



# Kingdom Education Network

**K.E.N. ONLINE NEWSLETTER**

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## KINGDOM EDUCATION'S FOUNDATION

By: H. Don Mayer, M.Ed.  
Principal, Bethel Christian School

One of the most noted scriptures found in Christian schools' mission or vision statements is Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it" (New King James Version). This foundational scripture has a wide variety of interpretations across the spectrum of Christian education. In pursuit of "the way" Christian leaders have struggled to find the right prescription of Bible reading, prayer, discipline, rules, fear of God, fear of the devil, threats, and promises needed to bolster their students' life long faith. Yet, more often than not, these carefully thought out prescriptions motivate many to turn away from the Lord. In my own persistent pursuit of the best mix of godly training the Lord shocked me into a reality shift. He showed me how my insistence of judging my students by what they did, their behavior, was a fatal flaw in my methods. I had established methods based on a set of rules and behaviors not rather than relationship. I wrongly believed that I could make my students be good Christians. My insistence to push my student to right actions through rules and controlling them was actually causing them to reject God altogether. I had built my spiritual

training prescription on the wrong foundation! My effort was focused on students behaving like Christians rather than being Christians.

In seeking biblical influence I became motivated by Luke 6:40 "everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher" (New King James Version). I realized my teachers and I are living out our faith in front of our students. Our lives are one of the best teaching tools. As well, the story of Samuel inspired me. Samuel was raised doing what the priests did. He was encouraged in his prophetic calling and immersed in an atmosphere of worship. Ministering before the Lord was a normal part of Samuel's education.

When it comes to spiritual development I now focus more in the atmosphere or culture of our school than on the curriculum of what we teach. My foundation is now set on three key gifts of the Spirit faith, hope, and love.

### Faith

"Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6, NKJV). My students

know that life as a Christian is a life of signs and wonders. The supernatural and Jesus are one in the same.

#### Hope

Students see themselves as God sees them they now have a hope for their future (Jeremiah 29:11). Through the gift of prophecy (I Corinthians 14:1-3) students understand that God is their encourager.

#### Love

We work hard to remove fear from our classroom. The fear of God is the beginning of

wisdom (Proverbs 1:17), but the fear of the principal is merely a form of manipulation. “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (1 John 4:8, NKJV).

As Kingdom minded educators we have to rethink what we are doing. Jesus taught faith by example and all that he did was saturated in faith, hope, and love. We have an obligation to teach like Jesus did.