



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

54 Brighton Street
P.O. Box 438
Belmont, MA 02478
Tel: 617-489-2498

Pastor
ROLLAND C. STARR
Editor

WHY WE NEED CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS.

May 2001

We need Christian schools because public education is a minimal education at best. Even many secular people in the field of education are decrying the sad state of affairs. There is a great deal of talk about fixing it, but believe me it will not be fixed and indeed it is doubtful if it can be fixed. Though test scores are supposed to be higher, it is because public education officials are playing games with numbers. I believe this is the greatest problem with public schools - most young people come out knowing very little; some know practically nothing. I have said hundreds of times that it is a non-learning experience. Most third graders, and even those more advanced, cannot read the simplest pieces (at the end of Kindergarten our children can read first and second grade books). Rare is the school that teaches phonics and everyone knows that America lags behind all industrial nations in math and science (See article in 4/2001 *Challenge*). Much of what they learn in public schools is harmful and immoral: sex education (which is often nothing more than pornography and an encouragement to have sex), homosexuality, foul language, feminism, one-worldism (patriotism is debunked), evolution, etc. Not too many Christian young people are strong enough to overcome all of this, although it can be and has been done but only with great effort. However, few Christian parents are spiritual and diligent enough to get their children through it.

Having a Christian school is not a panacea for raising Christian children. However, when done properly, I believe the Christian School is the best way to give Christian young people the opportunity to have a good education under very favorable conditions. All subjects can be related to God's truth which is the only truth there is. The Christian School is no substitute for a sound Fundamental Church. In fact, the Church must come before the school. *Parents who are lax in their attendance and interest in the local Church are deceiving themselves.* It is no substitute for godly, separated Christian parents. The school cannot overcome a weak, carnal home. Unfortunately, many Christian schools are not operated on a proper spiritual or educational basis. Many have very lax discipline in these days when three generations have been brought up without much, if any, restraint. It requires a lot of work and makes many parents unhappy. Then, many Christian schools are not all that good academically. Most of the ones I have seen do not have qualified teachers nor a good curriculum. Some are little better than glorified Sunday Schools (I am not demeaning Sunday School) with academic subjects. We have had many transfer students from other schools (public and Christian) and those students are rarely on grade level. It is not easy to maintain a truly Christian School these days, especially for the small Church. Many Christian schools go out of business every year. Cornerstone Baptist Church subsidizes the Academy in the amount of \$50,000 or more per year. Is it worth it? I believe it is. What is more valuable than our children, the next generation of Church members, leaders and Christian workers? A poorly educated, an improperly educated, undisciplined child will be handicapped all of his life. I think it is a shame that so many so called Christian schools are cheating the students and parents by low-grade performance. You only get one education.

A word about home schooling. I am not a fan of home schooling. I'm not against it per se. I believe it is a last resort as opposed to a public school. Where there is a good Christian School with qualified teachers and a sound curriculum, I believe the child should be enrolled there. Some will probably get all bent out of shape here and read no further – that's your privilege, but for those who will hear me out, here are my reasons. I don't have all the answers but, I've had a little experience in the field education having raised seven children and led a Christian School for 21 years. I have dealt with multiplied hundreds of children as a Pastor. Problem #1 - Not one parent in ten is truly qualified to teach, especially beyond the sixth grade. I know some have been successful, but for everyone that has been, how many were not? How many would have received a much better education in a good Christian school? #2 - 99 times out of 100, it's mother who teaches. We thank God for godly mothers, but this means the child is with and under the care of mother most all of his childhood. I have seen adverse effects upon some children, notably boys. #3 - I believe it's good, in a strong Christian environment, for a child to have social contact with those his age. He will have to learn it someday. #4 - No parent can be truly objective with his own child - especially a mother! If you think you can, you are deceived!

HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA PUSHED BY PTA.

The homosexual agenda is being pushed by almost everyone. It is hard to imagine the advances they have made in five years. The *AFA Journal* says, "National Parent Teacher Association President Ginny Markell said her organization would be making available a video which embraces same-sex families as part of a nationwide effort to fight discrimination against homosexuals." The video, "That's a Family" teaches there are all kinds of legitimate families: single parent, divorced, and "families" headed by same-sex couples. The film has children saying such things as, "My dads are gay, and gay means when two men or two women love each other." Screening of the video was through the White House Office of Public Liaison, where Ben Johnson, assistant to the president (Clinton) welcomed over 100 representatives of national organizations. Beside the PTA, among those present were Girl Scouts of America, Young Women's Christian Ass'n, National Education Ass'n (largest teacher's union), and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. This sort of thing is going on all over the country and there is hardly a voice raised against it.

CHRISTIAN CONCERT SO-CALLED. I received an announcement for a "Christian" music festival to be held this summer. It listed 41 individuals and groups (with more to be added) who would be taking part. Here are a few of the names: Hangnail, Ill Harmonics, DC Talk (spawned by Falwell's Liberty Univ.), Delerious, Big Fat Jam, Audio Adrenaline, Soul Junk, Five Iron Frenzy. You should see what they look like! This is nothing more than religious entertainment. That's the reason they get such large crowds. Christian rock music, like homosexual Christian, really doesn't exist - they are not compatible. Today, there is little if any of the cross, death to self and one's carnal desires, but plenty of entertainment and catering to the flesh.

HAVE THE MARINES GONE CRAZY? An effort is under way to drag the Marine Corps into the New Age movement, complete with Eastern mysticism, Zen meditation, pop psychology, and the trappings of the neo-primitive Men's Movement. *Wall Street Journal*, reporter Greg Jaffe describes it as a new "Marine Martial art." Its purpose: to teach Marines to be adept at hand-to-hand combat by using techniques of *aikido* and *tae kwon do*, but also to draw on the religious origins of those martial arts to inculcate "inner peace." The Corps hired Richard Heckler, a psychologist who runs a *karate dojo* in California...Part of the regimen involves meditation as practiced by Eastern religions. The so-called *Ninja Platoon* also did exercises exploring each other's energy. In Pilot programs, 170 Marines received this training. Now it has been expanded, as 15,000 Marines are currently learning to be *ninjas*. Plans to make it mandatory for all Marines, and a new recruiting program - featuring black belts and the slogan: "Marine Martial Art: You'll bow to no one" - will soon be released. -*World* magazine via *TBC*

This is not merely nonsensical, it is demonic. We have warned people, especially Christians, about the martial arts. It is truly of the devil and the mindless meditation that is part and parcel of it is an open door for satanic forces. If successful in the Marines, which it no doubt will be in their eyes, it will in all likelihood be expanded to all the services. Can you envision how serious this will be when hundreds of thousands of young men are trained in this most devilish religion? Incidentally, we had an article in an issue of the *Challenge* sometime ago which stated that the ultimate goal of the ecumenists is a synthesis of "Christianity" and Eastern religions, particularly Hinduism.

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord,
and in the power of his might. Ephesians 6:10*

YOUTH CORNER

GREAT HARM THAT CANNOT BE UNDONE.

A Pastor related the following story. After ending his message, he asked a young lady to come up front and help him move an urn of flowers. As he was handing it to her, he purposely let it slip and it fell to the floor smashing the urn into a million pieces. Everyone gasped! Then he said, "You are all upset over a beautiful vase, but I can replace that vase with another one just as beautiful. However, there are some things that cannot be replaced. For weeks some of us have worked to get a certain young man to attend Church so that he might hear the Gospel and be saved. Last Sunday, he came to Church and sat behind some young people of our Church. They whispered and laughed all during the service. This young man left declaring that he would never come back again because the service and message obviously meant nothing to some who professed to love God. Those careless people shattered an opportunity for God to work in that man's heart and it cannot be replaced." What does Church mean to you? Are you a hindrance to others as they try to listen to the sermon? What does the Lord think of your conduct in Church where His precious truth is being preached and where the Holy Spirit is trying to reach souls for Jesus Christ? Yes, He's also trying to reach you!

NINETY-NINE PERCENT OF THE FAILURES

come from people who have the habit of making excuses. -George Washington Carver. Young people, making excuses will only lead you to be irresponsible and lazy, and relatively worthless.

WHICH WILL IT BE?

On the table side by side

are the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.

One is well worn but cherished with pride.

Sorry - it's not the Bible, it's the TV Guide.

As the pages are turned, what do they see?

Oh, what does it matter? Turn on the TV.

So they open the book in which they confide;

(Sorry, it's not the Bible, it's the TV Guide).

The Word of God is seldom read.

Maybe a verse e'er they fall into bed;

Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be,

(Not from reading the Bible - but from watching TV).

Still on the table, side by side

Are the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.

No time for prayer, no time for the Word;

The plan of salvation is never heard.

Forgiveness of sin, so full and free

Is found in the Bible-not on TV! -Copied

**THEREFORE I ESTEEM ALL
THY PRECEPTS CONCERNING
ALL THINGS TO BE RIGHT;
AND I HATE
EVERY FALSE WAY.
PSALMS 119:128**

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he* is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; *yea*, every good path. When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: Proverbs 2:1-11

STAY AWAY FROM POISON

Spurgeon said, “*I am sometimes asked to read an heretical or infidel book. Well, if I believed my reading it would help its refutation and might be an assistance to others in keeping them out of error, I might do it as a hard matter of duty; but I shall not do it unless I see some good shall come of it. I am not going to drag my spirit through a ditch for the sake of having it washed afterwards, for it is not my own. It may be that good medicine would restore me if I poisoned myself with putrid meat, but I am not going to try it. I dare not experiment on a mind which no longer belongs to me. So, with my mind, intellect and spirit. If it belonged to me, I might or might not play tomfool with it and go to hear some infidels and such like preach; but as it is not my own, I will preserve it from such tomfooleries; and the pure Word shall not be mingled with the error of men.*” I have warned God’s people about listening to every religious “kook” who is on radio or TV. Why does a true child of God want to listen to Robertson, Copeland, Roberts, Schuller, MacArthur, et al. What good is it going to do you? Will you really be benefited in any way? Then, if you are only doing it to amuse yourself, I assure you there are better ways. Instead of amusing yourself, why not spend some serious time in Bible study or prayer. Finally, I think it’s very dangerous because you are putting yourself, your mind, in enemy territory and no one is strong enough to play with the devil and his crowd. I personally know some who did and lived to regret it!

Cornerstone Baptist Church

54 Brighton Street

P.O. Box 438

Belmont, MA 02478

www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org

WHAT I LIKE

This came out of *Chuck Baldwin’s Food for Thought*. “I am often accused of being too negative. (I can relate to that). Actually, that puts me in good company: the same was said of Jeremiah and John the Baptist. In an attempt to fit in with today’s touchy-feely generation I offer this commentary that accentuates the positive. I like husbands who are the head of their homes. I like parents who discipline their children. I like children who say, “Yes, Sir” and “Yes, Ma’am.” I like pastors who aren’t afraid of their congregations... I like people who don’t use their race or ethnicity as an excuse to get handouts from the government. I like people who pay their bills. I like people who keep their word...I like people who would rather work two jobs than go on the public dole. I like people who would rather go to Church than to a sporting event. I like people who don’t drink...I like college professors who actually like America. I like preachers who aren’t afraid to call sin by its first name... I like Church members who don’t gossip. I like people who keep their appointments. I like people who are prompt. I like people who take a bath. I like young men who don’t wear earrings (or nose rings). I like young women who don’t wear tattoos, or color their hair purple. I like children that know how to behave. I like teenagers who live morally. I like people who don’t use God’s name in vain. I like married couples that stay married. I like people who don’t like political correctness... I like people who will courageously defend the right of unborn babies to have a birthday. I like people who recognize that God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve...” There sure is a lot of *Food for Thought* in that article, a whole lot for God’s people to think about in these days of compromise and weakness. Of course, even when you accentuate the positive, you can’t eliminate the negative. If it’s wrong, changing its name doesn’t make it right!