



Reasons leading to the development, testing, and implementation of University Model Schools

Reason #1 (the “avenue” for ministry) - Improvements in Education

Concern for improvements in education definitely played a role in the development of university-model schooling. Statistics surrounding the percentage of boys and girls failing in college was especially of concern. Education, however, simply serves as the avenue, or vehicle, through which UMS is trying to help boys, girls, and their families. In order to effectively serve as that vehicle, UMS must be very credible academically. Otherwise, its usefulness will be short-lived and limited.

Reason #2 (the “impact” of ministry) - Preventing Problems with Youth

From its inception, this ministry has been about such concerns as teen substance abuse (tobacco, alcohol, and drugs), unwed teenage pregnancies, teen sexual promiscuity, disrespect for authority, child abuse, teen suicide, youth runaways, teenage criminal activity, and so forth. Each of these issues warrants America’s full attention, and there is a multi-billion dollar network set up in this country to deal with such problems *once they have occurred*. Although such a network is needed, who would disagree that *prevention is the best solution*? Unfortunately, very little in this country is being done in the area of prevention, but the parental factors associated with the university-model of education can *significantly curb, in a preventative manner, the current discouraging statistics surrounding each youth issue*.

Reason #3 (our primary “basis” for ministry) - The Great Commission!

The most fundamental and basic reason that led to the creation of university-model schooling, was and still is, the Great Commission. Dr. James Dobson, on his October 31st, 2002 *Focus on the Family* program, passionately discussed this issue. While addressing an audience of parents he asked them how far would they go to protect their children from the cultural influences that aim to steal their children’s souls? He continued by stressing that **there is no job more important for a parent than that of making certain that their children will one day join them in heaven**. For a parent, what else really matters if this objective is not reached? Dr. Dobson went on to explain how recent statistics indicate that only 4% of all Christians come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ between the ages of 14 and 18, and only 6% from age 18 until they die. That means that before the age of 14 is the most critical period when boys and girls either will or will not become Christians (90%!!), and this is the period when boys and girls are spending an ever increasing amount of their time in school, furthering the distance between parents and their children, and with little educational benefit to show for the additional time spent. And by the way, most parents still do not realize that **they (parents themselves) are also the single most influential factor in their children becoming a Christian?** It is not the church! Parents may not always be the ones to plant “*the seed*,” but they consistently are the ones who “*ready the soil*.” The question, therefore, begs to be asked, “Why are so many parents willing to parent from a distance?” The simple answer is that they are unaware that a new educational alternative now exists that would enable them to be more involved with their children.