

# Family Focus

## SHEPHERD'S CORNER

### Visioning Messages Taking Your Children to Church

The Elders' vision calls for increasing attendance in all areas of our church services. Let's consider the importance of children's attendance at Sunday School and church.

**WHY TAKE YOUR KIDS TO BIBLE SCHOOL?** One of the most quoted Old Testament passages comes from the book of Proverbs. The familiar words are: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). But in today's society, does this really help? Research says, "Yes". A study conducted by the Barna Research Group of Ventura, California, published in 2001, found that a majority (61%) of children (in the U.S.) who attended church as a young person, were still attending church services as an adult at the time the study was conducted.

For children who were not taken to church by their parents as they were growing up, the numbers are different. Seventy-eight percent of children who did not attend church as a child, do not attend church as an adult, according to the study. These numbers are quite compelling. They indicate that if you want your children to be church-goers in their later life, take them to church when they are young.

Other significant study findings were: U.S. Adults who went to church as children were two times as likely to read the Bible during a typical week than were adults who did not attend church as a child. Almost 50% were more likely to pray to God during a typical week than were those who did not attend church as children.

Parents, you can make a real and lasting difference in the lives of your children by regularly attending church with them. Your Elders believe your results will be even better than these statistics for typical U.S. families as reported by the Barna study.

The church-going experience will help your children to grow up becoming the Christian people you want them to be. See you and your children in church next week!  
~ The Elders



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