



Dear Friend,

Once again, summer is winding down and another school year is upon us. It's my hope that you've had many opportunities over these last few months to slow down a bit and make some wonderful memories with your loved ones. At the Daly house, we've had a great time connecting with our boys following the high school graduation of our older son, Trent. It feels like he reached this milestone in the blink of an eye. Even as we adjust to the reality that Trent is headed into a new phase of life (and Jean and I will be facing an empty nest in just a couple years!), we're also excited to see what God has in store for our sons' futures.

Whether you've already finished raising your children or you're still in the season of sleepless nights and endless diaper changes, I know you want the same thing Jean and I want for our own kids: to see them embrace a relationship with Christ and to bring their faith and hope to the world around them.

In fact, that's something Christian moms and dads all over the world long for – and it's a mission we strive to carry out every day here at Focus on the Family. In addition to nurturing strong marriages, we are committed to equipping parents to raise healthy, productive, resilient kids who have a passion for serving Christ and others. Our lost and hurting world desperately needs to see robust, vibrant faith at work in the next generation. Never before has it been more crucial for families to instill in their children a love for God's Word and a genuine desire to share His truth with those around them.

Coming alongside parents in their critical role is one of the pillars of Focus' efforts, and we're grateful that God has chosen to use a variety of initiatives and outreaches you help provide. Plugged In media reviews help families exercise discernment when it comes to popular entertainment choices. True Tolerance website and resources aid students as they encounter teaching and policies that run counter to their beliefs. Magazines such as *Focus on the Family Clubhouse*, *Focus on the Family Clubhouse Jr.*, and *Brio* deliver biblically based wisdom and inspiring stories right to the doorsteps of parents, children, and teens.

One of our most exciting programs was launched in 2014. Called *Bring Your Bible to School Day*, the mission is simple: to help kids understand their freedom to live out their faith by sharing their faith with their peers in respectful, non-disruptive ways. This endeavor was especially timely given the culture's ever-growing hostility to Christian beliefs and principles, and that reality is certainly played out every day in schools across the nation. As a result, many children are being told (incorrectly) that they can't read their Bibles in school or discuss their faith with their classmates.

However, each October around the country, young people are showing up at school with their Bibles and fostering open dialogues with their peers about what they believe and why. In its first year, our

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Bring Your Bible to School Day event drew 8,000 participants. Just four years later in 2018, 650,000 kids across America took part!

This event has truly grown by leaps and bounds, and this fall we're aiming to see more than 750,000 students join this movement. Our staff is working diligently to accomplish this goal, and we're all eagerly anticipating what God will do as we continue helping young students venture out into their own unique spheres of influence equipped with God's Word and a confidence in their constitutional rights.

We love receiving each of the photos and testimonies that arrive at our offices every year following *Bring Your Bible to School Day*. After our 2018 event, we received this story from 17-year-old Savvy:

"A few kids at my table asked me about my faith and it was a great conversation that lasted through most of the period. But I think the best experience I had was when my favorite teacher and I had a very awesome, in-depth conversation about faith that didn't turn into an argument but it ended up something we both agreed on. I plan to carry my Bible with me every day at school now. Even if just one person asks, I feel like that's an opening for me to explain and share the great truth of Christ with them."

This encouraging story – and so many others – point to the impact our kids can make as they feel empowered to boldly articulate their beliefs and freely live out their Christian faith in the public arena.

The beauty of this endeavor is that it's a grassroots effort of schoolchildren. This is not something Focus delivers into schools or parents lead for their kids; rather, it is a student-led initiative – and it shows our kids what can be accomplished when God's people dedicate themselves to reaching out to those around them with the love and grace of Jesus.

In fact, the impact of *Bring Your Bible to School Day* extends beyond just one day a year. Following these events, students have reported being more open about their faith, praying for each other more often, bringing their Bibles to school regularly, and meeting with other Christian students on an ongoing basis for Bible study and prayer. And the best news of all? We've heard from hundreds of students who have shared that their friends made professions of faith in Christ for the first time as a direct result of the *Bring Your Bible to School Day* event.

As we gear up for our sixth annual *Bring Your Bible to School Day* on Thursday, October 3, would you pray that the Lord will continue multiplying this vital effort? People of faith in America are finding themselves increasingly silenced and marginalized – but those of us who trust in Christ know that the Gospel message transcends all cultural debates and political divisions. Regardless of the challenges we face in a post-Christian society, we are called to serve as “the light of the world” and “a city set on a hill” (Matthew 5:14). What a joy to see children from coast to coast engaging with their peers in a way that points to God's divine love and truth.

We're especially enthusiastic about some new elements we'll be adding to this year's event, including an emphasis that goes straight to the heart of our mission for *Bring Your Bible to School Day* – and that is for kids to live out their faith day in and day out, in any setting in which they find themselves. We

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love seeing kids bring their Bibles to school on a designated day in October, but we don't want it to end there! Our passion is to see children and teens ordering their lives according to the Christian worldview and demonstrating their deeply held beliefs at home, at school, and throughout their communities.

Imagine the spiritual revival that could be sparked in the next generation if boys and girls across our nation would not just bring their Bibles to school, but also share what's in God's Word and demonstrate by their actions that Scripture carries authority in their lives. There's no telling what the Lord would do in response to this kind of movement!

For more information about Bring Your Bible to School Day, be sure to go to our website BringYourBible.org. **And when you sign up to participate at BringYourBible.org, you'll be entered for a chance to win a trip for four to tour the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C.!**

This kind of initiative truly reflects the heartbeat of our efforts to lend parents a helping hand as they instill in their kids a flourishing, lasting faith. *Bring Your Bible to School Day* and all our other efforts to support and equip parents depend on the generosity of friends like you. As a donor-supported ministry, much of the funding that makes these programs possible comes from friends like you. Your gift today will help provide the resources to empower students through the *Bring Your Bible to School Day* event. Your most generous gift will also be an investment in raising up the next generation through parent resources, counseling efforts, our children's magazines, broadcasts and much more.

I'm reminded of that inspiring verse found in Galatians 6:9: "...Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

Your support will help parents rear godly children for the sake of the Kingdom and future generations. Friends like you play an indispensable role in furthering our labors—from online content to our daily broadcast to counseling resources and *Bring Your Bible to School Day* events—and we would deeply appreciate your gift of support today. If there's some way we can serve you, I invite you to let us know. Meanwhile, may God bless you and your loved ones, filling your heart with His surpassing joy.

Sincerely,



Jim Daly
President

P.S. As we continue advancing our mission to help foster strong families, may I ask you to prayerfully consider a financial gift to our ministry? We are keenly aware that our work could not move forward without the Lord's provision through friends and supporters like you. Your gift today will ensure Christ-centered family outreach is available for your family and so many others this fall and beyond. And don't forget to visit BringYourBible.org to learn more and sign up to participate and have a chance to win that trip for four to tour the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C.