

# Faith@home

Home – the place where faith is built, or not.

An Introduction to the  
Faith@Home Initiative  
and movement.



# What is it?

It's easier to say what Faith@Home isn't than what it is. It's not a program or a sermon series. Neither is it the latest church fad.

In fact, the latest research offers a sobering reality regarding Faith@Home. Fewer than 10% of parents who regularly attend church with their kids read the Bible together, pray together (other than at meal times) or participate in an act of service as a family unit. Only 28% of church youth have talked with mom about faith. Only 13% of church youth have talked with dad about faith. And finally, 69-94% of evangelical children are leaving the church shortly after they graduate from high school.

Admittedly, this problem is tempting to lay at the feet of our culture. It's Hollywood's fault, or the work of secularism run rampant. But is it really that easy? The Scriptures are clear that the home is where faith is nurtured and passed from generation to generation. (Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 2 Timothy 1:5). If so, is it time then to look at the log in our own eye?

Could it be that the church has become such a trusted partner for "outsourcing"

spiritual growth that a robust, Christ-centered spiritual life in the home seems less important? Research suggests that the answer just might be yes.

So what do we do? Part of the solution is to continue shaping ministry programs so that they are increasingly home-centered. In short, that's Faith@Home—an initiative to help us fully embrace this difference. Interested? Then please read on.



**Urgent**

# Who's it for ?

Do you have a home? An apartment? A dorm room? Is your house full of kids? Are you newly married, single, or now living in an empty nest? Then Faith@Home is for you.

The home—your home, whatever it looks like—is where your faith wears shoe leather. To use a biblical term, it's where faith becomes *incarnate*, literally where your faith becomes apparent “in meat.” When this happens, the home is where a faithful person becomes a fruitful person.

It's obvious really. If we're different people at home than we are at church on Sunday morning, people notice. On the other hand, if we live out the gracious, loving spirituality that makes a typical Sunday morning such a special time, then people will notice this even more. That's why we say, “Faith begins at home, or not.”

Jesus said it best, “...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:16 ) The people who notice *your* light will likely be your kids, grand kids, friends, neighbors, and even your co-workers.

Consider that Faith@Home is one of the best strategies for fulfilling the great commission—to go and make disciples of all nations. And you can start doing it right in your own Home.



# Where does it happen?

At home, of course. But that raises an obvious question: What about church? Shouldn't it be the center of any good Christian's spiritual life? Actually yes, but the role of the church is to be a life-long partner, not replacement or drop off center. In Deuteronomy 6:20 Moses writes, "In the future, when your son asks you, "What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the Lord our God has commanded you? Tell him..."

When your son or daughter asks you, "What does it mean to be a Christian?" What are you supposed to do? Are you supposed to take them to church and drop them off so the experts can explain it? NO! YOU are supposed to tell him/her.

And the role of the church is to be a place that will help you KNOW the story of Christ and what it means to be a Christian so you can TELL the story and BE the story in the context of your own home. What happens at church is an important reinforcement but it is not the primary process for Christian living.

Martin Luther once stated that we were called to be the Bishops, Apostles and Priests of our own homes. The church will train you, equip you, encourage you and support you in the role you have to be

a "Bishop, Apostle, or Priest" in your own home yet we must never lose sight of the fact that what happens in the home is more important than what happens at church. That is where the rubber truly hits the road.

That's why we must be Faith@Home focused individuals living in a life-long partnership with Faith@Home focused churches.



home



# Why is it important?

## *Reason #1 – The Antidote to Hypocrisy*

- One of the primary reasons why people leave, or do not engage in, the Christian faith is hypocrisy. Many have grown up in or around Christians who act, dress and behave one way at church while they live a completely different way a part from church.
- Faith@Home is critical for both churches and individuals today as it strikes at the core deterrent that is turning many people away from Christianity. Faith@Home is about helping people live a 24/7 Christian lifestyle not a one-hour, at church only, Christianity.

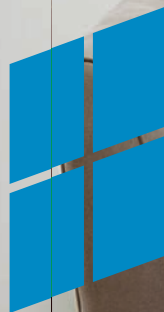
## *Reason #2 – Top Influence*

- When Christian teenagers were asked to identify the things that influenced them to become and remain Christians the top two influences identified were mom and dad. In fact, mom and dad were two to three times more influential than any church program.
- It is clear that what happens at home is more influential than what happens at church. While church programs are important they are secondary in impact to the influence that the home life has on faith development and nurture.

## *Reason #3 – Multi-Generational Impact*

- The choices and decisions we make today will not only impact us but it will impact our children and grandchildren as well.
- The good news is that the decision we make today, to be a Faith@Home household and Faith@Home focused church, will not only impact us but it will impact future generations as well!

always



# So now what?

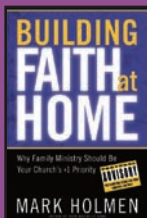
It is clear that Satan has been at work over the last 40-50 years to methodically and strategically take Christ and Christ-like living out of the home. Yet God is on the move responding to this reality through a Faith@Home movement that is reestablishing the home as the primary place where faith is nurtured.

## *The Faith@Home Focused Church*

- What would it look like if ALL the ministries of your church were working together to equip the home to be the primary place where faith is nurtured?
- The Faith@Home Focused Church is an approach to church ministry that challenges pastors to examine how they lead their ministry with a new set of "Faith@Home" lenses on.

*If you would like more information about becoming a Faith@Home focused church you can:*

- Contact us for information about bringing the Faith@Home focused church message to your area.
- Go to [faithbeginsathome.com](http://faithbeginsathome.com) for information about upcoming dates, locations and events where the Faith@Home focused church message will be shared.



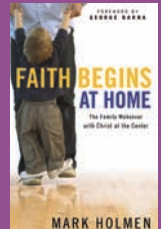
- Purchase the book Building Faith@Home, which was written to inspire, motivate and equip pastors and church leaders to become Faith@Home focused.

- Purchase the resource, Take It Home, that was written to help churches launch a Faith@Home initiative in their congregations.



## *The Faith@Home Focused Household*

- What would it look like if Christ was truly dwelling with you in your home?
- If you are interested in becoming a more Faith@Home focused household we have:
- A book, Faith Begins At Home, was written to inspire, motivate and equip parents to reestablish their home as the primary place where faith is nurtured.
- A parenting seminar entitled Extreme Family Makeover can also be brought to your area.



Resources may be purchased at [gospellight.com](http://gospellight.com).





Mark A. Holmen is a husband, father, pastor, consultant, speaker and author. In February of 2009, Mark heard the call to leave his seven years of ministry as Sr. Pastor of Ventura Missionary Church and during those years he developed and implemented a model for becoming a Faith@Home Focused Church

that gained so much attention and recognition that it has grown into a national and international Faith@Home movement supported by the Willow Creek Association, the Barna Group, and Focus on the Family. Mark, his wife Maria and daughter Malyn currently live in Ventura, California where they now serve as full-time Missionaries for the Faith@Home movement.

**Address:**

386 Walnut Drive  
Ventura, CA 93003

E-mail: [mark@faithbeginsathome.com](mailto:mark@faithbeginsathome.com)

Website: [faithbeginsathome.com](http://faithbeginsathome.com)

Phone: (805) 207-0425

*In February 2009, I heard the call to leave seven years of ministry as Sr. Pastor of Ventura Missionary Church to serve and lead the Faith@Home movement full-time. Let me be clear, this is God's movement not ours and He alone deserves all the glory and praise. As missionaries we have been called to go wherever God leads us to spread the Faith@Home vision with individuals, parents, pastors and other church leaders. Yet in order to do this we rely on the Lord to provide the financial support we need through individual gifts and donations. If you would like to support us as missionaries for the Faith@Home movement simply make your tax deductible gifts to:*

**MCWD**

**Memo – For Faith@Home**

**484 E. Los Angeles Ave., Suite #228**

**Moorpark, CA 93021**