

# Hope for a Misguided Generation

by Ann Dubose Little

Often, one is left to wonder whether taking a stand to control our youth, who are on the fast track of life, is worth the agony that may have to be endured. Even though negative consequences often appear more salient, there are many more benefits to being on the job, especially as a Christian parent.

My greatest concern is that parents must become involved in the learning process and feel a responsibility for learning along with our youth.

As parents, we must teach and model the importance and effectiveness of a positive attitude to help combat some of the hellish shows seen on television, in the movies or situations experienced by our youth when they are not with us.

They must learn to overcome life's obstacles and succeed no matter what the circumstances. They must discover how to make the most of their God given gifts and unleash their potential for excellence.

As parents we must teach them that there are no shortcuts. It's a known fact that everyone wants to be successful, but very few people are willing to do what it takes to succeed.

There are gobs and gobs of forces that entice our youth with the promises of big money and wonderful results (sex, drugs, guns, etc.)

Society, television and the entertainment field constantly try to convince them that they can have whatever they want without an investment in time, sacrifice, discipline, morals and an adjustment in their lifestyles.

Man was created in a state of innocence, but with the power of choice. He was tested under the most favorable circumstances. He was endowed with a clean mind and a pure heart with the ability to do right. Yet, man yielded to the temptation and failed the test.

We, as parents, cannot afford to continue to allow our youth, who were created in a state of innocence, to be influenced by the likes of Beavis and Butthead, Bart Simpson, MTV and drugs. Communication is the only

means of liberation. In order to help liberate our youth, we must communicate to them our love and concern for their well-being, conscious, self-realization and self-direction.

This is such a crucial time for our youth that we can no longer afford to deal with who's who in America, who's married to whom, who won what award or appointment, or any other triviality of that nature. As parents, we must stop being pitted against the other in the work place, home, etc. — the old divide and conquer routine.

As a concerned parent, teacher and administrator, I call upon other parents to take a stand. The cold realization is that all the flowery and thrilling talk about "freedom," "justice," "equality," "inclusion" and "sensitivity to cultural differences" has meaning only in the Disneyland atmosphere if we do not guide our youth correctly. Knowledge is the key to a better tomorrow. They need to be taught discipline and respect for others by parents along with the schools and churches.

As we approach the 21st century, we find ourselves moving in cadence in a



familiar cycle of hope and disillusionment. Our youth languishes, as yet generally unreached. They must see that they become what they behold and what they think. Daily, I remember that trials and tribulations are only opportunities for God to do something great in my life. Therefore, He will give me the unction to function as I take a stand to help our misguided, not lost generation of youth see the light and trod the path to success and self-fulfillment for a better tomorrow.

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