

Global Impact Starts in the Home

This month, departing from the routine, I have a word to parents. Kids can read it too. The UPCI recently started a bold, new program called, "Global Impact." It contains many elements. The one I'm thinking of concerns global impact starting in the family. So many things in life, society and the church rise and fall on the family. It is the church in miniature. So goes the family; so goes the nation. And more importantly, so goes the family; so goes the church. Global Impact is calling for each father to teach a Bible study for several weeks to his own family. Missionaries should lead the way; never to be excluded. The rationale is simple. Our General Superintendent, Brother Kenneth Haney, made this important observation, "I feel it is very important we reinforce the doctrine for our children and teenagers." It is important to teach your children what we believe; and why we believe it.

Far from the homeland, we are sometimes puzzled in how best to pass the faith along to our kids. Many nations lack an abundance of Sunday school classrooms and curriculum. Thank God, with your focused attention, that is changing. In the midst of the multitude of pressing ministry assignments, it is easy to neglect the spiritual life of the missionary family; from the youngest to the oldest.

Hopefully, God will stir up your creativity; to find ways to provide spiritual training for your children. Here are a few things that may work:

1. Yearly, Word Aflame Publications provide surplus literature. Sister Shirley can assist with the details. Order the literature appropriate for your children and teach them at home.
2. If Sunday school is not available in your location, set the example, show the way, and start one. This can be done on Sunday or even a different day of the week. Older children can get involved in teaching, as well as missionary Mom and Dad.
3. Several of the home schooling programs provide excellent Bible courses. Don't overlook them if you utilizing home school curriculum. And be careful of emphasis on Trinitarian doctrine. Surprisingly, this crops up in early grades.
4. Children attending Christian schools have many advantages. However, this does not eliminate or alleviate the need for teaching truth at home.
5. Share what God is doing in the nation, other nations, or in North America with your children.
6. Find creative ways to have regular devotions. It doesn't take long. Try reading stories at the dinner table, short devotions at bedtime, Bible trivia games in the car on deputation, and checking your children's comprehension of preaching after services.
7. There are lots of CDs and some Christian DVDs available that reinforce Christian values and principles. These can be helpful. Kids love Adventures in Odyssey or Veggie Tales, to mention a couple. Come to think of it, I've encountered missionary *parents* who love them too.

You are doing a great job. We appreciate your ministry. We love your family. Remember, balance is important. And to give the Howell translation and paraphrase of a popular Bible verse, "What profits a missionary, if he gains the whole world, and loses his own children." Missionary, global impact begins right in your own home.