

Joy! Januarie 2000 – Home schooling

The crisis in education

“Youth is susceptible to evil doctrine. The only way to keep chaff out of the child’s cup is to fill it brimful with good wheat. The more the young are taught, the better; it will keep them from being misled (Charles Spurgeon).”

More and more people are aware of the crisis in education and are very unsure about the future of their children.

Parents have become aware of the failure of the public school system – academically, morally and philosophically. They do not want to run the risk of their children becoming functionally illiterate or simply a crime statistic. They want to protect their children from the “vain philosophies” which are destroying our youth.

In some instances, it is not even physically safe for children to be in school.

On the academic level we are confronted with the reality of lower standards, more learning problems than ever, and fewer children who can read and write and spell.

The Minister of Education, Mr Kader Asmal, has stated that something major is wrong because 60 percent of all Grade 3 children cannot read or count (October 8, 1999).

Is there any hope? Yes, there is! We believe that wherever there is doubt concerning the school system, or when the child does not benefit from school

anymore or where it is unsafe for the child, the parent must take up the responsibility to solve the problem. When a parent chooses to send a child to school, the parent allows the school to play the biggest and most important part in the academic development of the child.

Unfortunately, along with the academic development a lot more is being dumped on to the child. Children with good morals and Christian values have to tolerate and absorb a lot of ungodliness daily for the sake of being in an institution where they must get academic input.

When we say that there is a solution, we take into consideration that each parent has unique concerns and needs for each individual child. Needs vary from family to family, from child to child.

If parents are in a state of hopelessness, they can choose to home educate their child. As the public schools continue to slide into chaos, home education is steadily achieving success. It has been legal since 1996. The Education Act (Section 51) passed by Parliament in 1996 made home education a legal option available for children. Home education is a fast-growing trend and has already proven that it can academically compete with, and nearly always surpass, the present results from conventional schooling.

Home education is working – and it is here to stay! Parents are getting serious as they die to themselves and dedicate their lives to training and loving their children in the Lord.

If parents feel that this route is too drastic and they feel a need for extra input at home, they can get help for their children

at home with material available for learning problem, extra maths, spelling, reading and perceptual development. Parents must know that they can be helped. God called a number of people many years ago, gave them vision, raised them up and equipped them to support the people in need in the educational crisis. Home education has been in operation for about 15 years in South-Africa. There are established associations, curriculum providers, support groups and even a legal fund to support home educators.

Contact Dynamis for the following:

- Support and encouragement for home educators
- Presentations on how to get started with home education
- Information and examples on different home education curriculum providers, associations, support groups and the legal fund
- Training to help parents teach children who have spelling, maths and reading problems
- A variety of programmes for maths, language and reading, including computer programs
- Evaluation of children to determine learning styles
- Standardised testing in Maths, English and Afrikaans
- Weekend camps for the whole family where children will have the opportunity to get trained in different areas by specialists

Dynamis can come to your community or you can book for a weekend seminar.

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