**Observations from MFW Catalog Presentation**

*Compiled from Rhonda’s Forum posts and additional examination of catalogs*

Reading through the catalog in preparation for conventions, it is clear to me that MFW has chosen to differentiate themselves from Sonlight as the "Biblical Worldview curriculum". They would present MFW curriculum as being “more Christian,” based on the fact that they use the Bible as the basis for their studies. On the other hand, Sonlight incorporates Bible study and memorization in every level, and integrates biblical principles into discussion of the books that are read in the program, seeking to practice application in every aspect of life.

They [MFW] are heavily emphasizing their participation in Bible translation and their global vision..."Raising up generations of families who see the world through God's eyes and live according to that knowledge." In addition to its ongoing missions support, Sonlight has drawn its customers into participation in special missions projects for the past three years, integrating educational lessons as families learn about the people to whom they are directing the project.

Particular issues in how MFW markets against us:

1. World view --- MFW looks at the Bible as the primary text for teaching history and worldview, while Sonlight uses the Bible as a source along with the IG notes as we use literature as a tool to start discussions with our children, applying biblical principles to real life situations encountered in the literature.
2. How to prepare high schoolers – MFW studies ancient history with the Bible as the primary history source. Sonlight prepares students to be ambassadors to THEIR generation, covering the history of the church and 20th century world history using the Bible and biblical principles in discussion with our students as topics come up through literature.
3. Sonlight may 'look' overwhelming due to the number of books --- but with MFW you have to use the library to get the books, assuming they are available in your local branch. Show people that our packages are a full year, without the added work of finding and acquiring the books prescribed in the MFW lesson notes.
4. IG notes versus 'just a book' --- SL's IGs give us the notes to discuss our biblical worldview, even with early elementary, like Strawberry Girl and the full page of notes on the attitude of 'dumb, lazy Southerners' to give the parent the needed tools to discuss such issues. MFW simply directs which books to read, without providing any discussion support.
5. Literature rich versus Literature based --- they say MFW is literature rich while Sonlight is literature based; basically meaning that they use a classical approach, facts from encyclopedia, etc., (just like WTM) and add on literature, while SL teaches from literature and skips the facts. Not true – SL establishes the facts through non-fiction spine and biographies, then expands on the understanding through historical fiction and classics … much more literature rich in its lit basis.

Examining MFW programs compared to Sonlight:

1. MFW offers younger level programs (Preschool toy selections, a light K program, first grade, and a program for 2nd or 3rd graders) but the primary program seems to focus on 3rd – 8th graders with 5 program levels arranged chronologically. These 5 programs are offered in Basic or Deluxe packages, with the average cost of a Deluxe package being $354 which include an average of 24 items designated to cover Bible, History, Science, Art, Music and Read-Alouds.

Sonlight Core programs contain an average of 49 books at an average cost of $476.

1. MFW high school programs (only 2 currently available) cover Bible, History and English and contain an average of 22 items at an average cost of $399, with Science, Math and Electives to be added.

Sonlight high school Core programs cover the same subjects and contain an average of 44 books at an average cost of $539.

1. MFW accepts returns within 30 days if materials are in unused, resalable condition. Sonlight offers an unmatched Love to Learn Guarantee.