

materialism.”

Perhaps most shocking for me, however, was the following sentence that calls parents to reflect on how they, however unintentionally, have moved their children towards materialism through the choices they have made for themselves. The world’s "...admiration for power, its adoration of status, its love of luxuries, its attachment to frivolous pursuits, its glorification of violence, and its obsession with self-gratification," have assaulted children through media and society. These words have been a wake-up call for me as a parent to consider what kind of example I’ve been setting for my children, and they’re words that Bahá’ís are now contemplating around the world.

Fortunately, there are groups, both religious and not, that help children and youth recognize their worth in contrast to the dollar value placed on them as consumers with purchasing power. The Bahá’í community, too, is learning to support neighbourhood children’s classes and youth groups that teach them that they are noble with the ability to serve the common good. But we still have a long way to go. For those lessons of service to be effective, I have come to the realization that I, as a parent, must set an example for my daughters and show them that I am willing to step out of the alluring, illusive comforts materialism claims to offer.

For sake of our children and the future world we want our children to lead, I extend a humble invitation to all parents to think about what message we are giving our children in the way we live. Also, consider and come together in our neighbourhoods to address the important matter of raising children who will contribute to the transformation of society through service to others.

As lofty and laborious these objectives for a better future may be, I think we can agree that our children are worth it.

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Views6389 views since posted 2012-02-17; last edit 2021-06-14 04:07 UTC;

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