

ChildLightUSA Goals

Presenting and Preserving a Charlotte-Mason Education

The work and goals of ChildLightUSA can be summed up in two broad intentions—presenting and preserving the educational philosophy and pedagogy of Charlotte Mason. The work may shift and change as ChildLightUSA continues to develop and grow, but the present expression of the intentions of presenting and preserving are given below. We welcome your feedback (info@childlightusa.org) concerning these and we welcome your participation with us as we work toward them.

The word “educator” or “teacher” in this document refers to an individual who teaches or is otherwise responsible for the education of young children and young adults. This individual may be a public or private school teacher, parent, or university professor. The word “parent” in this document refers to one who supports the practices of Mason but does not provide direct educational services. The word classroom refers to the location where children are educated, whether it is school or home.

Presenting

A program of *living training* is a key factor in keeping alive any system of thinking. Recalling Mason’s concept of *living* books or ideas, *living training* is:

- 1) transformative—it changes one’s thinking, and hence one’s daily practices;
- 2) relational—it enables one to live in relationship to God and all his creation;
- 3) doable—it equips one to actually do what is needed;
- 4) ennobling—it stimulates one to greater humanity.

Listed below are short-term and long-term goals to accomplish *living training*.

Website

ChildLightUSA intends to meet the needs of a technological society that still needs to remain relational by providing access to information about Charlotte Mason through our website. The website will:

- 1) offer a global venue for discussion and application of Mason’s philosophy to our society’s current and future needs;
- 2) share MP3 lectures concerning philosophy and practice of Mason’s educational beliefs;
- 3) provide a journal for discussion, teacher training, and general faculty development;
- 4) provide links to other sites;
- 5) hope to be a general resource for Mason educators worldwide.

Journal

We will work toward the continued publication of our journal, *The Charlotte Mason Educational Review* (which has a number of sections to meet the various needs of the Mason learning community). The journal, although produced entirely by volunteers,

seeks to be professional, addressing needs from academia to the classroom to our daily lives.

Conference

Our annual conference is currently held in June at Gardner-Webb University, with a different theme each year. As the conference brings together people interested in Mason from home, private, and public schools and colleges, our goal is to delve deeply into understanding Mason's philosophy, to stretch ourselves into new understandings, all with a cognizance of and sensitivity toward the various spheres and levels of understanding of Mason.

Scholarships

ChildLightUSA is seeking donations to establish scholarships for various needs in our efforts to support education in the spheres of public, private and home schools from K-12 to university students.

University

To meet the growing need of developing well-trained educators who can lead the Charlotte Mason community at present and into the future, ChildLightUSA wants to offer scholarship assistance to doctoral students in school administration in the fall 2008, and later expand to masters and undergraduate students. Gardner-Webb University has been supportive of this effort with directors of masters and doctoral programs agreeing to Mason specific research in their programs. Our first doctoral candidate may matriculate in the fall of 2008.

Kindergarten through High School

ChildLightUSA is seeking funds to help offer scholarships for K-12 economically disadvantaged children to attend Mason schools.

Schools

ChildLightUSA is also intending to support efforts that bring Charlotte Mason's ideas into the public arena by developing curriculum, instructional and assessment practices, teacher development and parent education. It is hoped that these efforts will support starting and maintaining charter and other schools, which can bring Mason to a broader audience.

Other Types of Training

ChildLightUSA wants to train teachers in the educational philosophy and practice of Mason. Following is a non-exhaustive list of potential training efforts.

1. DVDs for training
2. Institutes for particular educational practices, i.e. curriculum development
3. Regional conferences to reach broader geographic audiences
4. Charlotte Mason professional development sites, both short term and long term

Preserving

Mason Archive

ChildLightUSA intends to send funds to the holding institution of the Mason archives to support the archive preservation effort. Preservation is critical, as many of the extant materials are literally falling apart.

Publications

ChildLightUSA intends to preserve the educational ideas of Mason by:

1. maintaining an interactive website which archives materials for teachers and parents, such as MP3 files, journal articles, blogs, school schedules, etc
2. bringing together the Mason community across academic lines (private, home and public educators as well as university and college-level educators);
3. when appropriate, publishing books, training DVDs, curriculum materials, and other resources needed by educators

The Mason Community

ChildLightUSA intends to continue developing ways of keeping the Mason community alive and healthy so it can move into the next generation at full strength. The same redemptive education needs to be provided for all children, regardless of their financial status. ChildLightUSA wishes to provide the services discussed in this document in order to provide all varieties of schools, homeschools, and universities the training necessary for preserving and passing on to the next generation Mason's educational philosophy.

At our next conference, to be held June 11-14, 2008, we hope to share in more detail the goals and purposes of ChildLightUSA. This document will be updated following that meeting and periodically thereafter.

Posted 2/15/08

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