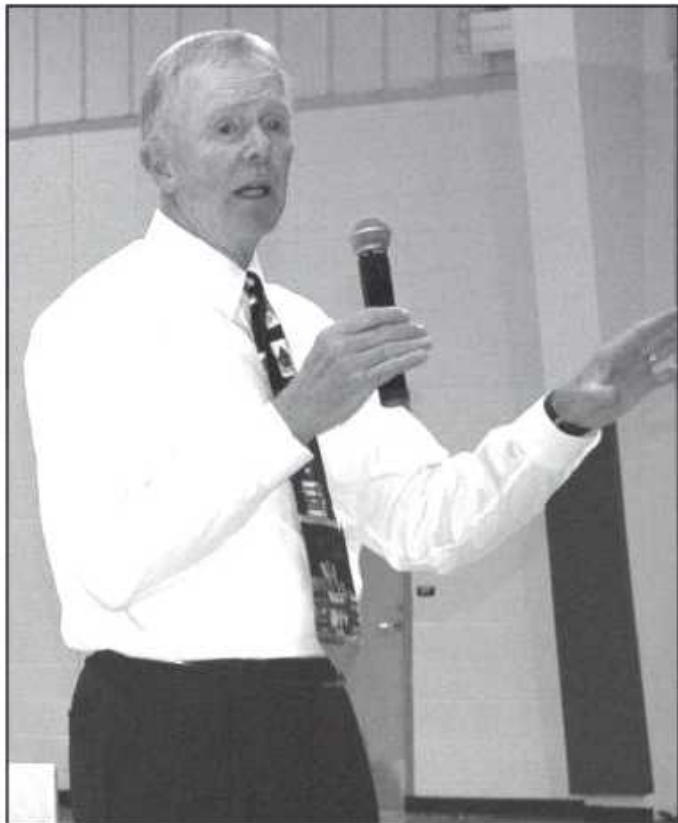


SCHOOL

Hal Urban Provides Parental Advice at "Family Night Out" Event



Bestselling author Hal Urban speaks to local parents at the "Family Night Out" event held recently at West Carroll Junior/Senior High School.

ATWOOD (September 21) Nationally known speaker and author Hal Urban spoke to several teachers from Huntingdon, Bruceton-Hollow Rock Central, South Carroll, West Carroll and McKenzie schools at the Dixie Performing Arts Center in Huntingdon on the topic of "20 good things teachers do" early Monday morning.

Later that evening, Urban spoke to parents from throughout the area at a special event sponsored by all five school districts in Carroll County held at West Carroll Junior/Senior High School.

Before his presentation, several exhibition booths from community organizations including Carl Perkins Center, Tenn. Technology Center and many others were set up in the halls for attendees to visit; and a free hot dog dinner was also provided. Games, face painting and obstacle courses were provided with free child care while parents gathered in the gym for Urban's words of wisdom.

The focus on his presentation was the power of kind words. Taken mostly from one of the chapters in Urban's bestseller, "Life's Greatest Lessons: 20 Things that Matter." Urban mentioned that the work was originally titled "20 Things I want my Children



Several organizations set up booths for exhibition prior to Hal Urban's presentation.

to Know", before the publishing company reworked the title.

He began with the proposal that the foundation of all good families consist of quality time spent together and frequent, open discussion.

Urban quoted historian Will Durant, stating that the single most influential development in the history of civilization is speech. He said, "Kind words cost

little, but accomplish much." He elaborated stating that complaints, criticisms, cursing, gossip and other negative language can erode relationships. "Words are choices," he said.

He challenged parents to use language that they would want their children to use and discussed the importance of reading to and with younger children to instill parental bonding and a love of reading.

In a shocking statistic, Urban mentioned that according to one study, children today spend roughly four hours per day with TV or media and under four minutes a day in dialogue with their parents.

Along these lines, Urban mentioned the advantages of having dinner together regularly

and to have weekly family meetings as well.

Rather than focusing on negatives he challenged parents to "catch your kids doing something right" before telling an anecdote of when his son who did well in school and was a model citizen responded to a criticism once by saying, "All you ever do is tell me what I do wrong!" When Urban pondered for a moment on what good his son did, it was a moment of realization. He also mentioned the advantage of gentle correction when children do err.

Following the presentation, attendees were given the opportunity to meet and greet Mr. Urban and copies of his books "Life's Greatest Lessons" and "Positive Words, Powerful Results" were available for purchase.