

## **The Need**

You have probably considered the possibility of helping your child by moving them to a Christian school, satellite school or home support group. You have probably also shrank back from the task because it always seemed too frightening-- after all there is just too much red tape. You may also have counseled with parents whose children had moved to home schooling. You may have wished there was something more you could do. Perhaps you have wept because it seemed that the enemy was robbing you of your children and family. There may have been times when issues like terrorism, violence, drug addiction and assaults on family values have frustrated you and driven you to prayer. It may have even seemed like Satan was winning the battle. Maybe you've just become tired of sending children into an alien environment and asking them to be twelve year-old missionaries. Perhaps you have just wanted the children whose lives you touch to have an equal chance for superior education and collegiate opportunities. No matter what the cause of your frustration, there is an answer to the problem. It is not too late; there is something you can do. Read on and discover what you, your prayer group, fellowship, or church can do to change the situation – NOW!

## **Why Use Declaration Christian Academy (DCA)?**

There are home schooling services that are cheaper, offering mostly basic curriculum. There are others that are more independent, leaving you alone in the parent's seat. DCA combines the best of the traditional services of professional educators with the strength and compassion of parent's energies. Not only is core curriculum included, monthly newsletters, parent support groups, parental strength resources ("Sally knows math; I know English"), field trips, e-mail support, parent chat rooms, website and online resources, parent orientation classes, discount computer software, and fundraising methods are at your fingertips. There is always a hotline for procedural and educational questions. Professional educators are available to respond to your problems. At affordable levels very important value-added services are available. Special needs students have a referral network already established for specialized testing. For those within driving distance of metro Nashville, private tutoring, group band lessons, fine arts (theatre) workshops and even residential graduation becomes available. In short, the parent beginning home schooling with DCA has plugged into a virtual resource center of information, personalities and resources to make their home school dynamic. Every parent wants to do their home schooling well. DCA is the resource to make this one of the most rewarding journeys of a lifetime.

## **The Opportunity**

DCA has taken on the responsibility of being a leading provider of Christian Education and home schooling supplies and services. The administration, scope and sequence, evaluation, specialized testing, parent training, and curriculum management is all done by our staff. DCA is gladly extending its umbrella of opportunity to other families and churches to become member parents or to form satellite schools. Suddenly the heavy task of administrating a complete Christian school is lifted and the parent or satellite group can concentrate on teaching while being coached by master teachers. This service is possible by the appointment of Dr. George McDowell Jr as pastor. The McDowell's have long been known for their interest and expertise in the field of Christian Education both for residential and home schooling needs. George McDowell Jr. is a veteran of 25 years as Dean of Zion Christian College and Seminary and as Director of Learning at one of the campuses of the University of Maryland.

## **Education Today**

The public school system spends an average of \$5235.00 per child to achieve an average 50th percentile academic performance. Home schooling parents spend an average \$550.00 per child to achieve an average 75th percentile academic performance. The educational world has learned the ability of home school students. Stanford University accepts 27% of its home school applicants. This is double the rate for other freshman categories. Colleges have found that home-schooled children exceeded public school children in grade point averages across all their college years. Colleges are now accepting parent-made transcripts with equal authority to those issued by the boards of education. In states with high regulations over home schooling, the Home School Battery score fell at 86%. In states with moderate regulations, the Home School Battery score fell at 85%. In states with low regulations over home schooling, the Home School Battery score fell at 86%. Clearly, regulation by the states does not affect the quality of the home school product that is being produced. The public school has left the moral high ground for clarified values and moral degeneracy. The public school has also left the ethical high ground for moral relativism (whatever the moment dictates), humanism (man is the measure of all things) and theological existentialism (let us make god in our own image). All that is left is a matter of courage. Parents with the initiative and fortitude to do so are taking their children's education back into their own hands. Fifteen years ago home schooling seemed like an idea for unusual parents or missionaries. But the 1.5 million home schoolers in the US have proven to all but the dinosaur called public education that they can exceed the best expectations. Home schooling continues to grow at the rate of 7 to 15% per year and will continue to do so as long as the secular mind militia terrorize our public schools. America's public schools are physically dangerous; morally bankrupt: ethically wanting

and driven by image not substance. The schools are tax-based babysitting institutions where the righteous are forced to study at the feet of unrighteous ideas. To ignore the problem is to enable the wrong. It is clear that parents wanting to give their children the spiritual, moral and academic edge are going to continue to choose home schooling as an alternative to public education.

### **How Bad Is The System?**

The school that you went to and the one now are two different places. Values-clarification, humanism, and politically correct thought, etc. all proceed out of the schools like the muddy, overflowing sewage of brainwashing. Our schools have become combat zones.

For 1999 –

- teachers were the victims of 342,000 nonfatal crimes
- teachers were victims of 14,000 serious violent crimes including rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault
- students were victims of about 2.5 million crimes at school
- 1.6 million thefts occurred at school
- 8 percent of students reported being threatened with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property.
- 50 percent of students in grades 9 through 12 had at least one drink of alcohol; 5 percent had at least one drink on school property
- 27 percent of students reported using marijuana; 7 percent on school property.
- 32 percent of all students in grades 9 through 12 reported that someone had offered, sold, or given them an illegal drug on school property
- 1 in 2 youngsters experiment with alcohol
- 1 in 3 youngster experiment with sex
- 1 in 4 youngsters experiment with drugs

### **Why Church Schools?**

Tennessee law now states that those home schooling children must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution EXCEPT in the case of church-run schools. Schools through churches are the last bastion of educational freedom for parents in the Tennessee legislated system.

## **Getting Into College**

Advocates of the Public School System often scare parents by telling them that home schoolers cannot get into college. This is simply a means to terrify parents. Beyond that, it is a bold -faced lie. College admission is based on SAT scores—get a 1500 on the SAT and Vanderbilt and Harvard both get interested. Yes, colleges do demand that home schoolers take the SAT or ACT college admissions test, but in most cases they are demanding the same thing of all students. Home school families need not shy away from this task because the child trained at home does very well on these tests. In fact, all but two of the Nation's spelling bee finalists in a recent year were home schoolers. The same abilities carry through into other college skills. In addition, there is a little known Federal law that states that even those without a high school diploma may not be denied the right of advancement. Anyone who can pass with a 'C' on 15 semester hours of work may not be denied the right to continue. Everyone 16 years and older must be given the opportunity to try through our community college system. Sometimes parents have to get a little verbal, but the reality is that colleges can lose their complete Pell grant program for failure to comply and they know it. The myth of college refusal is just that, a myth.

## **Records**

Many parents and even schools do not take adequate care of records. The government, very rightly, is concerned about where and how records are kept because they represent learning and a life. Thirty years after an individual finishes school he or she should be able to retrieve their records. Because of the stringent need for verification, DCA provides a comprehensive database to input students' records. Additionally, the school guarantees the data base to continue in perpetuity for the foreseeable lifetime of all its students. Should DCA close its doors, its records will be stored and be retrievable for all its students. The serious task of keeping records to insure students' futures is lifted off the satellite school by the filing of semester grades, teacher's comments, citizenship or other records the parents wish saved. Parents may elect to store the only copies of data themselves by asking the umbrella school to release all records. DCA strongly recommends that parents allow a copy of transcripts be held by the school should tragedy strike the family. Such information may also be demanded by the courts in order to substantiate learning experiences. This is a safeguard. Except for subpoena, no record can be removed from DCA without the family's permission.

### **How The Program Works**

The ACE curriculum is a self-paced workbook design. Students may proceed as slowly or as quickly as they need to go to master the material. Failure is not an option as failed workbooks must be repeated. Because the program is self-paced, slow learners and gifted students may work side by side. Indeed grade levels become increasingly unimportant as students find themselves in 6th grade math, 7th grade English, and 8th grade history, etc. Subjects that are difficult for a given student are augmented by other subjects in which they excel. The emphasis is on success, not grade levels. In the final analysis, each student is in competition only with him/herself. The student is working to be the best he or she can be. Parent/teachers interact with students as needed for questions, tests, projects and homework. Parent/ teachers may also lay a given subject aside for a time while a lagging area is caught up. Students may also haul their current workbooks along on trips, vacations and ministry times giving Mom and Dad needed time to rest, live, minister and refresh themselves. Students take a mastery prep test at the end of each book. Upon passing, they take the final and move on to the next book. Twelve workbooks constitutes an average year's work. Gifted students go faster; slower students finish less but all succeed at their level –a positive experience for everyone.