

mercEmail

"He delights in mercy" (Micah 7:18)

"Children? I Might Want One, How Much Do They Cost?"

by Steve Higginbotham

Wow, Children are expensive! I know because I have four of them. Not long ago, I read of a government study that said that it costs a family \$160,140.00 to raise a child to the age of 18. And that cost doesn't even include college! That looks like a lot of money, but when you break it down, it's only a mere \$24.44 a day, or a little over a dollar an hour.

Just a little over \$24.00 a day. And what do you get for your \$160,140.00?

- Naming rights. First, middle and last.
- Glimpses of God every day.
- Giggles under the covers at night.
- Daring adventures in your back yard tent.
- More love than your heart can hold.
- Sticky kisses and Bear hugs.
- Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds, and the moon.
- A hand to hold, usually covered with jam.
- A partner for blowing bubbles, flying kites, and playing games.
- Someone who can make you laugh until you cry.
- Presents unwrapped with reckless abandon on Christmas morning.
- To be a hero.

...And the list goes on.

Yes, children are expensive. But in the long run, they are an investment that pays far greater dividends than they cost. Enjoy your kids!