

be given repeatedly in your home. Repetition has little effect on scores as long as different individual tests are used each time.

SAT scores are also at the center of the battle to break the monopoly of the National Education Association teacher's union and to abandon the disastrous system of American public education. In June 1993, Forbes Magazine published an article entitled "The National Extortion Association?" One graph in that article says it all. Since 1949, spending per student in constant, 1992 dollars in the public schools has increased by over 400%, while average SAT scores have declined from 963 to 899. Without those SAT scores for measurement, the Forbes discussion would be buried under NEA propaganda about increased quality.

Without those scores for measurement, how are we to know the relative academic performance of our home schools as compared with world standards? Many abilities can be measured by simple observation such as the ability to fix a machine, build a building, raise farm animals and crops, or prepare a dinner. Academic ability must be measured indirectly. By the time it becomes directly measurable by adult accomplishments, it is too late for improvement. Moreover, academic ability like physical ability is linked to spiritual ability. Those with ability are more self-confident and less easily led away from God's path, and they are better able to perform earthly accomplishments that serve as a testimony to the effectiveness by which God works through those who follow Him.

Some will say that faith alone is enough – that if God wants children to have academic ability, He will give it to them – and that He will give them only so much as He decides is safe for them to have. By this argument, a total commitment to Christian faith is enough. This is similar to the view that civil defense is not needed, because God will take care of us. God has given us our minds and the means with which to train them. We must not reject these gifts from God. We must not allow the minds of our children to be trained in make-work subjects far below their real abilities and thereby trapped for life in cages similar to those of public school children.

We must not let our children be debilitated by tests that tell us what we want to hear. Occasional SAT testing in the home by means of the current, unchanged SAT tests should be a part of the home school curriculum of all children 15 years of age and older. Two books of these tests are currently available (buy them both) from Educators Publishing Service, Inc., 75 Moulton Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02138. Ask for "10 SATs, College Board, Fifth Edition" for \$11.95 and "5 SATs, College Board, 1992 Edition" for \$7.00. Shipping is \$3.00, so the cost of both books is \$21.95 postage paid. A few tests are also usually found in the back pages of SAT preparation books available in local book stores. Get these while you can. With the change, they soon may become unavailable.

HOME SCHOOL LITERATURE CURRICULUM PROJECT

The literature curriculum project is proceeding on schedule, although the schedule appropriate to our resources is too slow. Donations and sales of drafts of the first lesson plans have enabled us to make a contract for development of lesson plans for eight more books. These eight will include selections appropriate for children of ages 7 through 17, so they will be