

“Understanding Our Sacred Duty: To Bring Up our Children in Light and Truth”

A Message from the President – Misty Foxley
LDSEHE – LDS Eastern Home Educators - 2006

Ours is surely a sacred calling, a sacred trust given us by an ever-assuring Father in Heaven, a duty to which we work daily to meet, a privilege of which we often wonder how we can ever be worthy of. This is what being a parent of the House of Israel is all about – in this day or any other.

We know that our day has been likened to that of Sodom and Gommorah. Like Abraham in his day, we are faced with such a degree of wickedness in society that we wonder how we can ever raise our children under such conditions! I have often wondered over the years how Abraham and Sarah educated their own precious son Isaac. Unlike his cousins, Isaac grew up beyond the reach of those two great cities. Unlike Lot, Abraham was able to preserve his family in the midst of the gathering evil which surrounded him.

President Spencer W. Kimball spoke these prophetic words twenty-six years ago: “Many of the social restraints which in the past have helped to reinforce and to shore up the family are dissolving and disappearing. *The time will come when only those who believe deeply and actively in the family will be able to preserve their families in the midst of the gathering evil around us.*” (Gen. Conf. Oct. 1980.)

We cannot deny that that time is surely at our doorstep.

We who have chosen to bring our children home for their education have, as Abraham, attempted to raise them up beyond the reaches of a near-by godless society. With that choice, the burden of responsibility rests squarely upon our shoulders, and if not taken up with the Lord’s help, can be too heavy to bear. When taken up under the continual direction of the Spirit, it can be the greatest means of implementing the gospel of Jesus Christ more fully in our children’s lives than just about any other thing we can do. We can make that claim through experience, many amongst us have children whose lives are now living witnesses of that fact. Wherever they go, whomever they meet, whatever place in society they eventually walk, they are quiet, yet powerful witnesses of the righteousness that can come when children are truly brought up in light and truth.

“And great shall be the peace of thy children.” This is the promise that will come when children are raised in the millennial day. Why will their peace be so great? Because they will be raised up in light and truth. Isaiah prophesied that in our day there would be places of Zion dotted around the world, even in the midst of great and gathering evil. Those places of refuge, he taught, would be found in our homes, our stakes, and our temples.

How do we best teach the most noble generation that the Lord has yet sent to the earth? How can we raise them up so that when they are young adults they truly understand who they are and what they were reserved to do for the Kingdom of God on the earth today? Our mission, not unlike that of John the Baptist’s, is to perform a great preparatory work for the Lord in His Second Coming. But how do we sharpen that focus for ourselves and at the same time prepare the next generation to not only carry forth the work but to increase the pace and magnimity of it?

Parents, how do we truly raise them in that kind of light and truth? How do we bathe them in it, from day to day, year to year? We have to ask ourselves honestly, are our homeschools really doing that? We have this incredible opportunity before us, to teach our children from day to day in the environment of a holy place. Is it an unreachable, impossible task or can we do it? Can we do it without breaking under the weight of responsibility? Yes, we can. True, the responsibility is great, the task is barely conceivable, and truer yet – we are simple, normal parents with limitations of understanding and ability, sometimes afraid that while others may be cut out to do this, we can’t. But we can. All of us can. The Lord has commanded all parents to bring up their children in light and truth and He will show us how to do it.