

by Willi Thiessen

Why do we educate our children at home? I struggle to answer that question at times; sometimes it also depends who is asking. When my wife Marcella and I had our first child, we both thought alike, in that we hoped to teach him at home. So then we had three girls given to us by our gracious Lord, our resolve stayed the same, namely, "We want to teach our children at home." This has been an interesting ride; there is a lot to learn to get this job done. My wife had been teaching in a private school, which really helped start our experience off with some understanding of what lay ahead. Another thing that helped was that we had other family members who had gone on before us in this endeavour, a tremendous advantage to us.

As a note of interest, I read an article on [www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com) "Fifteen Ways to Raise a Young Mogul." The following is one of the tips, and I quote:

"The home-school approach has been known to instill discipline, self-reliance and poised interaction with adults--the very assets needed by any successful young entrepreneur. Aaron Fessler would agree. Fessler was home-schooled in Dayton, Ohio, then started an e-mail servicing firm, Allegro, that he later sold for \$40 million. To be sure, interacting with peers in classrooms goes a long way toward ensuring a child's social and emotional development. This is a tricky decision, so do not make it lightly."

"Is homeschooling a preference for you, or a conviction?" This was the question asked by a speaker making the point that people will die or give their life for **convictions**, but in most cases will not risk life and limb for **preferences**. Let's not take our privileges as being granted to us as an 'unalienable' right.

Realizing there are tough challenges to schooling your children at home, I want to focus on some of the benefits of this kind of lifestyle and what the anticipated result may be:

### 1. More time to connect with your own children.

1. How many times have you had your child come up to you, asking you questions about some new little thing, and the child can receive an answer from you? What a privilege?
2. Seeing their eyes light up when they catch on to another new concept

### 2. Watching your child sit in your library

This room is also known as the living room! The child is so lost in the story, so immersed in some book, that you need to shake him/her out of the book to catch their attention!

- a. The book's title, author, and content can influence your child. However, it can be within your eye shot at all times, giving you peace of mind that the doctrines or teachings your child is being

exposed to is one that will add value and strength to the family heritage.

- b. I believe that books are written with influence in mind, or else what is the point of sitting down to write a book? So look up the influence behind the book and give the child the book 'on purpose', meaning that you know what the child is reading.

### 3. The importance of the Scriptures.

Never forget this important verse - 1Ti 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

- a. Do we know what our children are 'giving heed to'?
- b. Do we connect with them on a personal level, to see if they are 'departing from the faith' or coming closer with the daily grind of life - in other words, the influences (voices) they have in their life are either encouraging their walk toward God or away from God! Note - Mt 12:30 "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."

1. 'Seducing' - Strong's #4108 - *an impostor or misleader; --deceiver, seducing.*

- i. All influence in our life seduces us to one direction or another, 'seducing spirits', interesting, what might those be? If you are with your child, you still may not know and be aware of them all, but you have a greater chance of knowing.

Galatians 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked:" As well as God is not mocked, let's not assume that the devil will just stand idly by and be 'mocked' by us Christians choosing to walk a 'separate life' in an effort to guide our children with conviction in this method of schooling. I do believe the prince of darkness has a wicked plan of destruction, so this method of schooling is one that can help parents be more closely connected with their ever living children.

God bless you and your family.

*Willi and Marci Thiessen and their family live on an acreage near Taber, Alberta. They really enjoy family time and family gatherings. With the help of other ministers, he is a pastor at the Tween Valley Christian Fellowship in Grassy Lake (about 15 minutes east of Taber), serving a German-speaking congregation of about 300. In addition to that, he and a business partner run a construction business, supplying both the home and farm industry, building new structures and renovating old buildings. He can be contacted at [wt@tarramesa.ca](mailto:wt@tarramesa.ca)*