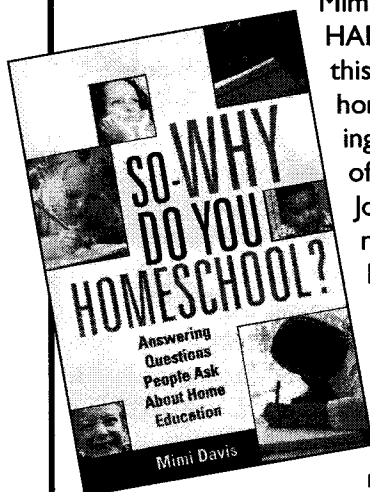


# BOOK REVIEWS

## ***So — WHY Do You Homeschool?*** **Answering Questions People Ask About Home Education**

by Mimi Davis



Mimi Davis HAD to write this book. A home schooling mother of four from Joelton (just north of Nashville), Mimi relates her story:

“I originally

started writing this book in the fall of 2003 after listening to someone make untrue and unkind statements about home schooling. I tried to write down my rebuttal to this person to correct misconceptions so I could 'preview' my thoughts before presenting them. Unlike any other writing experience in my life, the words just flowed onto the computer. Before I knew it, I had typed, at twelve words per minute, 30 pages of information about homeschooling! That's truly evidence of God's hand.

“As the months passed, I added a lot of research to my writings and revised what I had already set down in an attempt to become more articulate and prepared for the next

homeschooling detractor. Sometime in 2004 I got more serious, and decided to actually pursue making this growing creature into a book.” After a period of distraction, Mimi felt an urgency to complete the task. She diligently worked to finish the book and find a suitable publisher. The results of her labor (and God's blessing) have produced an excellent resource which should be a great help to many homeschooling families.

*So — WHY* isn't a typical read-it-from-front-to-back book. Pick it up and start reading anywhere you like. Twelve chapters answer a variety of questions related to the hows and whys of home education, from academics to socialization to personal and legal issues. Here are some challenging questions most home schooling parents have heard:

- Shouldn't home schooling parents be certified teachers?
- Aren't you afraid your children will grow up close-minded?
- Isn't it just the religious nuts who home school?

Other questions cited are of a more practical nature:

- How do you know what to teach?
- How can you afford to live on one income?
- Can home schoolers really get into college?

This book isn't a put-down on public education. Mimi herself has taught at public and private schools and home school tutorials, and her mother is a college dean of education. Instead, the positive reasons for home schooling are brought into a clear focus. Although the author writes from a Christian perspective, she acknowledges that the motivations behind a family's decision to home school are many-faceted. The

book also references lots of great research to demonstrate that home schooling is a movement with a solid track record of success and achievement.

This would be a great book to give to a family member who is not yet supportive of your decision to home school. It also answers many questions that a potential home schooler might have. Finally, the many thoughtful and honest answers given are sure to be an inspiration to those who have already discovered the blessings of home education.

— reviewed by David Winkler.

### PRODUCT INFORMATION:

*So — WHY Do You Homeschool?*  
(ISBN 1-59781-572-1)  
by Mimi Davis  
Price: \$12.99  
Publisher: Xulon Press  
Available from: Barnes and Noble, Borders, Amazon.com, and Xulon Press, as well as a host of other online retailers.

NOTE: Mimi will be speaking at “A Day in March with Veteran Homeschoolers,” March 11, at Rutledge Falls Baptist Church in Tullahoma. For more information, please see the “Around Town” section in this issue. She will also be doing a book signing at Borders Books in Franklin (545 Cool Springs Blvd.) on Saturday, March 25, at 12 noon, as a part of “Educator's Appreciation Week.”

Have you read a good book about home schooling? Would you be willing to write a review of the book for JA? If so, please contact Cathi Winkler at (615)315-9509, or [ja@mthea.org](mailto:ja@mthea.org).