



# Where Do We Go From Here?

## *Solutions for Exiting Government Schooling for the Better Way*

By Dr. Carole Adams and Dr. Max Lyons

### INTRODUCTION

**A**re you searching for a way to rescue your children from the clutches of government schooling? Parents seeking Christian education for their families often find the options confusing or defeating. Many factors weigh in on the decision to place a child in private education. Costs are the number one factor for many families. Other factors include logistics of work schedules and other family obligations, financial commitment of enrolling several children, or the physical location of the school. These barriers keep children in public

school when parents truly want a better opportunity for their children. However, the reality is that no Christian family can afford to settle for a secular, progressive and too often faulty education for any one of their children.

### *But what is the solution?*

Thankfully, today with the positive move towards school choice nationwide, the solution is easier than it has been in the last fifty years.

At FACE as we work with families, schools, home schooling families, and churches, we witness a growing courage among Christians to step forward and take back the education of their own children as mandated by scripture.

Many parents do not realize there is not just one way of educating their children. Those who seek a Biblical model can choose from several options, including Christian schools and homeschooling.

#### FOUR TYPES OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

For the first two hundred years of our nation's history, Biblical education took many forms. Robert Peterson writes in *Education in Colonial America*, "The private system of education in which our forefathers were educated included home, school, church, voluntary associations such as library companies and philosophical societies, circulating libraries, apprenticeships, and private study."

The following models offer hope that many Christian parents will be able to find possible solutions for their families, using examples from the FACE network of Principle Approach schools and homeschool schools.

##### 1. The Christian School Sponsored By The Church

Parents are charged by God with the privilege and responsibility of educating their children. God holds parents accountable to this mandate. Often churches accept the responsibility of sponsoring a Christian school for the parents in the church and the community. The school is offered as an extension of the homes of their Christian families. This model often is less expensive for families, as the church shoulders part of the cost by providing the facility and sometimes other services.

The New Testament Christian School in Plymouth Massachusetts is a ministry of the New Testament Church, pastored by Dr. Paul Jehle. A church school is similar to the private school in many areas, however in the area of governance it is very different as the school is a ministry of the church. One other major difference is that the church school is heavily promoted by the pastor and others

in church leadership, and many parents in the congregation will send their children to the school.

You can find out more about this model by examining the website of the New Testament Christian Church and School (<http://www.tntchurch.net/>). Also, the details of this model are in Dr. Paul Jehle's book *Go Ye Therefore and Teach All Nations*, available from the Plymouth Rock Foundation (<http://store.plymrock.org/>).

##### 2. The Independent Christian School

Parents who want their children in a Christian school often discover the independent school model in their community. In this model, parents form a board that hires the headmaster to take responsibility for performing the school's mission. The headmaster hires a team of faculty, staff and administration. Parent financial costs could be higher as a building must be procured and maintained by the school board. StoneBridge School in Chesapeake Virginia is a national demonstration school for FACE and is private, governed by an independent board. Private schools can be for profit or non-profit. Most are non-profit 501c3 organizations. They are controlled by a self-perpetuating board typically consisting of current and past parents, community leaders, church leaders, and school administrators as ex-officio members.

Discover more about the independent board governed private school model by visiting StoneBridge School (<http://www.StoneBridgeSchool.com/>). StoneBridge School publishes its model in a hard-back publication, *StoneBridge Standards: Essential Practices of the Principle Approach School*, available in the FACE bookstore (<http://www.FACEBookstore.net/>).

##### 3. Principle Approach School—Homeschool Hybrid

Christ Covenant School in Fredericksburg Virginia (<http://www.covenant.school/>) is a very successful model of a hybrid school, where students meet two full days per week and parents teach the remaining three days. The following is a description of this

model, by Larry Plating the current headmaster:

*As a ministry of New Life in Christ Church, CCS's mission is to disciple entire families who desire to be trained in a Biblical view of life and education, and to be intimately involved in their children's education. This is in keeping with New Life's mission: Building the Kingdom through training leaders.*

*We function as a home-school co-op and conduct classes at New Life on Mondays and Tuesdays, offering pre-school through sixth grade programs with selected classes for upper grade students. On the remaining days of the week, Wednesday through Friday, moms, and at times dads, complete the weekly lessons in the home setting.*

*The homeschooling parents are asked to volunteer their time in classroom activities as teachers, teachers' aides or nursery workers for younger children while their siblings are in class. They are also expected to take additional training to enable them to renew their minds and become master teachers for our covenant children. In addition, CCS teachers and staff are available to meet with parents to assist them in making their home school successful.*

#### **4. The Principle Approach Individual Home Schooling With Face Support**

Many families prefer to homeschool using the Principle Approach and find support from the Foundation for American Christian Education (<http://www.FACE/net/>). The family that chooses a lifestyle that allows a total commitment to educate their children, dedicating time as well as the financial investment, can discover FACE has developed many resources, providing training for parents in the Principle Approach methods, K-12 curriculum, and many practical curricula materials. A pathway for parents beginning in the Principle Approach is clearly described, starting with the publication *Renewing the Mind for Teaching and Learning* that gives an overview of the philosophy and methods. Other resources include:

- *We Welcome You*, a short guide to the FACE Noah Plan Homeschooling Curriculum K-12 by Dr. Carole Adams
- *The Homeschool Companion*, one family's experience with educating four children in the Principle Approach, by Joni Harsh/
- The Noah Plan K-12 Curriculum Guides for English Language, Literature, Mathematics, Science, Reading, History-Geography, and Art
- Teaching training resources, including a combination of online courses, traditional text and DVD courses and an annual, one-week live or on-line summer training entitled "Renewing the Mind."
- Access to individual support by designated personnel at FACE and through the Principle Approach Commonwealth Communities.

Many homeschoolers are engaged in a Principle Approach support group, a like-minded group of homeschoolers who share ideas and support one another as they teach and learn using Biblical-Classical methods. One example is homeschooling mom and mentor Heather Hall (<http://principledacademy.com/>). Another approach is offered by David and Timothy Barrett at Covenant Academy online (<https://covenantacademy.wixsite.com/covacadonline>). They offer online Principle Approach courses for middle and high school students. Learn more about other online support groups by contacting FACE personnel.

#### **FUNDING YOUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Many families struggle with both paying taxes for government schools and paying Christian school tuition. Do not let lack of financial resources deter you from pursuing a Biblical education for your children! There may be sources available to you that you are not aware of. Consider these potential sources of funding:

##### **1. School choice options**

More than half of the states have one or more school choice options available to parents.

- In the state of Virginia: Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credits. The Children’s Tuition Fund (CTF) of Virginia, established in 2013, provides scholarships for economically disadvantaged children as well as for special-needs children to attend approved (ACSI) Christian schools in Virginia. Go to <https://www.acsi.org/region/southeast/childrens-tuition-fund-of-virginia>.
- If you do not live in Virginia, check to see if your state has school choice options such as school vouchers, Educational Savings Accounts (ESA), tax credit scholarships, or individual tax credits and deductions. Find out about your state at <http://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/school-choice-in-america/>.

## 2. School scholarships

Most Christian schools offer scholarships based on financial need. Inquire with the school that you are considering.

## 3. Church Christian Education Scholarships

Some churches offer a scholarship program for Christian education for their members. Check with your church. If they don’t have a program, offer to start one! Contact Dr. Max Lyons ([Max@FACE.net](mailto:Max@FACE.net)) for a model that you can use.

## 4. Need Based Scholarships

Some areas have organizations that provide need based scholarships. For example in eastern Virginia we have the Faith First Educational Assistance Corp. that has the mission to:

*Provide scholarship assistance to parents so that their children may receive a quality education that fosters academic excellence, while instilling values that would prove beneficial to both the student as well as the society in which he or she lives.*

Contact Faith First at <http://www.faithschoice.org>.

## REJECT THE SECULAR, UNGODLY, UN-AMERICAN WORLDVIEW

Today more than ever, the future of our children depends upon the nature, quality, and construction of their education. It is easy to trace most of the ills of our nation today and the decline from its original purpose to the actual root cause—government education.

Nearly everyone can agree that public education by its secular nature misses the scripture’s mandated mark for educating Christian children. What is less often understood is that public education is dedicated to indoctrinate generations of children in a secular, ungodly, un-American worldview.

Therefore, it is essential in order to sustain the American Republic, as well as to provide for the future, that Christian families step up to their responsibility for the Christian education of their children.

## NEXT STEPS

FACE is here to assist you! Allow us to answer your questions, help you take that first step, and supply you with the support that you need. 🌸

### CONNECT WITH US TODAY

**Dr. Max Lyons**  
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**FACE Resource Catalogue**  
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 **FACE Facebook Page**  
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**Commonwealth Community Facebook Group**  
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