



Investing in the Future

When we think of investing we often think of money, don't we? And in these times of financial insecurity, we may well think again about investing in certain places.

We make investments in many ways, however, and these encompass far more than monetary ones. Have you ever thought about parenting as investing? As we raise and mould the next generation we are actually making an investment in the future of our family, our children's lives, our country (or another). Ultimately we are wanting to make a spiritual investment in their lives so that they go on to love and serve our Lord Jesus for themselves. Parenting is indeed an incredible (and sometimes difficult and painful) privilege and responsibility and we do well to make the most of that opportunity.



Despite being one of the greatest challenges and responsibilities we can have, raising and moulding the next generation comes without a detailed instruction manual and has no prerequisites for the job. One of the helpful ways of learning or improving parenting skills is to attend a good parenting course.

The Parenting Education Program (PEP), a course produced and sponsored by MU Australia, has already been conducted in a number of places throughout the various Dioceses of Australia. It is a very helpful and well constructed parenting course, generally run over 5 sessions of 2 hr duration, with lots of activities, discussion and information.

The course covers the following topics:

Session 1 – Group forming and parenting styles

Session 2 – Childhood development and children's self esteem

Session 3 – Building relationships through encouragement and listening

Session 4 – Discipline strategies

Session 5 – Family growth through celebrations and spiritual development

If you are a parent, can I commend this course to you as very worthwhile? Please speak to your Vicar about the possibility of having the course run in your parish or contact MU Australia.

(Sharon Kirk, MU Diocesan President & Community Education Coordinator, Anglican Counselling Service - Diocese of Armidale. November 2008)