

The Story Of A Single Home Schooling Parent-1999

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During 1999 God woke me one night with a single word on my lips: Dynamis. I consulted my Greek dictionary for the meaning of this word and found that *dunamis* means "Power of God." God spoke to me that night and said there is power in the unity of restored families.

At that time I was crying out to God for direction and vision, because I believed that when He called me to home schooling, He also instilled in my heart a passion to tell others about this liberating lifestyle.

In 1997 we were living in Gauteng, and my daughter had been asking me for two years to home school her. I am a remedial teacher by profession but, because i didn't know the first thing about home schooling, I ignored her and tried to earn a living working from home as a single parent.

I tried to fit her into my busy schedule, being a taxi to school and other activities. I had no good, solid relationship with her because I had no time to build such a relationship. My daughter was suffering from depression and I had to try to find out what was at the root of this depression and lack of joy.

It was then that I read a book by Cindy Jacobs titled *The Voice of God*. She wrote, "Prophetic children sometimes seem to be out of step with the rest of the world. They are often very headstrong (even before the age of 3 years old). Prophetic children are born with a built-in spiritual radar. Although most children have a certain sensitivity to the spirit realm, it will be greatly amplified in those who are prophetic."

She continued, "I believe that one particular stronghold many prophetic children have is fear. Satan wants to intimidate them so they won't rise to their calling in full spiritual authority."

Well, these chapters convinced me that my daughter had a spirit of fear. I also noticed major changes in her personality.

I then read about how Jesus mentored His disciples – and realised that to mentor my child, train her up and facilitate her God-given gifts, I would have to make it a full time commitment. Jesus spent time with His disciples., they shared their lives together. If He chose this way, why should I choose an easier way?

We not only started home education but also moved away from the city. We had to work on the basics first - our relationship and unity as a family (single parents can also be a family with their children!)

I had the wonderful opportunity of learning about home education from the Woods family at the Oikos Home Education Resource Centre in the Karkloof. They imparted to me and my daughter what I believe to be the heart of God about home education.

Not only did they share their homeschooling philosophy with us, but they also loved and accepted us and gave us an opportunity to be restored as a family.

After two years in the mountains, it was clear that God planned for us to speak out about this

good news of restored families to other families in need. He entrusted the Dynamis ministry to us and planted us in the church of John and Helen Gardiner of Mount Zion Christian Community in Merrivale where we found a spiritual home and an extended family.

During 2000 we have travelled throughout South Africa, visiting the people in need of information about home education. My daughter Chamonix is helping me in this ministry as part of her home education. We have built a solid relationship through the past few years (Chamonix adds that we even like each other!)

Not only have we taught, we have also learned. We have learned that when people are convinced about the true value of home education, they immediately think the first thing they have to do is to buy a curriculum. They are solely seeking an educational alternative and sometimes have not yet counted the full cost of this major step they have taken. They have also not grasped the concept of mentoring their children to be effective in real life.

In reality, they are only swapping one classroom for another and they are blind to the child behind the books. course the choice of the curriculum is important! But even more important is to first get to know your children and the way their thinking processes work. Do they have any special needs? Only then can you make an informed choice of a curriculum.

Before moving to Clarens in the Free State, Dynamis had its base on a farm in Merrivale in KwaZulu Natal, where a permanent display of all the different curriculum options available in South Africa was found as well as a variety of additional educational aids. are invited to to gain a new enthusiasm adventurous task they have taken.