want to possess

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Action Station



1) Why not let the Museum of NZ know what you think of those two blasphemous art exhibits? Te Papa, PO Box 467, Wellington, ph. (04) 381-7000, fax (04) 381-7070, email: mail@tepapa.govt.nz

2) Remember to get the 5% of your toll call charges given to your support group through either Telecom or Clear. Your support group has to be a legal entity first. If not, consider supporting CHomeS. Ring Telecom 0800-724-665 and CHomeS's code number is 4483. Or ring Clear on 0800-888-800 with CHomeS's phone number which is (06) 357-4399. Thanks.

more, to be involved in more things, to be seen to be involved in more things, to not miss out on the latest, to "support" the good work someone else has organised?

Maybe these things are good things, totally justifiable. But maybe there are times when the good can prevent us from accomplishing the best. Maybe there are too many good things that come to us in a state of urgency or on a once-in-a-blue-moon basis, so the pressure of the moment takes us away.....again and again.....from spending time, the long periods of uninterrupted time, required to effectively impart those formal academic lessons or those informal character lessons. If home education was just a matter of imparting information, books, tapes and computers would all suffice. But we are talking about imparting our lives to our children's lives, by personal lessons, by personal precepts, by personal examples. And that all takes time. And contented people tend to have more time, for they have figured out what is important and are less likely to be distracted from the top priorities in life (the best) by all those good things that constantly come their way.

Do you know what their top secret is? I mean apart from having figured out their priorities in life? Do you know that top executives pay hundreds of dollars to learn this secret and how to properly use it? Are you ready for this? The secret is learning how to say "no".

Now, even unbelievers can take advantage of this concept. Anyone can see that if Bob was perfectly satisfied and contented with jam sandwiches for lunch everyday, he would have a much higher degree of contentment in life than would Jim who would settle for jam sandwiches, but was only contented with Italian dry salami and Swiss cheese on San Francisco sour dough bread. The trick there is to sublimate your real desires for more pragmatic ones and convince yourself that you now really want this lesser item.

But Christians have such an advantage! Psalm 37:4 says, "Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you

the desires of your heart." I found this so liberating! What does the Lord get? Well, anything He wants...He is the one who decides all things that come into existence. If we take delight in the Lord, that is, delight in Him and all the things He wants, then He promises to give us those things we want, the desires of our hearts. But since they will be the same things as what He wants, it will simply come about as we do His will on this earth. Nothing could be farther from the picture of God as some kind of Santa Clause collecting things on these individual wish lists. And nothing could be more fulfilling and satisfying and contributing to continual contentment than having the desires of the heart fulfilled by simply going about my everyday life, a life committed to doing His will. Now His Holy Spirit dwelling within will make this a delight, rather than a chore. It will enhance the unity we Christians seem to have given away since we will all be taking delight in the same things rather than doing our own things. And part of this delight in the things of the Lord will surely be a humble admiration for the vast diversity evident in God's people.....especially as expressed in each individual's calling from God.

So although we all delight in the same thing, it does not mean we all do the same thing. We each have our own calling from God, a calling which may be modified as the years go by. And we accept that it is a calling, something I am supposed to do, because it is a calling from God, my Master. The option to take it up or leave it be isn't really there. He has called me to do this specific job. I had better do it because He called me to it. And if I'm smart I'll do it because I know He has only the best (which doesn't mean easiest or most fun or exciting) lined up for me. I follow my own calling, embracing it as my own, and I rejoice with my brothers and sisters in their callings and encourage them therein.

No, not everyone is equal or will be equal. No, we will not see perfect or total justice on this sin-cursed earth. But, as the Scriptures instruct us, we should wait patiently, eagerly, for Him Who judges justly and will finally put everything right. Only let us be found by Him faithfully doing His will. For when we have done all we were commanded to do, we will say, "We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10).