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**DiscoverChristianSchools.com**



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*Merry Christmas from  
DiscoverChristianSchools.com*

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#### **DCS in World Magazine!**

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## Welcome to DiscoverChristianSchools.com and our E-Newsletter “E-Connect!”

Thank you for signing up for the DiscoverChristianSchools.com E-Newsletter. This is our second “**E-Connect!**” Newsletter and we want to keep you informed about Christian education on many levels. DiscoverChristianSchools.com is the newest communications initiative designed to assist parents in making the most informed decisions about their children’s education.

[www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com](http://www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com) is a website that connects schools and parents together, and imparts the most current and reliable resources available where Christian education is concerned.

If you have not visited our website, you can read all about us at [www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com](http://www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com) and you can even ask us questions that pertain to your children’s education or your school. There are a multitude of resources you can download if you are a parent, a teacher, or a school that would like to become a member of DiscoverChristianSchools.com.

We intend to produce and send you “**E-Connect!**” every month. If you have suggestions, stories, testimonials or any other information that you believe those interested in Christian education would like to hear, please send it to [dhamilton@hamiltonstrategies.com](mailto:dhamilton@hamiltonstrategies.com). God bless you and we hope you enjoy reading our second issue of “**E-Connect!**”

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### “Mom and Dad, It’s OK to parent your children”

Op-Ed by Harold Naylor, Co-founder

As we come to the close of another year, we naturally look ahead to (and reflect upon) those things we hold near and dear. Our families rank #1 at the top of that list, and as we begin 2007, I am thinking about my own parenting abilities. A funny thing happens to parents on the way to raising our children to adulthood. Around the age of 5 or 6 we are told that we are no longer able to educate our own children and that we must turn them over to the professionals who know better.

Why is that? We were perfectly able – and expected – to teach them to eat, walk, talk; even go to the potty. When our child read their first Easy Reader or wrote their name, it was us parents, the ones with no formal education in education, who could rejoice in our combined effort. Amazingly, the “experiment” worked and, by the age of 5 years, we had ourselves a well-developed and capable little person ready to continue, not start, the education process.

Now, however, we have been convinced to leave the educating to the professionals, those with great credentials, but no stake in the outcome. The current state of American education is a result, I believe, of parents “handing over” their son or daughter to a system that they do not fully understand at best or, at worst, one that is working in opposition to our beliefs and values. Yes, values are taught in the local school; but are they yours?

So, because we are law-abiding and had an “OK” experience when we were young in the school system, we trot them off to register in the local public school without really stopping to ask some critical questions.

Why aren’t we more involved? The decision on how to educate our children is one of the most important we can make and we have only one chance to get it right. There are no “do overs” in these precious 13 years before college. Specifically, they will be educated for 16,000 hours, a tremendous time to form thought patterns and thinking skills. Our children deserve the best we can give, which implies that we are as involved with the what, who, how, when, and why, not just the where which is usually down the street at the closest public school.

What are the critical questions a parent must ask? If you are religious (as most Americans claim to be) then you would naturally desire an educational environment consistent with your view of the world. This may cause confusion for some, but how we look at the world figures prominently into the education decision. For example, is there a standard of right and wrong; or does everyone have his or her own handle on the truth?

How about why? Is the goal of education only to graduate, go to a good college, get a well-paying job so you can get a lot of stuff and retire at an age when we can still travel? If so, the decision is pretty straightforward – look at the pedigree only. But have you ever asked yourself, “Is that all there is to life?”

The questions go on, but do we know the answers? This thinking is getting tiring and here is why from Dr. Albert Mohler:

“In the name of personal liberation and financial necessity (fueled by a consumerist culture), mothers followed fathers out of the household and into the marketplace and workforce. Thus many “latch-key” children raise themselves. Their parents (when they have two) arrive home late, tired, and more focused on their jobs than the family.

Thus, the major messages coming from the culture signal that the family is a negotiable unit made up of persons who happen to live together, but who receive their primary fulfillment in life outside the kinship unit. The individual with autonomous rights is supreme and the family, with its various obligations, is a temporary responsibility at best.”

There you have it. Leave the child alone and hope for the best. After all, when they are grown adults, we have satisfied our obligation.

For the sake of your children and the grandchildren who may or may not come to visit, get and stay involved in every dimension of the education process and watch the fruit that effort will bear.

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## **News & Views on Education**

### **Public School vs Christian School, by Bruce Shortt**

Christians love their children; they know that the Bible instructs them to raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Yet, the overwhelming majority of us educate our children in an institution from which all vestiges of Christianity were driven out long ago – an institution that is also awash in secular humanist and neo-pagan theologies. That institution, of course, is a government school.

Do we really believe that government schools are somehow religiously neutral? Can we honestly think that committing our children from their earliest years to the care and nurture of schools dominated by secular humanism and New Age paganism doesn't harm them spiritually and morally? Do we really believe that we are not commanded to give our children an explicitly Christian education? Unfortunately, most Christian parents and pastors believe these things - perhaps through some combination of the force of habit, fear, ignorance, or complacency and misplaced trust - but believe these things we do.

This is why DiscoverChristianSchools.com's work is so vital. Parents need to be introduced a Biblical theology of education; they need to understand that the “little red schoolhouse” of nostalgic memory is really a “little whited sepulcher”; and they need to understand how Christian education blesses children, families, churches, and communities. As it does these things, DiscoverChristianSchools.com also supports Christian schools by raising their profile within their communities, leading more families to take a serious look at their community's Christian schools, and encouraging parents with children

already in Christian schools to stay the course.

DCS's ministry should be a core element of every church's and Christian organization's evangelism effort. I hope that churches and Christian organizations of all kinds will partner with DCS to help DCS advance its important work. Nothing offers Christians so much hope for the future of our culture than greater obedience among Christians in the education of their children, and nothing will so surely ensure a "post Christian" future than continued disobedience.

*Bruce Shortt is a graduate of Harvard Law School, has a Ph. D. from Stanford University, was a Fulbright Scholar, and serves on the boards of directors of the Houston Ebony Music Society and the Exodus Mandate.*

*He is a member of the North Oaks Baptist Church and currently practices law in Houston, Texas. Mr. Shortt and T. C. Pinckney were co-sponsors of the Christian Education Resolution that was submitted for consideration at the 2004 and 2005 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Bruce's Blog can be found at <http://harshtruth.blogspot.com/>*

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## **DCS In the News!**

**DiscoverChristianSchools.com Supports Saying 'Merry Christmas' in All Schools**  
*(This news release was published in various publications across the U.S.)*

**BROOKHAVEN, Penn., Dec. 6** /Christian Newswire/ -- DiscoverChristianSchools.com supports students in schools all across the nation, whether private or public, to speak the greeting "Merry Christmas" during the Christmas season.

It is confusing and may be damaging to small children if they are reprimanded for wishing their classmates, teachers and others, 'Merry Christmas'. When children are taught that the meaning of Christmas is to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, then they don't understand what they've done wrong when they simply wish someone to have a nice Christmas. Their excitement for the season is squelched and they begin to question what they've been taught. It is every person's first amendment right to be able to wish someone 'Merry Christmas' at Christmastime. It's hard to even fathom that we have to make statements like these in this day and age. I think adults should learn from children that if something this simple becomes so complicated, perhaps something has gone awry," stated Harold Naylor, co- founder of DiscoverChristianSchools.com.

DiscoverChristianSchools.com holds these educational worldviews:

- All truth is God's truth, and God's Word sheds light on our path. Only in His light can we see light. Education is not focused on possibilities but on certainties found in God's Word.
- Deuteronomy 6 tells parents that, in all they do, they should provide a godly education for their children.
- Three key institutions that shape a child are the home, the church and the school. Children are served best when all three institutions point them in the same direction.
- Only an education that has the liberty to address the whole child -- social, intellectual, emotional, physical AND spiritual -- reaches the possibility of excellence.

For more information about DiscoverChristianSchools.com and for resources on Christian education, please visit the website at [www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com](http://www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com).

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## Parents Want to Know!

### What If We Can't Afford A Christian Education?

This is a very real problem, and one of the most common parental objections. Christian schools cost money. A lot of money. However, before we get too carried away with fiscal concerns, we need to ask ourselves an important question:

***Do we have a moral obligation to give our children a Christian education? (Click on the question for the answer). If so, then God will do for us what He does anytime He gives us a command. He'll give us the means to obey it.***

Statements like “God will make a way” or “If He’s called you, He’ll equip you” may sound a little trite. However, they happen to be true. If you have a biblical mandate to provide your children with a Christian education – and all of us have to make that determination for ourselves – God won’t let a little thing like insufficient funds stop you from obeying Him. Not if you’re committed to hearing and obeying His will in the matter.

He may give you a raise. He may show you how to cut a few corners. But one way or another, He will make a way – because if educating your children in a Christian setting is a genuine responsibility, the financial cost becomes a genuine need. And God has promised to supply *all your needs* according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

There are other ways God may provide the necessary funding. In some cases, churches have been known to assist their members. Talk to your pastor and see if that’s a possibility. In addition, many schools offer financial aid to needy families or scholarships to academically-gifted students. Contact the admissions department at your local Christian school.

At the end of the day, God may ask you to take a step of faith. Then another. Then another. Pretty soon, you’ll be walking in a promise that’s been repeated so often it’s become the quintessential Christian cliché. When God calls us to a task, He equips us to fulfill it. The Red Sea was no match for Him. The red in your checkbook won’t be, either.

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## “Why Money Is Never An Issue”

### A Parent Testimonial by Becky Haney

*Becky and her husband David are both Christian school graduates. They live in South Jersey and currently have three children attending Christian school.*

When I read the article “Why Money Is Never An Issue” on the *Discover Christian Schools’* website, I wanted to shout “Amen!” Because that’s exactly how my husband, David, and I feel. (If you haven’t read it, as well as the sidebars, stop and read it right now! [Click here!](#))

Our convictions about Christian Education are taken directly from Deuteronomy 6, verses 5-7:

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. **Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.***

We have 3 children, the oldest of whom will be graduating from high school this spring. Our commitment to Christian Education has been foundational to many decisions we have made for our family. And I want to stress that word “foundational.” Because if your commitment doesn’t come first, you will see obstacles such as cost as potentially insurmountable. But if your commitment is unshakeable, you will see those “obstacles” as opportunities for God to show you how He will provide.

And that may require, as the article says in the last paragraph, “taking a step of faith. Then another. Then another.” That mindset keeps you open to “thinking outside the box” when it comes to the question of how you’re going to afford Christian Education.

We feel that we are living examples of God’s promise to bless the obedience of his people. I’d like to share with you some of the pivotal points where we feel God blessed our commitment:

- When our oldest (Lauren) was born, our first commitment was to her being raised by me at home, not in a daycare while I worked outside the home. Two months before she was born, David was offered a job with an increase in pay that allowed me to stop working and be home with her full-time.
- Even before Lauren started school, I was able to get a job cleaning our church, which only involved one day a week. Lauren and her grandparents (who lived nearby) enjoyed spending the day together, and I was able to make enough money to pay for her education when she eventually started kindergarten.
- When we were faced with adding our second child, Shelly, to the Christian Education school bill, we made the hard decision to transfer to another school that was less expensive. It was a painful decision, because that meant leaving the school that both David and I had graduated from, but it was one that we felt we had to make as we looked to the future. After 30 years of existence, however, that school closed the year after Lauren was enrolled. So we sent her back to our alma mater and began to entertain the idea of my getting a job.
- The summer before our youngest, Scott, was scheduled to begin preschool, the opportunity came for us to move to a beautiful home on 2 acres of land in southern New Jersey. The Christian school nearby was significantly less expensive and we saw it as another provision of God that would enable me to stay at home and not have to work. The property was a dream-come-true for David, yet the decision to move hung in the balance as we waited to see if the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class of the Christian school could accommodate Lauren. We literally would not have moved if we couldn’t send her to the Christian school. We explained our situation to the administration, and were soon informed that the teacher was willing to accept another student and that the school would be giving her a full-time aide to help with a larger-than-normal class.

As you can see, God opened many doors and even closed one. We were in prayer about each decision we made. In some instances, God’s “dropped things in our lap” that we didn’t even see coming. But we didn’t just sit and wait for them. We were also active in looking for tangible ways to make our commitment a reality. We have supplemented David’s income with church cleaning, church secretarial work (that I could do at home), and snowplowing. We’ve pursued avenues that we thought would accomplish our God-given goal. And he has provided far more than we even need!

The possibility of Christian college tuition now looms on the horizon. My time to work may be on that horizon as well. You can be sure we’re praying about this one! But we’re also resting in the assurance of God’s provision.

On a side note, even as I write this, I’m struggling with some dissatisfaction with our son’s 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. And I’ve had that problem before. But for us, the *Christian* part of the education comes first. Because we believe that, although our children certainly need to be academically prepared, what they need most when they fly out of the safe nest of home is a firm spiritual and moral compass and a complete conviction that God is in control of their lives. Everything else flows from that. The reality is that their lives here on earth are only a speck on their eternal timeline. And from the day our first was born, we’ve been passionate about their *eternal* life. Christian Education is an extension of our personal passion and we have laughed and cried as we’ve partnered with Christian teachers, all the while embracing the same goals: the salvation of our children’s souls and their progress in becoming

more like Christ.

The way I see it, if you embrace the conviction that “money is never an issue,” you actually simplify your life. There are so many forks in the road--so many decisions to make. But this is one you can breeze by! Because God is waiting on the path of Christian Education to show you great blessing! We constantly marvel at God’s provision and thank Him every day for Christian Education.

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## **With Special Thanks to our Charter Members!**

**Schools that caught the vision – and became subscribers during our inaugural year!**

Visit our website [www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com](http://www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com) and enter your zip code to find information on these Christian schools plus a link to their websites.

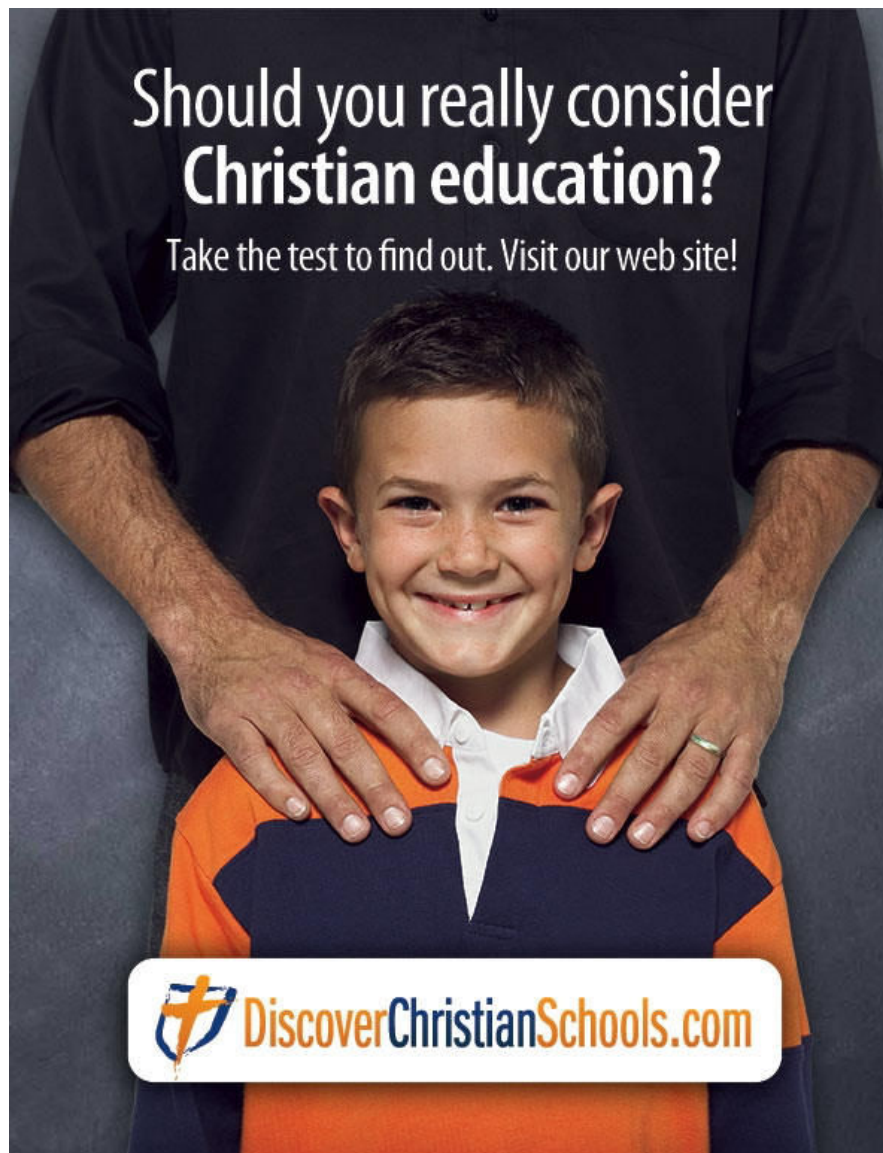
**Aletheia Christian School** *Newark, DE*  
**American Christian School** *Succasunna, NJ*  
**Baptist Regional School** *Haddon Heights, NJ*  
**Bel Forest Christian Academy** *Bel Air, MD*  
**Belleville Mennonite School** *Belleville, PA*  
**Bethel Christian School** *Port Republic, NJ*  
**Bethel Mill Prep** *Sewell, NJ*  
**Calvary Christian School** *Old Bridge, NJ*  
**Chalutzim Academy** *Philadelphia, PA*  
**Christian School of York** *York, PA*  
**Conestoga Christian School** *Morgantown, PA*  
**Cumberland Christian School** *Vineland, NJ*  
**Dayspring Christian Academy** *Lancaster, PA*  
**Delaware County Christian School** *Newtown Square, PA*  
**Delmarva Christian High School** *Georgetown, DE*  
**Faith Christian School** *Roseto, PA*  
**Faith Mennonite High School** *Kinzers, PA*  
**Grace Christian School** *Telford, PA*  
**Grace Christian School** *Staunton, VA*  
**Harrisburg Christian School** *Harrisburg, PA*  
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**Holmesburg Baptist Christian School** *Philadelphia, PA*  
**Lancaster Christian School** *Lancaster, PA*  
**Lan-chester Christian School** *Coatesville, PA*  
**Lehigh Christian Academy** *Philadelphia, PA*  
**Lehigh Christian Academy** *Allentown, PA*  
**Lehigh Valley Christian High School** *Allentown, PA*  
**Mercer Christian School** *Washington’s Crossing, PA*  
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**New Covenant Academy** *Mansfield, PA*  
**Open Door Christian Academy** *Ft Washington, PA*  
**Park Bible Academy** *Pennsville, NJ*  
**Phil-Mont Christian Academy** *Erdenheim, PA*  
**Plumstead Christian School** *Plumsteadville, PA*  
**Quakertown Christian School** *Quakertown, PA*  
**Red Hill Christian School** *Red Hill, PA*  
**Red Lion Christian Academy** *Bear, DE*  
**Redeemer Lutheran School** *Philadelphia, PA*  
**Ringwood Christian School** *Ringwood, NJ*  
**Spruce Hill Christian School** *Philadelphia, PA*  
**Tall Oaks Classical School** *Hockessin, DE*

**The Christian Academy** *Brookhaven, PA*  
**The Geneva School** *Olyphant, PA*  
**The King's Christian Academy** *Callaway, MD*  
**The King's Christian School** *Cherry Hill, NJ*  
**The Wilberforce School** *Princeton, NJ*  
**Timothy Academy** *Philadelphia, PA*  
**Trinity Christian School** *Pittsburgh, PA*  
**Watsontown Christian Academy** *Watsontown, PA*  
**Wilmington Christian School** *Hockessin, DE*  
**Windsor Christian Academy** *Uwchland, PA*


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## **DCS in World Magazine!**

DiscoverChristianSchools.com has been featured in [World Magazine](#) in September, 2006 and again this month, to encourage parents and teachers to visit our website for biblical information on Christian education. This is the ad featured in the December 2006 issue of [World Magazine](#):



Should you really consider  
**Christian education?**  
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