



Mission Learning: Teaching HIS Children to Care

For years, schools focused on *how* to teach. Today, the focus is shifting to *what* to teach. This is the vital difference between HIS Schools for HIS children and the public schools.

Most, if not all public schools, to some degree or other, are NOT teaching the truth. They might be teaching facts (such as in math and science), but there is a difference between facts and truth. Facts are merely what we can measure with our senses. Truth is God's truth and it transcends facts. Jesus said, "I am the way, the *truth* and the life!"

Teaching children HIS truth is imperative in our call to steward HIS children. And as Christians, teaching HIS children to care, is a part of teaching HIS truth: He loves and cares for HIS. And He uses HIS to help bring HIS love and care to those who need it.

Dr. Coleman piloted a program that was adopted by several Christian schools: Mission Learning. This is embedding missions into the curriculum. It becomes a part of the school culture. They are *learning* to care, by taking on a mission for the entire school year.

This can be school-wide, or by age groups (K-2, 3-4, 6-8, and high school). An example of a Kindergarten Mission Learning was a class that adopted a group home for foster children. The class decided to provide a birthday party for each child over the course of the year. The group home provided self-portraits of each child, with first name only. These were hung on a string stretched across the front of the room. Every morning, the children began their day with a Bible verse, a song, and praying for the children, by name. When a birthday came, the parents brought in presents, the children made cards, a cake and candles were also provided. This birthday-in-a-box was delivered to the social worker who gave it to the child.

A second grade mission learning was *Second Harvest*. This mission gleans food from fields and gives it to the hungry in the community. *Second Harvest* let the second graders come and glean. They made it clear to the children what their help would do for hungry children in their community. When the students returned to the classroom, they wrote and illustrated their experience. These hung in the room for several months.

It is amazing to see how many, different ways God reveals to children how they can care for others. Keeping a bag of peanuts in the shell, with a homemade card by a young student stapled, "God loves you", can be handed out to hungry people who are asking for a hand-out.

With the many demands of curriculum and academics, not to mention our personal family lives, it is tempting to set teaching the children how to care to the side. For those of us who have participated in this endeavor, it is beyond amazing. Is there any higher calling than teaching HIS children to care?