

South African schools are been described as "breeding grounds for gangsterism." (Cape Times, 12/03/03). To find out why, one needs to go no further than the new Curriculum 2005 Outcome Based Education. Bible education and prayer is now to be replaced with diversity and political indoctrination. Factual presentation of history is being replaced with political indoctrination, particularly from a Marxist point of view. Even sport is to be used to serve a political agenda. Instead of traditional family and Christian values, the schools now have mandatory sex education and evolutionism.

"They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator, who is forever praised. Amen ... Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They're full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice ..." Romans 1: 25-29

Some of the results of this hijacking by secular humanism of the South African education system are already evident. One study claimed that teachers commit a third of all child abuse in South Africa. In response to this, Education Minister, Kader Asmal, said child abuse is "not a serious crime." (Citizen, 31/01/02). A study by the World Bank claimed that 40 000 teachers in South Africa are HIV-Positive. Last year, 17 500 teachers left the profession, while only 2 500 teachers entered the profession in South Africa. That's a net loss of 15 000 teachers in just one year!

Our Lord Jesus taught that we should let our yes be yes and our no be no. However, pronouncements from the Ministry of Education have been full of ambiguity and double-talk. In response to concerns about the radical sex education, Education Minister, Kader Asmal, declared at a press conference (15/5/02): "There is no sex education, although we encourage an awareness of sexuality ... "

However, while the Education Minister claims "there is no sex education", the latest report is that he has "instructed his department to urgently implement sexual education in schools, Technikons and Universities" (Cape Argus, 16/08/02). The state-funded sex education provider, loveLife, received R600 million, which was aimed primarily at adolescents. The same article

reported (Cape Times, 6/5/02) the demand for "contraception, counselling and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases has increased by up to 300%. The African Christian Democratic Party MP, Cheryllyn Dudley, laid the blame for this upon loveLife's own programme - "deviant behaviour and sexual experimentation is, in fact, been encouraged through Life Skills manuals, which promote homosexual and lesbian relationships, abortion and contraception, and which give explicit instruction in oral sex, orgasm, intercourse and masturbation."

Regarding religious education, Kader Asmal declared: "There is no religious indoctrination, but we encourage children to be aware of the full diversity of South African society - the rich array of races, ethnic and language groups and the many religious belief systems, which make up this country.' Bible education has now been replaced with interfaith promotion of, primarily, non-Christian religions.

"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as My priests; because you have ignored the Law of your God, I will also ignore your children." Hosea 4:6

Despite the moral chaos and academic failure of so many government schools, the Education Department is now attempting to extend their control -even over private, faith-based schools, colleges, and home schools. The Minister of Education had set up Umalusi as "a statutory council", which is "responsible for monitoring ... all public and independent schools, academic and technical colleges, ... institutions and private providers in these fields ..."

Umalusi means "shepherd." Its full name is "Council for quality assurance and general and further education and training.." The Education Department wants to be the final authority to guide and control all education in South Africa. Some of the demands of Umalusi seems to include that all schools must be accredited with them and that no education qualification in South Africa is valid without Umalusi!

Kader Asmal (who is also a member of the South African Communist Party) has also proposed that private and Christian schools be subjected to further taxation to subsidize the government schools.

While government policy in other areas seems to be moving to privatising state assets, in the

education field, the government is moving in the opposite direction, centralising power and control. The Department of Education is proposing changes to five education acts, under the Education Laws Amendment Bill, which would make their policy "legally binding on third parties such as schools and parents" and which would remove the right of school governing bodies to select their teachers, leaving teacher appointments entirely up to the Department of Education. The proposed amendments would grant the Minister of Education excessive powers to regulate schooling in South Africa, extending not only over public schools, but over independent, private, faith-based and home schools. The proposed change reads: "The curriculum and instrument contemplated in Section 6a (l) must be applicable to public and independent schools."

Socialism has failed in every area that it has interfered in. Socialism is as much a failure in education as it is in economics. What South Africa needs is more freedom and decentralisation, not more state control and centralisation.

Children do not belong to the state. They belong to God and are entrusted by Him to parents to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4 Parents are responsible under God to oversee the teachers and textbooks which will shape and fill their minds for the 15 000 hours of school teaching.

Anyone who believes that education can be neutral is mistaken. Ideas have consequences, actions flow from thought patterns. Parents are not faced with the choice between sending their children to a religious school or to a non-religious school. All schools are religious. Parents must rather choose which religion will be taught to their children. Will it be Christianity, Islam, Humanism or something else? Will it be the secular humanism of Curriculum 2005, which replaces prayer with pornography and the Bible with evolutionism? Which outlaws the Christian worldview and introduces interfaith worship? Secular humanistic education, with its situation ethics, has proven to be the most effective way to produce illiterates, lower moral standards and proliferate venereal diseases.

All education is inherently religious, because it presents a certain perspective and selection of history, values, practices and it prescribes a worldview.

"See to it that no-one takes you captive to hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world, rather than on Christ.." Colossians 2:8

Parents can delegate the task, but not the responsibility for the education of their children. The control of education should be in the hands of parents, and the content of education must be Bible based.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Psalm 111:10

There is an urgent need for every concerned parent to take up these issues with their School Governing Bodies and to ensure that their school uses alternatives to the state funded, pro-abortion, pro-homosexual and pro-condom groups like loveLife and Planned Parenthood. These immoral, humanist groups need to be replaced with values-based learning programmes such as: "True Love Waits"; "The Bold and the Brave" by Doctors for Life; and "No Apologies" by Focus on the Family. Campus Crusade for Christ and Scripture Union also have other sex education programmes, which emphasise abstinence before marriage and faithfulness within marriage.

All parents should be involved in both the Parent/Teachers Association and School Governing Body of their local school.

In addition, there needs to be increasing support for private Christian schools and home schooling. If we lose the education battle, we lose the next generation.

"We will not hide them from our children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power and the wonders He has done ... so that the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds, but will keep His commandments."
Psalm 78:4 -7

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