

THE HOME-SCHOOL MOVEMENT AND CHRISTIAN REVIVAL

By Samuel L. Blumenfeld

The crisis in the West, in the industrially advanced nations, and particularly in the United States, is one brought on by the prevalence of state-controlled education in which the Left has wielded overwhelming ideological influence on the minds of the young, thereby creating endless conflicts between disparate philosophies and world views. The increase in illiteracy, homelessness, poverty, drug addiction, social disintegration, teenage rebellion and despair are the results of an education system that promotes moral subjectivism, situational ethics, behaviorism, sexual permissiveness, and evolutionism.

By denying the existence of God, of moral absolutes, of the soul, of the intellect, the system denies children the only true protection they have against evil. By denying the existence of sin, the system denies children their only means of understanding and controlling the satanic spirit that has infected the human race since the fall of man. The worst thing that we can do to a child is teach him or her that sin does not exist. It is only through an acknowledgment of sin that a human being can begin to deal with it.

It is to the credit of a growing number of Christian families in America that secular public education is finally being recognized as the destroyer of the moral standards and values which are the imperatives of a Christian society. The home-school movement is

where the true Christian revival is taking place -- not in the churches, not in the public forum, not even in the Christian school. The revival is taking place within the Christian home-school family, where the father has assumed spiritual leadership, where parents pass on to their children the knowledge, wisdom and values of a Christian heritage. The revival is based on the family's return to Biblical principles in parenting, child-rearing, and education. God commands parents to educate their children in a Godly manner. The home-school movement thereby fulfills the first requisite of revival: obedience to God.

True revival cannot take place in church where Christians profess to be born again but send their children to public schools to be corrupted and proselytized by humanists. True revival occurs when Christian parents take full control of, and responsibility for, their children's education and, when they do so, in obedience to God's commandments.

True revival means true obedience to God's way. When children follow God's way, they learn to say grace at meals, to respect and honor their parents, to accept God's plan for their lives. They learn to love Christ for His gift of salvation. They learn to grow and prosper within the safe constraints of God's law but with the glorious freedom to be God's child and to exercise one's talents, abilities, and special gifts for His glory.

That is the kind of revival that is taking place in the home-school movement, where the Christian family has made a radical decision to break with secular cultural norms and create an entirely

new kind of modern Christian family where obedience to God is central, where learning is a family affair, where enterprise is encouraged, and where the latest technology is adapted to God's purposes. This is the kind of revival, the kind of movement, that has the potential of changing America dramatically in the next two decades and influencing the Western world in general.

Already the American home-school movement is influencing Christian families in other countries. It is serving as a model of integrated, happy, loving family life where children live and work in harmony with their parents, where children are protected from the dangers of a corrupt, irrational, and increasingly violent and diseased society. It is a model that is so attractive that many public-school children admire and envy their home-schooling neighbors, wishing that their own parents would decide to emulate them.

The crisis in education in America is a crisis of conflicting purposes and conflicting goals. The government schools have their own agenda, and Christian parents have another. Those parents who persist in sending their children to the public schools help perpetuate the crisis through their patronage and support of a system that is in conflict with their own professed beliefs. And the simple truth is that Christians will never wrest control of the system from the humanists, for the latter have so thoroughly shaped the system in their own image that no accommodation with Christianity is even remotely possible. Thus, handing one's children over to the humanists for education is tantamount to handing them over to

Satan.

And so, while the superficial revival of the '80s made a great deal of splash through flamboyant televangelism, the true and profound revival is taking place quietly but steadily among the home-schoolers -- where whole families have made a decision to live according to God's way. And by their fruits we shall know them!

The home-school family is producing a youngster who represents the finest expression of the American Christian character: moral in behavior, peer independent, self-confident, respectful of elders, self-disciplined, inventive, freedom loving, patriotic, enterprising, and God fearing. These are the youngsters who will become the leaders of tomorrow. With enough of them, America will once more be a nation worthy/ ^{of} God's grace, living in obedience to His commandments.
