

# A Vision of Victory

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## **A Vision of Victory** **by Roger Erber**

Welcome to the premiere issue of The Alliant! As Illinois Christian Home Educators enters its twentieth year of ministry, we are excited about this new venture!

The need for Christian home educators to be united with one another is as great as it has ever been. We hope that The Alliant will help draw the home-educating community in Illinois to a place of greater unity. Indeed, the Lord has always desired His people to be one!

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people...” **1 Peter 2:9**

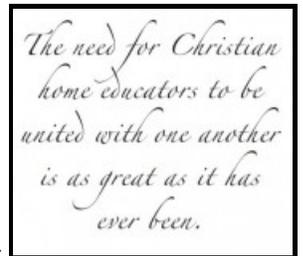
God is concerned about us as a people! This is not to say that He has no concern for us as individuals, but His concern for us individually has everything to do with grooming us to fit well with each other.

“... Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in Whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in Whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”  
Ephesians 2:20-22

At one point during the early construction of our home, we had only a pile of lumber lying next to the foundation. I remember restacking some of the boards so that they would not start to warp, as the pile was quite skewed after being dumped from the truck.

Why was it that I was concerned for the straightness of the boards? Because I wanted the walls to be straight and square; I wanted the floors to be level and flat. My concern was for the house itself.

I also noticed at the start, that we referred to the lumber according to its size designation, i.e. 2x4 or 2x6. Once the walls began to go up, though, we referred to those boards according to their function — sill, stud, header, plate, etc. Ultimately, those boards lost their individual identity and became part of the house.



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Oh, those boards are still there and doing their individual jobs quite well, but when we invite friends over, we often will give them a tour of the house. The house is what we dwell in and enjoy.

“... you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house...” **2 Peter 2:5**

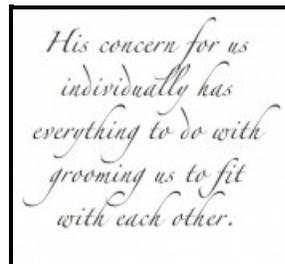
The point is that God desires us to be one, to work together, to encourage one another, to love one another. The Lord has not saved us for our own pleasure. He has saved us to serve Him and to do His good pleasure!

The only way that Christ’s Kingdom will ever impact this world is through a united people. This will take effort on our part, but it will be by God’s grace that it actually comes to pass.

These things are true for all Christians in all areas of life, but what, specifically, does this mean for home educators? There is a real need for the home-educating families in Illinois to connect themselves in such a way that our children see themselves as part of something bigger than their own families. Home educators must support one another!

For example, I am seeing many home-schooled teens not staying the course. The vision of the child being under the parents' protection and discipleship until they reach a strong and godly adulthood is being lost. If there is any gap at all in the father's confidence for this idea, there is not sufficient support in the culture for the teen to keep on the path.

Our children are being asked to go against everything they see in this ungodly culture! But, if you exhibit unwavering faith in living life God's way, the outcome will be indescribably more wonderful. Regular fellowship with just a couple of like-minded families can help the children, as well as the father, maintain their obedient walk.



There is also the obvious need to help those new families who are entering our ranks. When I talk on the phone with new families interested in home education, I am so glad that there are support groups out there to which I can refer these rookie families. A long-distance phone call can only accomplish so much!

These brothers and sisters need others close by that they can look to for answers to so many questions. We have the job of showing them the ropes, and giving them vision and the understanding that they have not entered home education as the last resort, but they have entered the very best place to be!

Finally, the most obvious need for unity is in the area of legal and legislative strength. Though we are very free here in Illinois to home educate our children, there is always the threat from those who would like to control us.

Over the years, the Lord has stopped legislative attempts to regulate us through an active home-school lobby. This year, we have seen harassment of home-educating families by a regional superintendent who has acted outside the law. In the coming year, it will be very important to stay connected and informed. We must express ourselves with a united voice.

Our intent is for The Alliant to be a tool to help promote unity among home-educating families in Illinois; to be a source of encouragement and information as well as a vision of victory for God's people.

Consider Jesus' words:

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." **John 17:20-23**

**Author:** [Roger Erber](#)

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