

...and I will bring them unto this place,
and I will cause them to dwell safely and they shall be my people and I shall be
their God and I will give them one heart and one way,
that they may fear me forever,
for the good of them and the good of their children after them,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them,
that I will not turn away from them, to do them good;
but I will put my fear in their hearts,
and they shall not depart from me.

Jeremiah 32:37b-40

Our mission is to train the heart of our children as the craftsman bends the branch, and later strings the bow. That when the craftsman's hand is removed the form stays true. That bow, in the hand of the skilled archer, will always pierce the mark.

Our mark is to train our children in a love of truth, honesty, compassion and integrity. To provide them an environment that fosters creative independent thinking with a love and thirst for learning.

Darak is the Hebrew word for the "way". The same word in Proverbs 22:6, which says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." It is also a word describing the training of a branch to take and hold the curve that makes it into a strong bow. This implies a lot of work on the part of the craftsman. I envision him steadily focused; propping, heating and slowly bending the branch, carefully to avoid scorching or breaking it. One day when the props and braces are removed, the bow holds the shape he envisioned. He stands in a field after years of training and pulls the bow taut, holds a moment and then the arrow sings in the air before piercing the target.

This is the vision that holds me on my path. May you find a vision that is clear enough to inspire you and hold you steadfast year after year.