



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

THE WEIGHT OF EDUCATION!

Greetings and welcome to this fascinating addition about 'Education!' There are two or three major points I wish to share from my heart about this topic and how it relates to our lives for Jesus and those of our children and grandchildren etc., but first let me start with this great cartoon by a young teenager at the time, Rob Field, and these opening paragraphs from my first book 'Pieces of China!'

'I do remember living in the city of Graz, Austria many

years ago and seeing a line of 4 year-olds trotting off in obedient file along the sidewalk (pavement) to their kindergarten through the snowy streets.

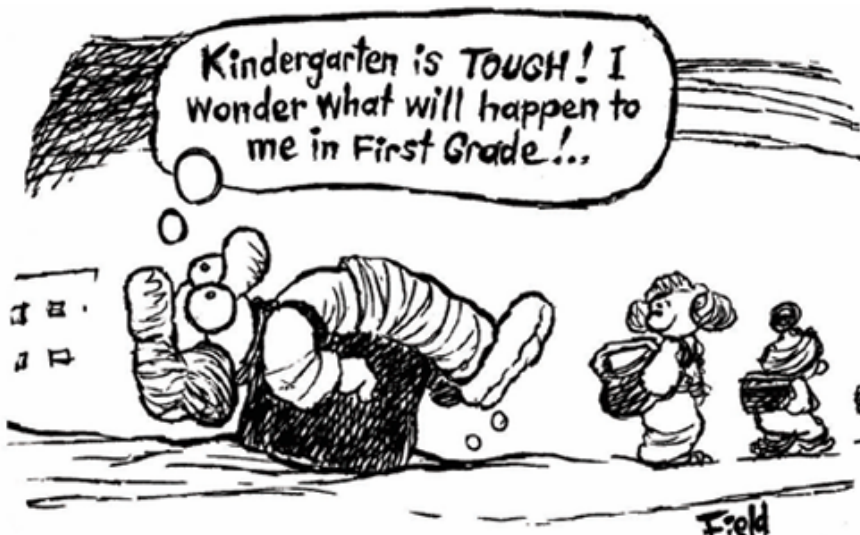
Since I was in a cosy warm tram at the time, I had the option to comfortably observe them at about 7.30 in the dark wintry morning. All of them were carrying these enormous school backpacks. I do remember one of the little boys completely falling over backwards into the snow just from the weight of the school bag!

Imagine 4 years old! Already **Knowledge and the Weight Of Education** were proving too heavy for him!' (End of excerpt).

This was a vivid experience for me. These little kids had such huge backpacks on and were trudging through the snow in the half light of an Austrian dawn. This one boy, surely not yet 5, well, his back pack was so heavy apparently, that it was just about heavier than him! He fell completely backwards. At that moment the above words came into my mind: 'The Weight of Education' or W.O.E for short! **His expected study material was more than he could bear for his little body, and that may be a powerful metaphor for the whole world!**

An apple tree produces apples an orange tree produces oranges.

Yes, this has been true since the beginning of time; because the seed is in itself, all trees and plants and so on have the seed of the next generation inside them, even humans! We expect an orange tree to produce oranges. But today, why does it seem that we have significantly less missionaries and God-(and parent) produced Pastors and Labourers for God's global



harvest?

Obviously I don't know any statistics about this, but when I observe whatever I can, I observe the following:

Christian youth and teens go out from their Christian comfort zone and some very significant proportion and percentage of them are not able to keep their faith in Jesus sufficiently, because of the anti-Christian world they encounter in places of so called Higher Learning,

Why does this happen?

Some of the reasons are the following: Voddie Baucham brings out a lot of reasons in his excellent book which I have mentioned once before called 'Family Driven Faith'. Which is summarised in the link at the end of this file and of which I paste a few key paragraphs here:

"Simply put, it seems earlier generations of God's people understood that parents, not children's and youth ministry professionals, are primarily responsible before God for evangelizing and disciplining their children. And these earlier generations learned this responsibility from the Bible.

On the edge of the Promised Land, Moses instructed a new generation that they



were to "impress [these commandments] upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deut. 6:7). In other words, parents, teach your children about the Lord everywhere and all the time. Eli, the priest, was judged by God for failing to discipline his sons in the Lord (1 Sam. 2:27–36). The book of Proverbs begins with an extended lesson from father to son on the nature and value of wisdom (Prov. 1–9).

The New Testament is no less straightforward. Paul commands fathers to "bring [your children] up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). One of the qualifications for serving as an elder in a local church is that a man has managed his family well, including raising children who are "faithful" and "not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient" (1 Tim. 3:4–5; Titus 1:6). In contrast to Eli, Timothy's mother and grandmother, Lois and Eunice, are commended as models of a sincere faith "that now lives in [Timothy] also" (2 Tim. 1:5).

*It's this biblical burden, responsibility, and privilege that is at the heart of Voddie Baucham Jr.'s recent book, **Family Driven Faith: Doing What it Takes to Raise Sons and Daughters Who Walk with God.** Baucham's concern, and the motivation for his book, is **numerous statistical reports indicating that the overwhelming***

majority of children raised within the church abandon the faith within a year of leaving home.

While many have blamed irrelevant programming or under-sourced church staff, Baucham places the responsibility where it belongs: on mom and dad, and especially dad."(End of book excerpt).

So that is one significant point, but it is not actually the main point of this edition of the WCF.

In a very real way, I believe, 'the Weight Of Education', is exactly that; a weight! One of the temptations for Eve,



was that she saw the fruit as something that would make her wise, it had educational powers. . . (Genesis 3:6). Time for a **Caveat!****

Caveat: We must have education, skills and training. When Jesus found some of his disciples they were already trained in various jobs or skills, Jesus, though, had another type of training for them, His education was literally out of this world, and that's what I pray we can reflect on today. (Caveat finished now!)

Let me briefly tell you my own story and give you other

examples of Education and skills and God's education.

I grew up in a relatively affluent family, I went to Reigate Grammar school, in Surrey, England, still one of the top prestigious schools in England today, some 59 years after I first entered.

is reigate grammar school a top school - Google Search

My main English teacher was a colleague of C.S. Lewis. My sports teachers were of the highest quality, all, or nearly all of the staff (all male) had deep and powerful degrees in their respective disciplines from universities. My French senior teacher was highly respected and my other French

and Latin and tennis teacher went on to Reading University where he was greatly admired.

My Latin teacher (6 years of that!) was an exceptional scholar and expert in the 'Classics' of Greek and Roman Literature. My headteacher, a very radical and wise man, whom I later discovered was a very dedicated disciple of the Lord, Mr Ballance, was also a man of great 'Education', and I could go on and on. Woodwork, Metalwork, Spanish, Russian, Classical music, Maths, Science, the Arts and Pottery and a whole lot more. I was exposed to this for 6 years of my later childhood. My mother kept both her sons' annual reports which we miraculously still have today!

The rather nebulous educational plan for me was

that I would probably be heading for the great land of 'Oxbridge' as we call it today that is the entrance into either Oxford or Cambridge Universities, to study only God knows what that would be.

To make it short, I became a Christian when I received Jesus in my life in August 1971. I was 17 and a half, at the final year of my studies at this school.

After I made this decision, about 6 months later the Lord challenged me to go to Bible college in London, and I accepted the challenge on my 18th birthday and literally physically walked out and left forever behind that fantastic school and all its potential and open doors it would have provided for me in man's world or woman's world.

This was a decision I never regretted!

But the same was not true of my father and mother who were not believers.

When I told my parents I wished to serve Jesus Christ, and not go to 'Ox-Bridge', my dear father wept openly, I had never seen him cry before; and my mother called for what was then known as a 'psychiatrist' to come and visit us forthwith! She also wrote to the local Church of England Reverend (Pastor) to see if he could 'talk some sense into me' for forsaking the Holy Grail of Education!

The Lord, (and I by cooperating with Him), had pulled the plug on my educational process at that

time. I had already passed 9 exams at the age of 16, a couple with distinction, and was one year and six months into my last four majors, but God knew that was it for me, He had something better. What was this something better?

THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS!

But you may be surprised that I am not alone! I am by no



means the only Christian who forsook a 'promising future' in Education. Now don't get me wrong, you go ahead and be what you want to be, but the main thing is to pray and be open to what God wants you to be. God will undoubtedly often have a completely different plan for your life if you are willing to ask Him to make you open to His Will.

But in today's marvellous Christian world, that does not seem to be happening, or if it is, it is of more negligible value than the past, in my humble opinion.

Consider these people out of really hundreds of thousands of men and women who went on to serve the Lord after forsaking either wealth or an education. Let their messages and choices speak to your heart:

1. C.T Studd was a famous

sportsman from a wealthy family in England. He famously later gave up all the prestige of being in the England Cricket team (who were the equivalent of superstars then) to become a missionary in China.

C T Studd gave up his wealth
- Google Search

2. John Sung a wealthy young man from China and sent to the USA to study

John Sung gave up his education - Google Search

Renouncing Academic Credentials:

After obtaining his PhD, Sung returned to China and reportedly threw his doctoral keys and other diplomas overboard, symbolizing his rejection of his former life.

Identifying with the Poor:

He donned a simple peasant's gown to identify with the lowest class in society, emulating the lives of saints like Francis of Assisi.

Focus on Ministry:

His decision was driven by a desire to preach the Gospel and serve God, leading him to dedicate his life to evangelism and revival movements in China and Southeast Asia.

Impact on Chinese Christianity:

Sung's ministry had a significant impact on the revival movement in China, with many people converting to Christianity under his preaching.

3. Enoch Adeboye

Several prominent African pastors have chosen to prioritize full-time ministry over continuing their formal education. Enoch Adeboye, General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), initially worked part-time at Unilorin while leading the church, before ultimately dedicating himself fully to preaching. A significant number of African pastors, like Pastor Paul Mackenzie, have also expressed views that formal education is detrimental, leading some to discourage their followers from pursuing it.

4. Frances Ridley Havergal

While we cannot say exactly that this amazing hymn writer and poetess gave up her education, she definitely spiritually dropped out of the world and wrote songs to the Lord and about the Lord for her whole adult life and some of her childhood. Her father was a Rector in Worcestershire, England.

5. Peter Vardy

Another modern example of radical generosity is Peter Vardy, a Scottish entrepreneur and car dealer. After becoming a Christian in the 1990s, Vardy sold his business for millions and gave away his substantial fortune to fund education, evangelism and mission projects.

He went on to establish several charitable organisations including the Vardy Foundation, which has donated many millions

to causes including church building projects and Bible translation. Vardy has also personally supported many churches' missionary work, Bible colleges and evangelistic initiatives across Europe.



Pray you therefore the Lord of the harvest.....

The Lord is always looking for labourers of all types and all educations or no education. God will take anyone to serve Him to be a Pastor, missionary and any type of reliable worker. He is going to call you and He is searching the earth now and calling many people. Not everybody is responding though. Some are thank God, I am sure more will as the days pass.

I am writing this article to emphasise one key point: are you as a young person or the parents/guardians of a young person, are you defaulting to the **wordly** concept that 'of course' your child has to go on to some form of higher

learning, a degree, a special certificate? This is a concept of the present world and has been for ages. **I am not saying it is always wrong, but it becomes wrong to you, as a purported believer, when you have not, or failed to ask God, what His Plan is for your life.**

If you have not done that, (ask God), you have no guarantee that you will be successful in anything! If this is your situation, you should lay aside your present thinking and ask Him according to the scriptures at the end of this article, only then will you find peace.

The LORD has need of you and may have need of you in greater ways than you can imagine. Although I effectively dropped out of society and into God's service at 18 years of age, The Lord made sure I had an education in many other things both spiritual and practical in the next 50 years! And I had a lot of fun learning all that, languages, security protocols, underground Christian living, becoming semi fluent in Mandarin Chinese, experiencing the joy of witnessing and learning how to do that by the holy Spirit. Pastoring, being a father, learning to expect miracles, building my faith through the Word of God and fellowship. Memorising hundreds of Bible verses, meeting lifelong Christian friends. Learning how to overcome and respond to adversity and disaster, becoming mentally stable and having mental strength in Jesus Christ. And a whole lot

more!

I pray you will not default to the presumed wisdom of man and automatically go man's way, without seriously checking with God first.

God has many great harvests ready to be reaped, Western Southern, Asia, Islamic, and many others.

I am sure He has one or more for you!

As we close, consider Isaiah, a prophet of great education and of probable noble birth:

Isaiah 6 In the year that King Uzziah died, [in a vision] I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and the skirts of His train filled the [most holy part of the] temple.

2 Above Him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two [each] covered his [own] face, and with two [each] covered his feet, and with two [each] flew.

3 And one cried to another and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone and ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!

6 Then flew one of the seraphim [heavenly beings] to me, having a live coal in his hand which he had taken with tongs from off the altar;

7 And with it he touched my mouth and said, Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity and guilt are

taken away, and your sin is completely atoned for and forgiven.

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send? And who will go for Us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

9 And He said, Go and tell this people, Hear and hear continually, but understand not; and see and see continually, but do not apprehend with your mind.

Until next week, God willing,
Jerry for the WCF Team

A few more wonderful Christians of interest!

Several prominent Christians, despite having access to formal education, chose to focus on other paths, including ministry or spiritual pursuits. Examples include John Bunyan, who became a renowned writer and preacher after initially being a farmer and soldier, and Dwight L. Moody, a successful businessman who later dedicated his life to evangelism and establishing Christian institutions. Other notable figures include John Newton, who transitioned from a seaman to a minister after a spiritual awakening, and Watchman Nee, who, after initially attending a Bible institute, became a prominent Christian leader and writer.

Here's a more detailed look at some of these figures:

John Bunyan:

Though he had a limited formal education, Bunyan

became a celebrated writer and Puritan preacher, known for his allegory "The Pilgrim's Progress". He began his life as a farmer and soldier, but his spiritual journey led him to a life of writing and ministry.

Dwight L. Moody:

Moody, a businessman, achieved widespread fame as an evangelist and founded institutions like the Northfield Mount Hermon School, impacting evangelical Christianity.

John Newton:

Initially a seaman, Newton experienced a profound religious conversion and became a well-known clergyman, writing the hymn

"Amazing Grace".

Watchman Nee:

Nee initially attended a Bible institute but was later dismissed. He went on to become a prominent Christian leader and writer, known for his emphasis on the church's mission, according to Wikipedia.

Proverbs 3: 5 Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding.

6 In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths.

[Family Driven Faith: Free Delivery at Eden.co.uk](#)
[Book Review: Family Driven Faith, by Voddie Baucham - 9Marks](#)

[\(2259\) Lost in Life? This Billy Graham Sermon Will Change How You See Work Forever! - YouTube](#)

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