

## Home schooling – Matric and beyond

Joy! Julie 2001

*By Lara Fitz-Gibbon*

A valid concern that most teenagers and parents have is whether one can attend university after being home schooled. Getting admitted may take a bit of planning, so some of the strategies in this article may throw some light on this subject.

Questions you will need to answer if you are considering university are: What has God called me to do? What gifting has God placed within me that needs to be nurtured and developed? Does university education play a role in fulfilling this destiny call? The primary purpose of higher education is to gain knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Equally important purposes are to develop empathy, creativity, logic and discernment, as well as habits of diligence, excellence and productivity. Useful skills are acquired for future life, and the respect of those who you will serve, lead or reach for Christ can be earned. It opens doors to more possibilities so God can lead in His direction.

As early as grade 10 thought should be put into the student's career goals. In deciding on a career path, thorough investigation and research is necessary. "Shadowing" an older university student, and someone working in your proposed field of study will be very helpful in the search for clarity, as will aptitude tests. The most valuable part of the decision is to diligently seek the Lord in prayer.

Based on your career decision, subjects for matric should be selected. It is important in choosing your subjects to ensure that they meet or exceed the academic requirements for university entrance. This can be found through research based on information received from the university. These entry requirements will often determine your subjects for matric.

Studying for matric at home is very challenging and support is essential. Besides the loving support of family, outside academic assistance should also be considered.

Homeschoolers can contract private tutors or get into groups where the cost of tutors can be shared for the subjects where a high level of entry for university is required. In addition to this, maintaining a network of friends through support groups and youth groups is highly beneficial. Field trips incorporated into the curriculum help expand students' knowledge and gives them practical exposure to the subjects they are studying.

Balance is one of the keys to a successful homeschool matric. Extra activities can include leadership in the support group, sport, dance, enrichment, courses and community service. If you do all these extra activities, be sure to add them to your university application form. If you are diligent in your studies and maintain high standards, you will emerge with superior knowledge and skills, prepared to face the challenges of further training and work.

*by Alet Whitehead*

Homeschooling is a new way of education that has been introduced into South Africa. I started doing homeschooling when I entered grade 11. The reason for such a decision was

because of the benefits it provides, such as: character building, a love of learning and being able to bond with your family. Being exposed to this kind of education, I took up the challenge not to miss out on the benefits. I was never unhappy at school, and I honoured and loved my teachers and the school dearly.

During this time I experienced the loss of friendship and was challenged to find out who I am and how to bond with my family. I found a deep love for my sisters and consider them some of my dearest friends now, and would not want to trade that for anything in the world.

I came to find a deeper relationship with my parents in which more of my emotional needs were met. The emptiness created because of the loss of friendships and traditional education was filled by meaningful self-awareness, independence and long-lasting relationships.

Currently I am a second year B.Sc. student at RAU where chemistry and biochemistry are my majors.

Whenever I talk to somebody about homeschooling, the response is that they would

never have the diligence to do that. Diligence is created when you come to a point where you realise that whatever you do, it is up to you to succeed. It is here where you take up the responsibility and work hard. It was difficult at times, but it was part of the best times of my life. I wrote my matriculation through IEB (Independent Examination Board) and had the encouragement of our support group behind me. They even organised a matriculation farewell where I was blessed, and I pledged there to work with the Holy Spirit in fulfilling the call God has for my life. The experiences I had of home education were very beneficial for me as a person in my emotional and spiritual life. I look back on it with great appreciation.

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