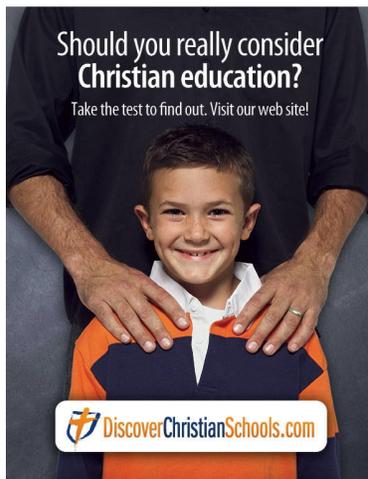


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December 2007

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How to Shop for a Christian School

By Jonathan Ekeland, Director of Admissions, The Christian Academy, Brookhaven, PA

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. . . pray for us so that God will honor our desires to be obedient to this responsibility . . .

How to Shop for a Christian School

Jonathan Ekeland, Director of Admissions, The Christian Academy, Brookhaven, PA

When parents are “shopping” colleges with their son or daughter, there are always a few good questions that they should be asking? “What percentage of your graduates get a job in a related field of study?” Well, the same goes with parents who are seeking to send their child to a Christian school; “What questions should I ask?” Below are a few questions that may be crucial in helping you get a better understanding of a particular school.

- **In what way does the school combine Christianity and learning?** (Answers may range from a modest “required chapel” to a quite thorough program of seeking God’s truth in all subjects.) Must all children come from Christian homes or are some non-Christian homes represented? (Some parents prefer a mix, especially since it may indicate a respect for the academic standards of the school.)
- **Are the teachers certified by the state or working toward it? What is the teacher/student ratio? What is the average number of years the faculty has been teaching?** (Look for some seasoned veteran teachers, not a whole staff just out of college.)
- **What percentage of last years students are returning this year?** (A retention rate of 80%-89% is good, 90%-100% is excellent).
- **To what colleges have recent graduates gone? What percentage of the graduates go to a four-year institution, two-year institution?**
- **Is the school accredited or registered with the state education department?** (Lack of accreditation may affect college entrance).
- **How closely have operations come to breaking even financially in the last two years?**
- **Can the school supply the names of some parents in my neighborhood with whom I can discuss the school?**

Go to discoverchristianschools.com and receive more helpful questions to assist you in this important decision of where to have your family educated.

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Christian School Enrollment Trends

A Look at Regional and National Data

Recently, one of the top Christian magazines in the U.S. contacted DiscoverChristianSchools.com and sent this email to us:

RE: Christian schools closing

You sent me a sobering e-mail in July of 2006 including a note that quoted ACSI officials as saying that a Christian school was closing somewhere every single day.

Do you have any more data on that?

Thanks for all you keep doing. The pressures on Christian schools may never have been more severe. But never have they been more needed.

In response to this request, DCS has put together this critical information. Clearly, Christian Education needs your help and ours!

U.S. Christian Schools Statistics

- A. The numbers of various Christian School Associations:
- a. holding steady around 670,000 students. Number of schools is flat or slightly declining. Schools are closing or merging at the rate of 1-2 per week.
 - b. declining somewhat (base of 150,000), especially in industrial Mid-West
 - c. Increasing by 10%+ each year, but on a small base (<30,000 students) in 204 schools
 - d. 1,100 schools representing 170,000 students – generally flat with some growth in the south with the recent work done by the Southern Baptists
- B. The Trends
- a. Schools are closing or consolidating
 - b. In both the mid-Atlantic and Northeast, Christian schools are closing faster than new ones are opening. Philadelphia area Christian schools lost 5% this year (base of 6,500 students in 17 schools)
 - c. There is a belief that the Emergent Church Movement is causing Christians to “re-engage” the public schools. Another trend is the impact of post-modern parents not thinking biblically about their children’s education, rejecting the dominion argument and, hence, leaving the schools.

Source: ACSI, CSI, AACCS, MACSA

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DCS in the News

Interviews, Articles and Public Service Announcements

Over the last few months, DiscoverChristianSchools.com has been featured on these news sources through interviews, articles or our newest addition, the Christian Education Commentaries:

- WJTL, Lancaster, PA, Christian talk and music
- WFIL, Philadelphia, PA, Christian talk and music
- WPIC, Sharon, PA, Secular, Newstalk
- WPCU, Panama City, FL, Christian
- WTMV Radio, Youngsville, PA, Christian
- WCRF, Cleveland, OH, Moody Bible Institute Station

OneNewsNow.com –American Family Association – is heard on over 200 radio stations nationwide and DCS was featured in their one million plus online email distribution two days in a row!

OneNewsNow.com, the online news service provided by the American Family News Network, (and part of the American Family Association) featured interviews with Harold Naylor, co-founder of DiscoverChristianSchools.com, on their website, in their one million plus email distribution and on

hundreds of radio stations across the U.S. on October 9 -10, 2007.

Rusty Pugh, the education writer for OneNewsNow.com, developed the two-part series about DiscoverChristianSchools.com and did an outstanding job.

Website offers parents information on Christian education - Part 1 from Tuesday, October 9, 2007:

For parents seeking information about private Christian education, a website answers many questions they may have and provides valuable resources to help them make an informed decision....[**Click here to read \(and hear\) the rest!**](#)

Website offers parents information on Christian education- Part 2, Wednesday, October 10, 2007

A proponent of Christian education is dismissing two big misconceptions about private Christian schools: that they cost too much -- and that children can receive a supposedly "neutral" education in the secular government schools.....[**Click here to read \(and hear\) the rest!**](#)

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Christian Education Commentary
A Weekly Radio Spot with Harold Naylor

Now available via podcast or RSS audio feed!

Click on the link to subscribe and then you won't miss a single "issue" of the Christian Education Commentary (usually released on Monday of each week).

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- [**Check it out – and let us know what you think!**](#)

Also – please encourage your school families to subscribe to the email versions of the weekly *Christian Education Commentary* and the *e-Connect with DiscoverChristianSchools.com* newsletter. [**Click here to be added to the email list.**](#)

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And the word from Texas is . . .

A school board member from a Texas Christian school wrote:

"This is a great site. I will use it as I am always talking to couples in the church struggling with this issue. I would love to help you guys out. I am involved in the school board at our school and will bring up us being listed on your site. The more scriptural support and facts on the ineffectiveness the Christian community is having on developing future disciples for Christ in America, maybe the more we can open the church's eyes.

Thanks for the work you guys are doing for the Kingdom."

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Parent Testimonial

Jose Camejo

I read your commentaries all the time. They are usually short but to the point and encouraging. I like this one (God's Instruction) because you are mentioning that God holds us (parents) responsible for our children and that we need to consider if we are obeying God's instruction when it comes to our children's education. You also ask how do we teach our children to base their lives on the principals and truths in God's word when other influences in their lives compete directly against our training at home. The answer, find a Christian school.

Well, that is what my wife and I have done. Our children attend the top, or one of the top, elementary private schools in our area. It has a long waiting list. However, it is missing the most important element; that it is not truly a Christian school. We sacrifice to have our children in that school, because we would not even consider ever placing them in the government schools for all the obvious reasons. We also read much and have Bible studies every evening at home. We do not watch commercial TV; we do not even have cable.

However, in searching for a truly Christian school, one teaching with a Biblical world view we searched and found a Classical Christian school in another city within our state. After much prayer and heart searching, my wife and I decided to move there, just so the children could have a truly Christian education, one that supported what we teach at home. We plan to be in this school by the beginning of the new school year (next year).

Because we want to obey God's instruction when it comes to our children's education, we are presently selling our home so that the children can attend this school. The real estate market is tough right now but we are trusting God to bring us the right buyer for our home.

Would you take a moment to pray for us. Would you ask your staff or your Bible group to pray for us. We are asking as many believers as we can to pray for us so that God will honor our desires to be obedient to this responsibility he has given to us. We are praying that he will work the details out.

Thank you and thank you for your work.

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of this newest web initiative with a Christian Education Worldview.**

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