



FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SOCIETY OF MEBANE

N U N T I A S

“The Messenger”

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Proverbs 1:4 - *To give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.*

THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES OF YOUTH BY PASTOR GARY HENDRIX

Ordinarily a person's life in this world is divided into differing stages or seasons. Solomon alluded to that truth in the familiar words of Ecclesiastes. 3, part of which reads: "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted." Wisdom involves recognizing the seasons of life and making the proper use of each season as it comes. Because childhood and youth (what we term the adolescent years) comprise the single most important season of life, parents have the unique responsibility of laboring to make their children's youth as productive as it can possibly be. That necessarily requires working with all diligence to convince their children to use their youth with a view toward the later seasons of their lives.

The book of Proverbs provides tremendously useful counsel in this regard. Prov.20:4 is an excellent specimen of this counsel. "The lazy man will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing." The

fundamental lesson here has to do with the destructive effects of laziness. However, this lesson is set before us in a manner which declares several crucial maxims concerning the whole of life.

One maxim is that life consists of both seasons of opportunity and seasons of consequence. Planting time for the farmer represents seasons of opportunity. There is a limited opportunity for the farmer to clear and plow and sow his fields. All of this required hard manual labor, especially in the ancient world. Moreover, it was labor that provided no immediate profit. Exhausting labor is somewhat less painful if there is an immediate compensation. Planting season brings no such compensation beyond the beauty of freshly cultivated fields. However, there is a future season of compensation or consequence. Months later after the planted seeds germinate and mature, the farmer gathers in his harvest. Then there is profit and rejoicing. At this later time the farmer is glad that he labored hard when he had the opportunity to plow and

sow. The period of youth is so much like the planting season. That is true in many respects, but especially in the realm of education. For the remainder of his life, the individual will be left to function with the quality of the education received in his youth: the degree to which the fundamental building blocks of an educated mind were set in place; the method of thinking or reasoning which was developed. In a sense, the whole of life is a learning process; however, there is only one period of youth during which the direction of future decades is largely determined. Childhood is the great season of opportunity.

A second maxim gleaned from Proverbs 20:4 is that laziness looks upon difficulty and unpleasantness as sufficient reason to neglect the season of opportunity. "The lazy man will not plow because of the cold." Perhaps the rationale is that cold does not feel pleasant and he does not wish to subject himself to unpleasant feelings. Or, perhaps the reasoning is more serious.

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Ex Magisterio

"From the teacher's office"

"Brethren, **pray** for us." This is one of the closing exhortations of Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonica. It is my opening request. As we move closer to our point of final decision, our "drop-dead" date, we are feeling ever more keenly the need for prayer. We have set April 1st as the date of our decision for a 2008 start-up. We have invested the time and energy in formulating a vision for classical and Christian education in Mebane. We have been helped in our labors to form policy, make curriculum decisions, secure facilities, and the many other details involved in this project. We have been thankful for words of encouragement, support and counsel. Most of all we have been blessed with the confidence people have shown with their donations towards our start-up and applications for enrollment. Yet, we are still in great need for wisdom and resources as we move forward. I ask you to pray for us. I would like to outline our current status, activities and goals so that you may be able to pray with us more specifically and hopefully more fervently.

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Applications for Enrollment:

- We currently have ten applications. We know of a handful more that have expressed serious interest.
- Our goal is to have at least twenty.

Financial:

- Our goal is to have \$100,000.
- Our current balance is \$40,000 with an additional \$3,550 in pledges. This number does not include revenue from tuition (see note below).

Our plan is to be in a position in which tuition revenue will cover the cost of the education provided and fundraising will be for the benefit of financial aid. Given the importance of education, we anticipate that some parents would hesitate to commit their children to a start-up effort. We also expect that once the doors open, interest and confidence will grow. With modest enrollment increases, we will operate with a positive balance in a few years. With that in mind, our original financial model requires a "cushion" to supplement the revenue generated by way of tuition. The greater our balance at start-up, the greater confidence we will have to make it through these first lean years.

Current Activities:

- These last few months have been primarily focused on getting the word out to the public by way of general advertising. We have run ads in Mebane, Burlington, and Hillsboro newspapers, as well as a direct mailing flyer. We are currently running ads on WTRU 830 AM. A large sign is posted at Millennium fitness and on 3rd street in front of Grace Reformed Baptist Church (where the school will be located). Other notices are posted around town on community bulletin boards.
- We are running monthly public informational meetings. The next will be on Thursday March 27th.
- We are still seeking to establish relationships with other churches and would love to hear from any of our readers who might facilitate communication with local pastors.
- We are revamping our website and trust it will continue to be useful in providing information about our project.

Our chief end is to glorify the risen Savior. We have felt the burden to do this by establishing a place where children can be taught the truth, and the values of Christian living can be reinforced during the educational process. We believe that children need to see Christ everyday. Please partner with us in making this vision a reality. If you are in a position to give (or make a pledge), please do so. Donations can be made online or by mail and are tax deductible. If you cannot partner with us financially at this time, please bring us to the throne of Grace often over the next few months. We appreciate your support, your ideas, and your prayers.

-Jeff Johnston

"The Unique Opportunities" from page 1

Perhaps the farmer is given to serious respiratory illness and the cold may lead to sickness--sickness which might prove serious. Certainly that appears much more plausible. Nonetheless, the fact remains that unless the plowing and planting are accomplished, there will be no harvest. The season of opportunity must be seized at all costs; otherwise, there will be impoverishment. Childhood and youth constitute divinely provided opportunities for equipping the mind and heart for the remainder of life. Future productivity and usefulness are often determined by what happens during the period of youth. The quality of early education received (given and received) determines later educational opportunities. Those later opportunities directly impact career options and competence for career options. The discernment and discipline acquired in youth are reflected in the choice of spouse, which is one of life's most influential decisions. Christian parents must do everything that God would enable them to do in making the most profitable use of their children's seasons of opportunity.

That probably entails more than is commonly acknowledged. For one thing, parents must assess honestly the peculiar pluses and minuses of this time in history. There are exceptional challenges belonging to the increasingly secular American culture. Never has a thorough education in the truth and principles of God's Word been so essential. The rising generation must be prepared to act as apologists for eternal Truth in a society that is both ignorant and hostile to that Truth. This is a different day and different challenges with drastically different consequences looming in the future. Now, more than ever, the season of opportunity (of plowing and planting) is decisive. Let every Christian parent and youth cast off all sloth and resistance to the necessary work. The season of opportunity passes very quickly.

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