

# *The Benefits of Home-Education*

In 1983 we decided as a family to leave the regular institutional schools and formal educational systems of the day to pursue a different path for our children. We began to home-school our children.

At the time we knew no other home-schooling families personally. After a search we discovered a couple resources to help us get started. We ordered some books, set up four desks in our basement, hung up a blackboard, dug up a world globe, and began school! Our very own “one-room schoolhouse” consisted of three students and mom, now “teacher,” and dad, now “principal.” It wasn’t long, however, before we abandoned this formal setting and permitted each child to pursue his or her own method and place of study.

We found ourselves faced with different challenges and obstacles as a result of our new venture. Home-schooling was (according to the Constitution) lawful; yet we were aware that at any time a truant officer could knock on our door; and, because of the vagueness of our current law, might decide to haul mom and dad off to jail under charges of truancy and place the children into foster care. Our extended family members and friends had never heard of such a thing as home-schooling. Our friends thought that our children would grow up to be socially dwarfed and unable to function in the “real world.” Our relatives didn’t seem to be so very happy about the idea of home-school but did try to be supportive.

So there we were. A simple family with a desire, humble beginnings, and no human help available to us; but we had a big God Who had sown the seeds of this desire into our hearts. His faithfulness surely carried us through the tough, trying times. Many times we cried together and wanted to throw in the towel, but God picked us up and encouraged us on. He had a plan for us, and He was able to carry it out.

As we look back over the years, we think of happy times, sad times, trying times, but also of the joy of reaping. Jesus, because we made Him top priority in our home-schooling lives, has, consequently, drawn our family closer to each other. At first we didn’t know quite how to get along - we had been severed into segments for so many years, each of us with our own little world of situations, friends, and pursuits.

Being together at home twenty-four hours a day brought us to see things in our attitudes and hearts we never knew were there! God worked in us, cleansed us (discipline seemed for a time not joyous, but sorrowful - Hebrews 12:11), and set our feet upon a firm path.

Today we are united with one heart in the Lord. Our one desire is to live to the utmost for Christ. Our primary goal has been to build strong Christian character in the lives of our children, to do everything we can to encourage their personal relationship with Jesus, and to help them discover and develop the skills with which God has gifted them for His service.

Home-schooling has provided the sweet, secret hiding place that our children needed from the persuasive temptations of the world during their young years that enabled them to seek the Lord in their youth. Our prayer is, as we have done our very best to bring them up in the Lord, that the seed that has been sown will produce fruit in their lives and bring blessing to the lives of others; and that they might be able to lead others to the fountain of life found in Christ that others, too, might drink of the refreshment found in a living relationship with Jesus.

***“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it.”***

-Proverbs 22:6