

ARTICLE FOR GAZETTE
August 23, 2006
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As I write this column we are in the midst of Vacation Bible School at our church. We are having a marvelous time reliving the times of Jesus, learning what is behind the words of scripture and how they apply to our lives. I am reminded of what Jesus said in regard to children, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." (Luke 18:16-17)

Very soon school will be starting again. The children are getting prepared for the first day - with all the necessary (and unnecessary) things to start a new year— school supplies, backpacks, new clothes, lunch fixings. They will be ready for the first day of school because parents have taken the time and given what is necessary to make them ready. In fact, the whole community gets involved in the effort by supporting the school supply drive of Communities In Schools. We want every child to have the best opportunities to succeed in life. But school is only one part of life, and I often wonder how we are preparing our children for the bigger picture. How are we preparing them spiritually, how are we developing their faith, so they will be able to succeed in the bigger picture?

When you add up the hours that a child might spend in Sunday School if they started at age 6 and dropped out at age 12 and never missed a Sunday for the usual 7 months per year. It comes to about the same number of hours they would spend in a year of kindergarten or a half year of grade one. And so equipped, or perhaps we should say poorly equipped, we send them off to face the trials and problems of the world! How ironic, how sad.

If we care about our children we should see that they get a good start in life by seeing that they attend church and Sunday School regularly, and by taking it upon ourselves to live in faithful commitment to the ways of Jesus Christ.