

JOY – April 2001
Home Schooling, by Jeanette Bester

Home schoolers can have support

In our country, which we call East Griqualand, we have quite a number of homeschoolers. The parents are from all walks of life and backgrounds, but our common denominator is that we serve the Lord. We have joined together and formed a care group. We get together for fellowship and to encourage each other.

We have craft days, where we and our children learn new crafts, we go on the field trips to places of interest and we take our children to participate in sport. At the end of each year we get together for our prize-giving.

Each child receives a book prize and a certificate. We have been doing this now for three years and I urge all homeschoolers to join or start a care group in their area. The care group can definitely be a great blessing. Joshua 24:15 states: *“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”* For us as a family, this is our standpoint and our answer to people who ask us why we home school. When our children were of pre-school age, we started looking into different options of educations available in our area. After a lot of prayer the Lord opened our eyes to homeschooling.

We researched all the possible curricula, and found that this was definitely an answer to prayer. Malachi 3:10: *“Test me in this,”* says the Lord God Almighty, *“and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven...”*

Since we started homeschooling God has touched our family in many ways. God wanted us to confess wrong attitudes, and go back and start anew, using His Word.

We make it our priority to mix with people who will have a positive, wholesome, Christian influence on us and our children.

We worked on our relationship. As husband and wife, as parents and children and the siblings themselves – we had to make attitude changes. God has blessed us as He promised in His word, but only after we returned to Him. It is a continuing process and a blessed one.

Previously, we believed the lie that children had to socialise with others of their own age group to be healthy and well adapted. As we studied God’s Word, prayed and read Christian research on the topic, we became convinced that healthy socialising is to mix with people of all ages. We make it our priority to mix with people who will have a positive, wholesome, Christian influence on us and our children. We mix with different people groups from different countries and walks of life. We learn geography, history and social studies through this. Proverbs 13:10, *“He who walks with the wise, grow wise...”* (See also Corinthians 6:14-7:1).

We have a family project, in which we present adventure youth camps for school or church groups. In this way we reach children for Christ and teach our own how to reach others. Everyone is aware of the pressures on the youth. Through initiative games and practical

methodology, we trust an intimate walk with Jesus will follow.

We as family use a “whole-book approach” in our homeschooling. It consists of wholesome literature, real-life stories of people from different times of history; solid, classical literature that never ages.

The language studies and mathematics are also of high standard and can be adjusted according to the child’s learning preference.

Our classroom is based on the “Whole-Hearted Child” approach. It is a learning centre, and everything is in within the child’s reach. It is the “hub” of our house. All of life is learning and cannot be limited to a few hours a day behind a desk.

There is a social studies area, a computer area, an audio-visual area, an educational equipment area, a creative area with art materials, and an area for individual work. The rest of the home is involved in this. For instance, the kitchen acts as a science and cooking area. All kinds of life-skills are practiced: doing dishes, serving others, caring for pets. Outdoors, we can discover many interesting things like a pupa, a butterfly, a bird.

The day starts with God’s Word, prayer and reciting of our memory verses (Psalm 119:9-11).

Academic subjects, like creative writing, flow into these.

Every year brings new challenges. Our faith is tested and refined. We learn to count the losses as experience and to realise the victories are not ours. Praise God!