



In the Beginning

Over two decades ago we began to look into home-schooling. Virtually no one in the area had heard of it, including the principal of the Christian school from which we ultimately withdrew our children. The Lord had promised Joshua 1:9, ("Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."); and so we began, never knowing when an officer of the law might be at our door.

A year later friends joined us. When a third family began to home-school as well, we formed the first area support group to do one thing - pray; for this third family was under duress from their school district. We three little families were completely on the mercy of the Lord.

In time, a fourth family joined us from still another district; and they had to hire a private lawyer to realize their constitutional right to home-school. Fervent prayer dominated our meetings.

Eventually, we were receiving various calls from other districts saying: "They have threatened to take away our children"..."They say they have us all on record, and they're coming after us"..."They're prosecuting us. Will you come to our court case?"

The Lord began to make us aware of other support groups scattered throughout the state. A loose network began to form. Our group continued to pray diligently - it was our only agenda. There were many prosecutions in the state.

The "network" came from all over Pennsylvania to meet at Harrisburg. The Lord began to raise up leaders. A bill was going to be presented on our behalf. A Christian leader, who unashamedly proclaimed the name of Jesus before hundreds, emerged as an anointed negotiator with legislators. Our group prayed fervently for him, the other leader, and the movement.

Opposition was intense. Prayer prevailed at our local meetings. One family came for miles so that they might leave encouraged by the peace and strength the Lord gave us, proclaiming the trip was worth it.

The Lord was leading and guiding. On one trip to Harrisburg, He exposed a particular move against the bill; and, only after several mothers gathered to pray in the capitol's rotunda, were our leaders able to get their hands on the necessary papers - after several unsuccessful attempts.

The bill and the homeschoolers marched on. Our Christian leader/negotiator was vigilant over Christian concerns. He remained non-militant but firm, despite opposing pressure, on such things as only being required to take math and English on the achievement tests; for science and social studies could include many questions, either now or in the future, in areas we did not want to be forced to teach - such as evolution.

The Lord was with us, as we and others sought Him unceasingly. If He had not been, the requirements placed on us would have been so much more stringent, with many privileges we now have, gone.

As every Christian knows, if God is with us, we cannot lose. If He is not, we cannot win; and unceasing, fervent, individual and corporate prayer precedes it all.

-A Pioneer, Veteran Home-School Parent
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