

The family as life-givers in education

By Martie du Plessis

Children are a gift from God. It is such a privilege to be partners with God in bringing life to the next generation. The family serves as the soil for the seeds to grow to maturity. Parents can give tremendous substance to the outcome of future leaders in a nation. The challenge is, whether or not leaving a legacy to our offspring is a core value to most parents. . We ought to make it our ambition to be concerned with not just what the world around us will look like for our children and grandchildren, but also for their children.

The majority of people have a great deal of anxiety about the outcome of education in our country and the type of youth we are producing for life and the labour market.

In my travels to different communities I have been very encouraged lately by the approach of young dads in our country. More and more young fathers have a deep hunger to bring leadership to their families and to protect their children from unnecessary destructive influences.

For many years I have been involved in empowering parents in a more practical way to equip their children for 21st century realities, namely to be job creators and not job seekers. What was relevant for the industrial era is no longer relevant for the information economy we live in. The very best way parents can make sure their children will be truly equipped for life is to bring up their children to be responsible and accountable and to carry ownership for their learning and actions. A practical way to instil this is by letting them do the head work (schooling), weekly, but also by letting them serve the household (heart) by doing daily chores and then by training their hands by allowing



them to run some form of business from home. The schooling of children sometimes keeps them so busy with full programmes of all kinds that they are excluded from doing daily chores and have no time for an exciting business of their own. This is one of the reasons why so many families opt to venture into home education as it gives more time for a “Hand, Heart, Head” education and offers an excellent opportunity for the child's character to be trained. If it is a core value to equip children for real life, then parents will stop spoiling their children and stop being the parent who always has to please. I home educated my own daughter, Chamonix (25) ,from Clarens and she obtained her matriculation from here. Home education can be done anywhere in the country.

In 2011, after pruning myself from six years in the property industry I turned back to my previous career which is empowering parents and families. Dynamis is operated from Clarens and is a nation- wide service to equip families and home educators. The goal is to let parents understand that they can take responsibility and have the authority in defining their child's education and success in future.

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