

# Make a difference — mentor a child

By DR. SCOTT H. CARR

Special to the News

This past week has been the time for students to return to school. The purchase of new clothes, book bags, writing utensils, lunch boxes and haircuts led to the first day of school.

There is something special about the beginning of a new school year. It is a time for new experiences, new information to be assimilated and new friendships. Students are placed into a position where they will grow in different areas onto the next level of their lives.

No matter what age we find ourselves, we are always learning and growing. Many times it is through the "school of hard knocks." And those knocks sure can be hard, can't they?

This time of new beginnings and fresh starts ought to be a time where we focus on the One who is the truth: Jesus Christ. Let us focus upon him wherever we find ourselves on this spectrum we call life. We should make every attempt to make him the center of everything in our lives; including our education.

We must be careful not to permit education to become an idol. It has become such in our time in history to so many people. Education is the primary goal that many worship in our modern culture. We must remember that knowledge without the fear (reverence) of God is folly, which results in a waste of the resources of our time, energy and money. The Bible admonishes us to seek the fear of God, because this is the beginning of wis-

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dom.

As adults, let us be so careful to see to it that our children's education is Christ-centered, and not man-centered. There are many who get knowledge for knowledge sake in order to obtain degrees, so they can "move up the corporate ladder," only to find that they placed the ladder on the wrong building in life.

If we build on anything or anyone other than Jesus, we are building on shifting sand that will not survive the storms of life. But, if we build upon him as our sure foundation, whether it is education, our life's mate, a job, or any other aspect of life, then our lives will stand strong when the storms of life arrive at our doorsteps.

I invite adults to make the time to mentor a younger person this year. They need us and the guidance we can provide them during these formative stages of their lives.

Ask the Holy Spirit to bring one or more persons into your life that you can live and share your life with, so you can show Jesus to them in different areas where they need this direction from you. There are many single parents who would gladly welcome this for their children and for themselves.

Our young people are our future and they are here now. They will not be young for long. Let's not miss our windows of opportunity in their lives. We can have a tremendous impact on their education this year; especially in

their spiritual formation, which will forever outlast any pieces of paper they could ever hang on their walls in this temporal world.

May this year be a year where we reach out to our youth in our community in order to make a difference in their lives, which will make a difference for eternity.

Children are so special to Jesus and he always made time for them. He said that whatever we do to the least of these, we have done it to him.

Will you show your love for him by loving these precious creations of his while we have the opportunity to do so?

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## Calling all pastors

The News welcomes columns from local pastors for our religion page. Columns should be on timely subjects and can be approximately 500 words long.

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