

# How your children can have *Success*

by Art Dappen

**Some people wonder,** “How can my children succeed if they don’t have accredited studies?” The answer: Have you ever heard of prayer? Jesus promised that if we are in him, and his words are in us, everything we ask will be granted. (John 15:7.) If this isn’t true, my brother, once and for all seek yourself a different Savior and a different source of power, because if Jesus Christ doesn’t have all power in heaven and on earth, you should change your religion. But the people of Jesus Christ is a people that knows how to move the hand of God.

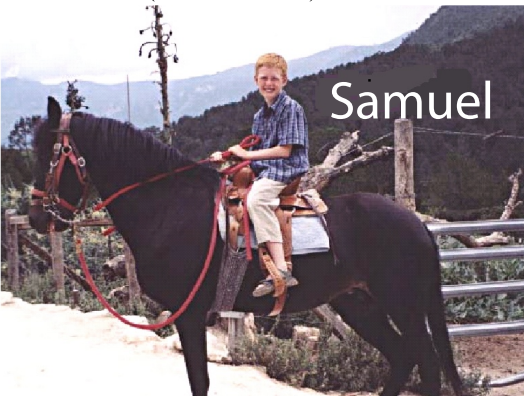


The children of Mike Richardson lost their turtle. This reptile had lived in their house for several years, and had a favorite spot on the second floor where it would go to eat. It didn't live in a cage, but walked about freely inside the whole house. No one knew at which moment

“Mack” would come out from under the bed.

One day they decided to spray the house with insecticide, and so they put Mack outside in a safe place. The only problem was that they forgot to watch him, and when they remembered, Mack had disappeared. The Richardsons live in an isolated ranch among the mountain peaks of Coahuila State in Mexico, and there are only three houses near them. It is all wilderness. Mack, being a desert tortoise, took advantage of his liberty and left quickly. The children looked for him diligently, but without success. Then they began to pray. Did you hear that, my brothers? They began to pray. You spell that P-R-A-Y. You don't spell it D-I-P-L-O-M-A. They followed the example of Jesus and the apostles. They prayed with faith.

Several weeks went by, and they continued to pray. Pam Richardson says that her son Joshua prayed the most. Pam said to her husband, “Mike, Joshua keeps praying, but the turtle hasn't appeared. Oh, what are we going to tell him when the turtle never comes back?” Like the majority of us, Pam had been educated in secular schools. They didn't teach us to depend upon God as little children. Jesus said, “Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt 18: 3-4.)



One day Samuel Richardson was riding on his horse about a mile from the house.

Suddenly he fell off the horse, and he almost fell on top of the turtle. I asked him if he falls off the horse often. He said, “That was the only time I ever fell off!”

Joshua



It was the same turtle all right. They could tell because the shell had been shined, and it wasn't afraid of people. It didn't stick its head into the shell. When they took it home, Mack immediately crawled to his favorite spot to await his meal.

Here we can see a picture of Joshua holding Mack. The children who learn the Bible are going to find God's purpose in their lives just as surely as Joshua found that turtle.

Do children need accredited studies and diplomas? Really they only need Jesus Christ, nothing else.

## *Ask yourself why*

you are sending your children to school. Is it to make them able to make it in the world? If so, which world do you mean-- this or the next? Perhaps you thought of this world only, and had forgotten that there is a world to come. Yea, and one that will last forever! Pray take this into your account, and send them to such masters as will keep it always before their eyes. Otherwise, to send them to school (permit me to speak plainly) is little better than sending them to the devil. At all events, then, send your boys, if you have any concern for their souls, not to any of the large public schools (for they are nurseries of all manner of wickedness), but a private school, kept by some pious man who endeavors to instruct a small number of children in religion and learning together. In what business will your son be most likely to love and serve God? In what employment will he have the greatest advantage for laying up treasure in heaven? I have been shocked above measure in observing how little this is attended to, even by pious parents!

Even these consider only how he may get the most money, not how he may get the most holiness! Even these, upon this glorious motive (of money), send him to a heathen master, and into family where there is not the very form, much less the power of religion! Upon this motive they fix him in a business which will necessarily expose him to such temptations as will leave him not a probability, if a possibility, of serving God. O savage parents! Unnatural, diabolical cruelty-- if you believe there is another world... and do not regard, if he gets less money, provided he gets more holiness. It is enough, though he has less of earthly goods, if he secures the possession of heaven.

excerpt by John Wesley, 1780

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remnant@charityministries.org

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**Art Dappen** (1946-2006) was a leader in the homeschool movement in Mexico. He served for over 30 years as a missionary with his wife of 35 years, Linn. Art's ministry included the creation and free distribution of a Spanish reading program for homeschoolers. About two years before his home-going, he and Linn added seven Mexican orphans to their family, making them the parents of seventeen. Two married daughters in the U.S. have blessed them with 13 grandchildren (so far). Linn and the rest of the family continue to live and minister in Mexico.

Art received his high school education at an elite boarding school in Connecticut, and continued on to university. One day, as a new Christian in a graduate-level chemistry class, he came to a realization. As he studied the equations on the blackboard, the thought came to him: "Jesus Christ did not dedicate his life to what is written on that blackboard." He left school and purposed to serve the Lord.

A daughter said, "He always felt it was a privilege to throw it all away."

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W10508 Hwy 16, Portage, WI 53901  
[daveanddebklein@yahoo.com](mailto:daveanddebklein@yahoo.com)  
[www.inkleinations.com](http://www.inkleinations.com)