

EDITORIAL

Though most Christian parents understand that parental guidance and nurture are instrumental in shaping their children's future, many of them fail to give their children's spiritual nurture the predominant place that Scripture demands. Generally, parents are distracted from that primary duty by their overriding anxiety over children's secular education and material success. Hence, children's spiritual education and success have often been set aside. This is a very lamentable situation.

The Holy Scriptures repeatedly insist on the importance of spiritual nurture by believing parents (cf. Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:7; Psalm 78:3-6; Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 3:15). The hopes of the present generation and the next hang upon this most important rule – “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6).

Charles Bridges (1794-1869), a great biblical scholar and churchman, commented thus on the importance of spiritual nurture of children: “... the religious training must not be the border of the garment, which might easily be cut off. It must be the pervading substance throughout. Begin, as Hannah did, with the dedication of the child to God (1 Samuel 1:28). This done – train him as God's child, entrusted to your care. Ask guidance from day to day – ‘How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?’” (Judges 13:12). Train him, as a baptised child, in the principles of his baptismal engagements. Pray for him. Teach him to pray. Instruct him “from a child in the Holy Scriptures’, as the sole rule of faith, and directory of conduct.”

This issue of the Bible Witness is published to call Christian parents to acknowledge children's spiritual training as their greatest duty and to act resolutely to that end. May none of our children become “victim” to our parental ignorance and negligence of duty. Let us train every child to be a well-equipped soldier of Christ to fight sin and worldliness, that they may endure well in the service of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lastly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you to participate in the 14th Bible Witness Retreat (*please refer to the details on the back cover page of this magazine*). The messages will be on the theme “Heavenly-Mindedness”, with the intended exhortation that you who are journeying to heaven may “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:2). Please sign up quickly!

Heartily in Christ,
Prabhudas Koshy