

# **NO MORE WISHY-WASHY PARENTING!**

by Brian Burgess, Forefront Families LLC

Bill Gates, Dave Ramsay and other prominent individuals have lashed out frankly at the number of current generation young adults who feel the world owes them a living. Not afraid to speak the truth these men brought back a belief that common sense may not be completely dead. You need to know that I have spent the last 46 years working with troubled young people and their families. I love young people and will spend the rest of my life training them and encouraging them to dream and reach their potential.

I guess what I am saying is that kids basically become what we allow them to become. Our society's liberal, wishy-washy parenting has led to our children not developing a good work ethic and believing that parents and the Government owe them a living. How could this be? It's because often we have not shown them what hard work is. They need to understand that earning a good living requires exertion, making good choices, having a strong set of values and using plenty of brainpower.

Listen to what an educator told a group of students recently in New Zealand where I come from. Northland College (High School) Principal, John Tapene, has offered the following words from a judge who regularly deals with youth. "Always we hear the cry from teenagers... 'What can we do? Where can we go?' My answer is, "Go home, mow the lawn, wash the windows, learn to cook, build a raft, get a job, visit the sick, study your lessons, and after you're finished, read a book. Your town does not owe you recreational facilities and your parents do not owe you fun. The world does not owe you a living. YOU owe the world something. You owe it your time, energy and talent so that no one will be at war, in poverty or sick and lonely again."

"In other words, grow up, stop being a cry-baby, get out of your dream world and develop a backbone, not a wishbone. Start behaving like a responsible person. You are important and you are needed. It's too late to sit around and wait for somebody to do something someday. Someday is now and that somebody is you!"

I love it when people break the 'politically incorrect' unwritten law. It's time we spoke out the truth instead of hiding behind this, 'I'm afraid to say what I believe' veil! Jesus spoke out and offended the religious hierarchy of the time and they were out to silence him. God ordained that for six days we work and the seventh we rest.

In the Old Testament it says, "Raise a child in the way he should go and in due time he will return to you." This implies that we show him how to work and ensure he does plenty of it as he grows. It also implies that we have instilled a great set of values and that we have taught him to respect others, to be outward

looking and to be raised with a discipline that guarantees you will be proud of him.

I'm imploring you to control the amount of technology used in your home. Sit around the table for meals, turn the TV off and start communicating. Ensure your children do chores. If you live in an apartment and there is no property work to do, look for work they can do outside of your four walls, like helping an elderly person clean up their house or property. Take some trash sacks and go pick up trash along your roadside. Let them sweat when they are working and ignore the comments when weak parents say that you are overworking your kids.

If we are enablers, our children will not develop a spine or good attitudes. They will expect us to always bail them out whatever age they are. Wishy-washy parents always seem to say, "Where did we go wrong? Why are my children so disrespectful?" God gave us the perfect institution in which to raise our kids. It's called 'family'. The family has been brutalized over the last few generations by pressure and breakup, but you can break the chain of this curse and raise an incredible family. I have seen it many times.

If you have any comments or questions on this subject, please do not hesitate to contact us at [sally@forefrontfamilies.org](mailto:sally@forefrontfamilies.org). We invite you to also check out our website at [www.forefrontfamilies.org](http://www.forefrontfamilies.org) and our blog site at [www.forefrontfamilies.blogspot.com](http://www.forefrontfamilies.blogspot.com) for further assistance.