



Kathy Tweeten, Head Administrator

“Someone will train the next generation. The question is who, and for what purpose?”

~ Dr. Jeff Meyers, *Handoff*

When I taught Kindergarten, many years ago, I was new to the state of New Mexico. Coming from Minnesota, I did not realize that Hispanic names did not follow the phonetic pronunciation rules that I had been taught as a child. Consequently, as I tried to sound out the names of my new students, I did not know that I was mispronouncing some of them. By the time it got close to Kindergarten graduation, I realized that “ll” equaled the “y” sound, “j” can be silent and my accent marks were in all the wrong places. So I asked a new friend of mine, Veronica, who had her daughter Sonia in my classroom, to write out the pronunciation of the Grandparents’ names so I would say them correctly at graduation. It was at that time that Veronica said, “Do you know that you have been mispronouncing our last name all year long?” I was horrified! Veronica just laughed as I apologized profusely, and then she shared the following story:

At Christmas, when I had only been Sonia’s teacher for about 4 months, their family had a five-generation get-together to celebrate the holidays. It was at this event where someone said their last name. Sonia put her hands on her hips and announced to the entire family that they were mispronouncing their last name. She then told everyone it was pronounced the way I had been mispronouncing it! Everyone laughed and said, “Sonia, why would you say that our name is pronounced that way?” Her response was, “Because my teacher said so!” She had stood against her entire family on something that I had said! The family thought it was cute; I was mortified. It was like a knife to my heart. At that moment I was sold on Christian education. I knew that if I had told Sonia that there was no God, she would have believed that as well ~ because of the authority that a teacher has in the life of a child. How important that the message that your children are getting in school is the same message that you are giving in your home and is being taught in your church.

At CHA, our desire is to assist parents as they train and disciple their children in a way that will aid in the spiritual and moral development of the next generation. In light of eternity, what could be more important?