



Family Ministries Musings

Child Life Month

International Listening Awareness Month

Sing With Your Child Month

Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.



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Quarantine Challenges for Families....

School is out and parents are challenged with how to fill the time of children who are free of schoolwork and their vocabulary includes the words: *"I'm bored and I have nothing to do."* Is the solution to fill our children's time with videos, computers and television? I think **not!** Remember the old saying, *"Time is money?"* As a part of good stewardship, we must teach children the importance and value of time and what they place in the time.

Of no talent He (God) has given will He require a more strict account than of our time. *Signs of the Time, July 2, 1902—Our Talents, Ellen G. White.*

That statement was made **118** years ago. If time was valuable in the twentieth century, how much more it has increased in the twenty-first century. What will be the account of time spent with video games, computers, and television? Don't forget the time spent with Facebook, Twitter, etc!

Since we are taking a historical trip, let's look back into the history of the United States.. We take so much for granted today. We feel we are entitled to freedom and privilege. Our ancestors would tell us we should be thankful and grateful for all the things we take for granted. Louisiana history lets us know our great grandparents and their families did not have these privileges. Reading isn't exactly high on the list of priorities for most families. A good example: Sabbath School lessons are rarely read by members, old and young! Let's look at Louisiana as a slave state.

Authorities excluded all African Americans from the nation's public schools and after 1830 even prohibited free persons from teaching slaves how to read and write. Slaves who could read and write were considered esteemed members of the slave community. Concerned that literate slaves would forge passes or convince other slaves to revolt, Southern slaveholders generally opposed slave literacy.

On plantations the pursuit of education became a communal effort -- slaves learned from parents, spouses, family members, and fellow slaves and some were even personally instructed by their masters or hired tutors.

Slaves were legally denied the foundation of European education--the knowledge to read and write. Nonetheless, thousands of slaves acquired those skills, usually through voluntary or unintentional help from their young masters and mistresses as they were learning their lessons.

In the 18th century there were no schools in the southern states of America that admitted black children to its free public schools. After the industrial revolution, the education of slaves changed. Education for slaves was actually prohibited (in the South). As plantations made more profits or wanted more profits, they needed more slaves to do the work. If you were a slave, then you didn't need any education; in fact, education led to/may have led to more slave insurrections, which caused more laws prohibiting education of slaves to be passed.

So, what does this have to do with today? First, we need to remember the ability to read and write is a privilege that was denied to people of color not so long ago in this country. We should not take this privilege and opportunity for granted. We need to open books and read and understand the words. We should start with the **Word of God, the Bible.** We are fortunate to have Sabbath School lessons based upon age, development, and reading ability. We should read and study our Sabbath School lessons daily. Imagine how much like Christ we would become—if we read His love letter, the Bible daily.

In this economy families are concerned about finances. Books are a way to broaden horizons in an inexpensive manner. Compared to the cost of video games, data packages, books are a bargain! You can even purchase good books at second-hand bookstores or the Salvation Army. If you walk the aisles of Dollar Tree, Wal-Mart, Dollar General, you will find books for all ages that are uplifting and educational.

Recently, the Supreme Court ruled violent video games cannot be prohibited from sale. Censorship is the **responsibility of the parents!** This is definitely true—whether it's the purchase of video games, books, or what children watch on television. Parents don't let anyone take over your authority.

You need to remember: *The value of time is beyond computation. Time squandered can never be recovered. . . . The improvement of wasted moments is a treasure.* (Child Guidance, pg. 124). What will you do with your time during quarantine?



God Loves You

