

“Our Western culture is becoming increasingly anti-Christian. We need an army of well-trained, intelligent, articulate people of faith in Christ who can not only defend their reasonable faith, but can perpetuate it as well. I know of no other tool in God’s arsenal that has the potential Christian schooling has in the intellectual and spiritual training of future generations.”

~ Sam Barfell, ACSI Vice President of Professional Development

As I read the article that this quote is taken from, it reminded me of a recent conversation that I had with several CHA parents. One mom had watched a documentary that highlighted public education and how they were measuring success. That led to a discussion on how we as Christians define success in school and life verses the definitions that were used in the movie.

The biggest difference between public school and Christian education is the fact that we teach from a Biblical perspective. We have a completely different reason for educating our children than do the public schools. Many people, including those in the documentary, defined success in school by whether their children were “healthy and happy.” We view education not as a means to an end ~ such as getting into the best college or even being healthy and happy. We view education as the foundation on which the Lord will build so that our children can fulfill God’s plan and purposes in their lives. We want nothing to hinder our children from fulfilling the Lord’s plan for their lives, so we prepare them as a whole child. That is why we teach Bible, math, science, reading, language arts, Spanish, PE, art, music, band, sports, history. . . . That is why we teach our students how to resolve conflict Biblically, and that is why we value being kind, considerate and others-oriented. That is why we value giving to missions and being missions-minded.

Our desire for our children is so much more than being “healthy and happy;” our desire for our children is for them to be “holy” ~ set apart for God’s purposes ~ and that cannot be accomplished by teaching without the Word of God as the foundation. Our definition for success in life is not the one the one that they gave in the documentary: “Success (in life) is based on how much money you earn.” Our definition for success is to graduate students who know and love the Lord and are well-prepared to follow His leading in their lives. Or, put another way, “well-trained, intelligent, articulate people of faith in Christ who cannot only defend their reasonable faith, but can perpetuate it as well.”

After our discussion, another CHA mom stated, “That is how my husband and I have chosen to guide our children. The world at large is trying so hard to have ‘successful’ children that they miss the point entirely.” Thank you for partnering with us in the training of your children. Our CHA parents understand the real definition of success!