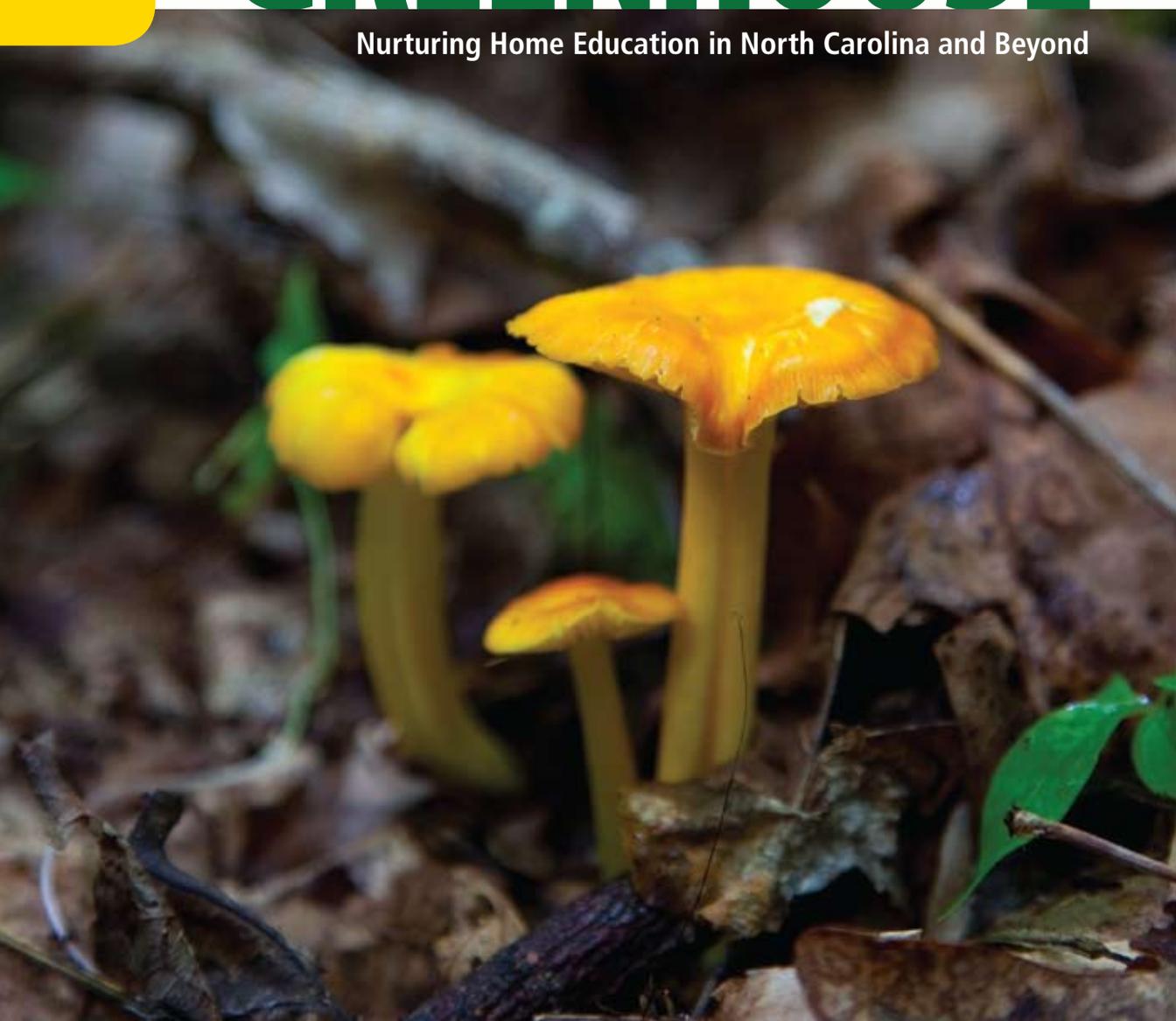


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GREENHOUSE

Nurturing Home Education in North Carolina and Beyond



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Conference and Book Fair

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~ C. Everett Koop

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 - Cover Photo courtesy of ForestWander.com

EVERYONE WINS AT NCHE ATHLETIC COMMISSION EVENTS

by Mike Marshall



Mike and his wife, Ronda, are parents of six children (ages nine to twenty-six) and have homeschooled for seventeen years. They have served on the board of NCHE for eight years. In his day job, Mike works as an engineering consultant to the electric power industry.

My family and I attended the recent NCHE Athletic Commission (NCHEAC) regional and state basketball tournaments. As always we found this to be a fun experience for the whole family. The NCHEAC does a great job putting together the basketball tournaments as well as those for other sports. Like everything done by NCHE, these events are planned and manned by volunteers who have a passion for what they do. These volunteers work hundreds of behind-the-scenes hours throughout the year keeping the events organized and run professionally. My family as well as hundreds of others has benefited from the efforts of the NCHEAC volunteers.

This article isn't intended to be just an endorsement for the NCHEAC, but an encouragement to you to see the benefits of these events beyond the obvious. The regular season games and post-season tournaments aren't just for the players and their families. They can be an opportunity for homeschool children to connect with other homeschoolers, whether or not they participate on the teams. The games are an opportunity for the homeschool community in each area to meet other families with common interests in many areas, including sports. Over the years and through participation in three sports, our family has benefited from being part of sports teams affiliated with the NCHEAC. We have also become good friends with many families, and those friendships have lasted long after our kids played their final game together.

We are fortunate to have these sports opportunities for homeschooling families in our state. Many other states would love to have what we have. Of course not all areas of the state have teams of all the given sports yet. This could be an opportunity for you to come alongside other homeschool families to form a team. Some participation does not require a team. Individual sports such as cross country and swimming require little in the way of resources and as few as one participant.

The point is: homeschooling is about families—families coming together to attempt to provide the best opportunities for their children. I challenge you to look in your area to see where you can come together with other homeschool families, whether it is through sports or some other avenue, to encourage one another, provide support and walk together on this challenging but rewarding journey called homeschooling.

If you want more information on the various sports and teams in each area you can go to NCHEAC.com.

*“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”
Galatians 6:9* 

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The NCHE Annual Conference and Book Fair serves as a celebration of the multi-faceted face of home education in North Carolina. Since the first NCHE conference in 1984, that served about fifty families, we've grown to serve thousands. Our mission is to:

- Equip and encourage families and individuals who are involved in home education by offering workshops and keynotes which address a variety of topics
- Connect homeschoolers with quality curriculum resources through our book fair and post-secondary options through our college fair
- Celebrate our teens and alums through workshops planned just for them, a talent showcase, fun activities, including games, dancing and fellowship as well as a chance to participate in a first-class, state-wide graduation ceremony
- Encourage our leaders with a special luncheon and a track just for them

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- Family Pricing—In response to your request, we have simplified the fee structure. Instead of paying for each of your children, we are providing a family price that will include all of your children.
- Film Camp—Crystal Creek Media is offering a two day adventure where both teens and adults will learn practical and technical aspects of filmmaking.
- Meal breaks—We have adjusted our schedule to allow for a longer meal break.

For all the details about the conference go to conference.nche.com.



Graduation



Book Fair



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Keynotes and Workshops



Talent Showcase



Children's Conference

Conference Speakers and Workshops



Featured Speakers

Derek and Cheryl Carter are founders of Foundations for Family Success, a ministry dedicated to strengthening marriages, empowering parents and helping families better manage their

time. Together the Carters have written *Seven Biblical Foundations that Every Family Should Build On*. Individually they have written parenting, fathering and time management books including: *Chasing God and the Kids Too*, *How to Have a Presence in Your Absence* (for fathers), *How to Get Organized and Stay Organized* and *Organize Your ADD/ADHD Child*. www.familysuccess.org

- Inspiring the Writer in Your Child (Cheryl)
- The Supportive Homeschool Dad—How to Have a Presence in Your Absence (Derek)
- Chasing God and the Kids Too! (Cheryl)
- How to Really Love Your Spouse
- Balance Is the Key—Time Management for Mothers (Cheryl)
- What Every Son Should Know, What Every Father Should Teach (Derek)
- Helping Your ADD/ADHD Child Cope (Cheryl)



Jeannie Fulbright is a mother of four with a love for God's Word, her family, homeschooling, science and encouraging homeschool parents. Though her primary and most consuming occupation is educating her four children, ranging from elementary

through high school, she is committed to arming parents with Creation science courses, speaking around the country and writing as the Lord leads her. Her background in science, as well as her writing experience, inspired her to create the Apologia elementary science courses. www.jeanniefulbright.com.

- The 7 E's for Choosing Curriculum
- Encouraging Success in Your Children
- Homeschooling: Methods that Win and Methods that Wipe Out
- If I Could Do It Over
- Solving Your Science Struggles



Tracy Klicka is a home-schooling mom of seven children, three of whom have graduated with one married. She is the widow of Christopher J. Klicka, who was a senior counsel for the HSLDA for over twenty-four years. Out of many years of great hardship,

yet with a steadfast joy and certainty that God is good all the time, Tracy loves to encourage others to put all their hope and trust in a loving God who gives fresh grace for each new day.

- What Do They Believe?—Why Teaching Our Children a Biblical Worldview Is More Important than Ever
- A Journey of Grace—Coming Alongside Your Child in the Teen Years
- Communication and Social Media in the 21st Century—Helping Our Teens Live for Christ
- Saying “Yes” to God until You Can Say “Yes” to Your Man
- Keeping the H.E.A.R.T. in Homeschooling



Scott Klusendorf travels throughout the United States and Canada training pro-life advocates to persuasively defend their views in the public square. He contends that the pro-life message can compete in the marketplace of ideas if properly

understood and properly articulated. A passionate and engaging speaker, Scott has appeared on nationally syndicated Christian programs as well as many secular talk shows. Nationally, Scott has participated in numerous debates at the collegiate level. Scott is the author of *The Case for Life: Equipping Christians to Engage the Culture*.

- Can Anyone Be Right about Anything? The Case against Moral Relativism
- Foundations of a Pro-Life Worldview: Whose Rules Should We Play By?
- Tactics: Handling Objections with Grace and Truth
- The Case for Life: Equipping Christians to Engage the Culture (keynote)



Ken Sande is the founder of Relational Wisdom 360 and Peacemaker Ministries. Trained as an engineer, lawyer and mediator, Ken has conciliated hundreds of family, business, church and legal conflicts and now devotes himself to teaching people how to

build productive and enduring relationships in the family, church and workplace. He is the author of numerous books, articles and training resources, including *The Peacemaker*, which has been translated into fifteen languages. He and his wife, Corlette, have two adult children, who they homeschooled.

- Managing Change (for leaders)
- Powerful Peacemaking
- Relational Wisdom: A Better Kind of Smart (keynote)
- Overcoming Artificial Maturity (with Jeff Sande)
- It's Never Too Early
- Emotion in Christian Anthropology
- Relational Wisdom in the Movies



Michael Smith and his wife, Elizabeth, along with Michael Farris and his wife, Vickie, incorporated Home School Legal Defense Association in 1983. His family's life changed drastically when he heard a radio program in 1981 that introduced

him to the idea of homeschooling. He became convinced he had been called to use his gifts and talents in the legal profession to assist homeschoolers. Mike came to HSLDA full-time in 1987 and has served as president of the organization since the year 2001.

- Homeschooling and Parental Rights (leaders)
- Remembering the Reason, Renewing the Vision (keynote)
- Ten Keys to Harmony in the Family
- The Power of Praise with Our Children
- The Greatest Deterrent to Homeschooling—Fear and Inadequacy

More Speakers



Diane Allen

- Taking the Mystery Out of Achievement Testing (with Marji McIlvaine)
- Online Classes? The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (with Marji McIlvaine)



Angela Highsmith Armstrong

- Re-energize Mom First!



Hope Auer

- The Value of Non-Academic Education (with Ken Auer)



Ken Auer

- The Value of Non-Academic Education (with Hope Auer)



Nathan Barrick

- The Fifth H: Head, Heart, Hands, Health and Homeschooling (with Hannah Davis)



Sandie Barrie Blackley

- What Is an Auditory Processing Disorder? And What Might It Have to Do with Reading and Spelling?



Kevin Brown

- Going beyond the Books



Janice Campbell

- Homeschool Encyclopedia: A Whirlwind Tour of Methods, Skills, Vocabulary and People You Need to Know
- Microbusiness for Homeschoolers: Laying a Foundation of Family Freedom through Entrepreneurial Education

**Davis Carman**

- Give Me One Good Reason to Homeschool

**Rachael Carman**

- My Mom's Not Perfect and Neither Is My Daughter (with Savannah Anne Carman)
- Quiet Time in a Loud House

**Savannah Anne Carman**

- My Mom's Not Perfect and Neither Is My Daughter (with Rachael Carman)

**Nancy Coleman**

- The Empty Nest—It's Coming (with Debbie Mason)

**Hannah Davis**

- The Fifth H: Head, Heart, Hands, Health and Homeschooling (with Nathan Barrick)

**Kristen Eckenwiler, M.Ed.**

- Research That Will Change the Way You Teach
- Teaching the Learning Disabled Child

**Mari Fitz-Wynn**

- RX for Your Homeschool

**Dr. Chená T. Flood**

- Understanding DNPE

**J. Mark Fox**

- Arrows for the Target: Preparing Our Children to Leave
- What I've Learned in Twenty Years

**Dara Halydier**

- What Homeschoolers Won't Talk About

**Julie Hiramine**

- Adolescence 101: Who Are You and What Have You Done with My Child?
- Setting a Paradigm for Purity

**Ernie Hodges**

- Homeschool Sports, Is It for You?

**Jim Hodges**

- Teach Your Child to Listen.

**Caryn Hommel**

- Foreign Language in Your Homeschool: from the Traditional to the Revolutionary! (with Marji Mclvanie)

**Laura House**

- Teaching Writing across the Curriculum

**Jason Jimenez**

- The Verge: Intellectual Suicide or Biblical Truth
- Firm in Your Faith

**Andrew Kern**

- You Become What You Behold
- Getting the Classical Education You Never Got

**Bonita Lillie**

- The Mommy Spa
- Everything I Know about Homeschooling



Mike and Ronda Marshall

- Getting Off to a Great Start
- Mary Homeschooling in a Martha World (Ronda)
- I'm Worn-Out, Going Crazy and Making My Kids Stupid, Would Somebody Please Help?



Debbie Mason

- Homeschooling High School
- The Empty Nest—It's Coming (with Nancy Colman)
- The Place of Outside Classes and Activities in Your Homeschool



Dr. Matthew McDill

- Equip Children for Life with Three Critical Skills
- A Basic Educational Strategy



Marji McIlvaine

- Taking the Mystery Out of Achievement Testing! (with Diane Allen)
- Online Classes? The Good, the Bad and the



Charles Nettles

- Getting Started and the NC Homeschool Law



Steve Noble

- Becoming a Man of Valor
- Foundations of Freedom



Jeff Sande

- Overcoming Artificial Maturity (with Ken Sande)



Jennifer Schmidt

- Living the 80% off Lifestyle and
- Loving It



Alan Scholl

- The Relationship between God and Government



Dori Staehle

- Hearing the Music: Homeschooling Instead of Ritalin

Ugly (with Diane Allen)

- Foreign Language in Your Homeschool: from the Traditional to the Revolutionary! (with Caryn Hommel)



Lynne Taylor

- Teaching Styles 101



Paige Timer

- Creating a Solid Biblical Education with the Best of Academic Methods



Jeremy D. Troxler

- Practically Speaking: Principles for Living a Biblical Christian Worldview



Jim Weiss

- Virtues and Values: A Family's Quest for Conscientious Living Via Literature and History
- Throwing Light on the Dark Side: Good vs. Evil in Contemporary Youth Literature



Delnora Williams

- Unwary Victims: Finding Freedom from Mindsets that Enslave
- The Paradigm of Wonder



Dr. Saundra Wall Williams

- Critical Lessons from the Successes and Failures of Leadership



Hal and Melanie Young

- My Beloved and My Friend
- Raising Real Men
- Sanity's in the Freezer (Melanie)



Michele Zavatsky

- Families Love Travel: On The Cheap!



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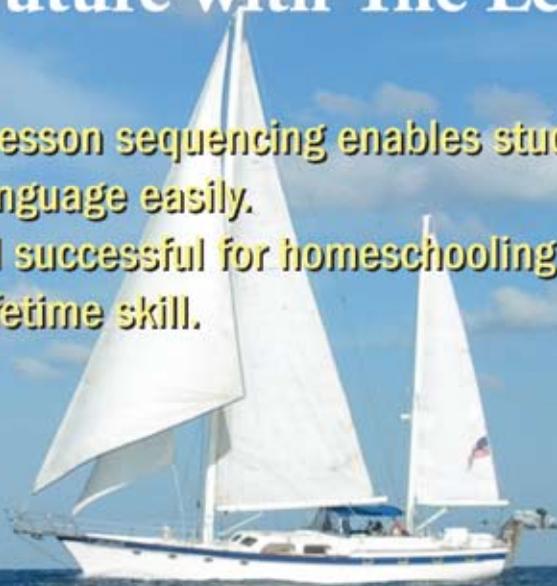
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LOVING THE DIFFERENCES IN OUR CHILDREN

by Tracy Klicka, 2012 ©

When Chris and I first became parents just over twenty-four years ago, we didn't know a thing about raising children for the Lord. So we embarked on a literary journey to see what the experts had to say about biblical parenting. We also talked to other Christian families whose children seemed to be content, polite and obedient, in order to glean from their wisdom and experience.

We found a wealth of good information and worthwhile advice and thanked God for His help as we tried to implement much of what we had read, seen and heard. Our children have always been creative, energetic and opinionated, but they have also been reasonably content to go with *our* flow. I enjoyed the days when our kids were younger, and they let me decorate their bedrooms, choose their clothing and pick the music we listened to.

As our children have gotten older, however, their opinions have changed. They have developed their own unique preferences in styles of music, dress, décor, interests, etc. Thinking back to our experience seven to eight years ago, it took me awhile to accept that my daughters didn't want to wear jumpers anymore, and that some of my kids weren't as interested in listening to classical music as I am.

Woven Together by the Master Weaver

I've been reading through the Psalms again and recently reflected on this passage from Psalm 139:13-16 (NASB):

*For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works and my soul knows it very well.*

*My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;
Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;
And in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.*

As I thought about how those verses applied to my children, I realized that God was starting to prepare mine to go out into the world to serve Him. At home is the place where God is giving them an opportunity to stretch their wings and fly without fear of falling. How was I going to respond to their expressed differences? If they do not think like I do or have the same passions and drives, if their strengths and motivations don't look like mine, will I not only accept, but also love the way God has made them?

The words of this poetic Psalm describe the intimate way in which God our Creator has fashioned each of us. The phrases *formed my inward parts* and *wove* me beautifully illustrate the unique complexity of each individual, forming pictures in our minds of a weaver creating his own distinctive pattern of color and design. And God is just that—the Master Weaver. In His perfect love and infinite wisdom, He made us to reflect His image.

He also equipped us with unique gifts, strengths, motivations and ways of expressing His image. In *Different Children, Different Needs* (Multnomah Publishers, 2004), Dr. Charles Boyd talks about his research into the meaning of the word “frame” used in this same passage. It refers to “strength” and translates into the concept of “potentialities” or “capabilities.”

Because God designed each of us a certain way, we will

feel fulfilled when we act according to our design, and consequently frustrated when we don't. This holds true not only for us but also for our children.

The Bond Is Tested

Have you ever become exasperated at how slowly your children did their schoolwork? Perhaps you have come to loggerheads with a son who seems to endlessly need to be with other children, when one of the reasons you are homeschooling him is to protect him from negative peer pressure.

I have had my own feelings of frustration over the years with some of our children in these areas. There have even been some moments of anxiety, as I wondered where all this creative expression was heading. I have prayed so often that each of my children would love the Lord Jesus Christ with a single-focused, undiluted passion. I believe this kind of prayer honors God. It is when we expect or desire, however, for all of our children to exemplify the same personalities and strengths that we reflect ourselves that we get into trouble.

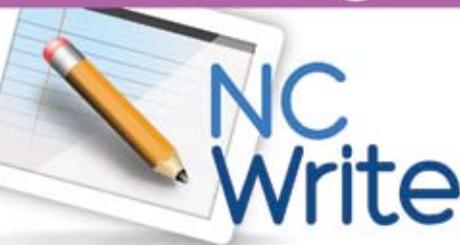
When we have those expectations, the first thing that suffers is our relationship with our children. Tensions increase, communication breaks down, and the deep bond we long to have with them is put under visible strain. Are your children

frustrated in their efforts to please you? Do they feel like they always fail? Or do they know how much you love them for who God made them?

Do we love our children more when they like us or when they do things for us? I have had to confess that while I love my children just because they are mine, there have been times I communicate my love more clearly when they please me or when they do things like I would do them. I had been deriving a certain amount of personal security from my children liking, doing and thinking in a way that didn't make me feel uncomfortable.

The second thing that suffers when we try to peg our square child into our round hole is our relationship with the Lord. God has an incredible love for each of our children. He is their Creator, their Master Weaver and desires to use them for His glory. We can interfere with His good work in their lives when we struggle to love the way God has made them. I wonder how many times the real conflict with my children has been over my wanting to have control, instead of yielding to God's control, and out of a lack of faith, have not embraced their God-created uniqueness. I have had to ask forgiveness many times for wanting my comfort and ease or for needlessly fearing for my children when God has merely made them different than me.

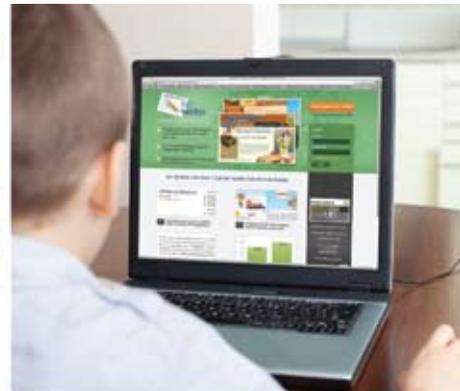
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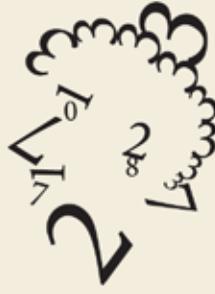
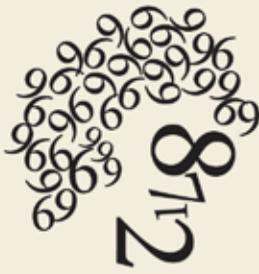


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A D V I S O R S



My name is Steve Lewis, and I am a homeschooling father of 12 children. My wife has often said, "If a family can't afford five children, then they can't afford two." As our family has grown, I have seen how true this statement has become. It's all about the decisions we make that can make us or break us, especially in the area of investments. My goal as an investment advisor is to aid people in making the best financial and investment decisions that allow them to keep and grow what they have earned. Basically, I believe in helping people be the best stewards of their money.

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Strengthening the Bond

When I read Dr. Boyd's book, I knew this was God's way of helping me learn more about myself and my children, so that I might better express my love for them. Some of the conflicts I have had with my children have been over differences, but those differences are partly rooted in how God has shaped them for Himself. Once I was able to understand that I am different than some of my children, it has been easier to accept who they are and how they uniquely express themselves.

For example, one of my daughters has a slow-paced behavioral style. My conflicts with her have primarily revolved around her slower pace because it is the opposite of my own. Another daughter is incredibly people-oriented, and because I am perfectly happy to be alone (and actually need time alone to recharge—try that with seven children!), I found myself wanting to say “no” to every opportunity she wanted to be with friends. Knowing both my own behavioral style and my daughters' hasn't eliminated our communication problems. We still sin in our attitudes, words and actions. It has helped us, however, communicate better—to mutually try to understand each other and accept our differences in a way that draws us closer together. My love and appreciation for these precious daughters has only deepened over the years by God's grace!

Cultivating the Uniqueness of Each Child

What are some things we can do as parents to encourage our children's individuality and foster a deeper bond with them? First, we can focus on becoming students of our children, rather than students of parenting techniques. My children love it when I spend time alone with them and let them talk or share something they love with me. Showing genuine interest in their interests (no matter how different theirs are from yours) will help knit their heart to yours.

When my son Jesse was thirteen, he was really into baseball. He would memorize baseball statistics more easily than he ever memorized the multiplication table! Even though I thought that baseball cards, games and stat books were a waste of time, I could share in Jesse's enthusiasm just by listening to him talk about his favorite players. For his birthday that year, I even bought him only baseball-related items because that is what he really wanted. How I loved seeing the smile on his face as I shared in celebrating who God made him!

Spending time alone with your children also helps you know how to pray specifically for and encourage them in their unique gifts and skills. James 1:5 invites us to ask for the wisdom we lack. God's promise and Spirit are there to remind and guide us as we help our children through situations that

perplex them or us.

Next, realize that God may use sins or unpleasant character qualities in your children similar to your own sins to fashion you more fully into the image of Christ. Turning away from your child when he acts in an irritating way could be turning away from the Lord's loving discipline in your life. Resist the temptation to bear even a little grudge toward this child whose sin mirrors your own. This will only hinder your love and fellowship. God desires to complete the good work He began in you (Phil. 1:6), and He can use your children's weaknesses for your sanctification and His glory.

Finally, if you are struggling with loving the differences in your children, pray to the Master Weaver! Don't give up, but keep praying, asking God to help you love them for who He made them. I am in awe of the way God in His kindness and grace has answered my prayers in this area. I continue to grow to love each of my children for the ways they are different from me. It is wonderful to see how one child is moved to compassion for other people in distress and blogs for the end of human trafficking, or how another child feels God's pleasure when they play drums to contemporary worship music. What treasures each of our children are and beautiful pictures of the bountiful diversity and creativity of God.

Recommended Resources

- *Different Children, Different Needs*, Dr. Charles Boyd (Multnomah Publishers, 2004)
- *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens*, Paul David Tripp (P&R Publishing, 1997)
- *Teach Them Diligently*, Lou Priolo (Timeless Texts, 2000)
- *The Power of a Praying Parent*, Stormie Omartian (Harvest House Publishers, 1995)
- *The Way They Learn*, Cynthia Tobias (Focus on the Family Publishing, 1994)



Tracy Klicka is a homeschooling mom of seven children, three of whom have graduated with one married, and four teens still at home. She is also the widow of Christopher J. Klicka, who was an international pioneer in the homeschool movement and senior counsel for the HSLDA for over twenty-four years. She is a featured speaker at the NCHE Annual Conference this year. Her website is www.tracyklicka.com.

MY ADVICE TO SINGLE HOMESCHOOLING PARENTS: PRESS ON!



by Delnora Williams

Sometimes in life things get thrown at you, and they knock the wind out of you. As you find yourself on the ground, surrounded by circumstances that never should have happened, you find it easy to question your decisions and limit your life to the manageable and safe. And when that disaster involves the loss of a spouse, the first thing some jettison is homeschooling. But press on.

Many years ago a Jewish rabbi, Paul, wrote to encourage a struggling congregation in Greece. The Corinthians had begun to let go of their belief in the resurrection of the dead. They were losing their grip on the ultimate reality that should have been driving their daily lives. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, they had a hope that they too would be raised from the dead, imperishable, the mortal putting on immortality. Death swallowed up in victory. This hope, this eternal reality, enabled Paul to fight with wild beasts at Ephesus, to persevere through shipwreck and stonings. (Even bad homeschool days aren't this rough.) And it was this same expectation that would see the believers in Corinth through their difficulties.

Paul wrote "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, (in light of eternal realities) stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Cor 15:57-58)

I memorized this verse in high school, and it came back to me as a young mother of five. Over fifteen years

ago, when the youngest was three months and the oldest nine, I began the journey as a single parent. We had fled an abusive situation, came all the way across the country and started over without the involvement or support of my children's father. God's grace was tangible—provision for my family, a supportive community and His presence with us. But it was not easy. Concerned family and friends assumed I would go to work and put my children in the state schools. But that was not what the Lord was telling me. We were to continue homeschooling. At the time it looked impossible, and it was. But fifteen years later, I have one college graduate, two college students and two teens still being homeschooled. All of them are passionate about their faith and are pursuing the vision for the future that God has given them. And we can do no less. Keep your eyes on the prize.

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord." But what is the "work of the Lord" when we talk about single parent homeschooling? Perhaps a better question is what is "the work of the Lord" in regards to my children? What is God's heart for them and how do I participate with Him in their lives? I'd like to offer four suggestions.

First, be in His presence. You were made to be in relationship with the Living God. Before you are a parent, a friend, an employee or business person, if you know Jesus, you are a child of God. Every thing you do and every relationship you have flows from this one relationship. It is your identity. It is the only identity that does not change

or alter. He is your Source, your Lover, your Hope and your Life. Spend time with Him, in His word the Bible, in prayer, in worship, in stillness. You can't know how to direct or nurture your child fully unless God tells you. You won't hear His voice unless you practice listening. Do you need help? Be in His presence. Are you discouraged? He is the great encourager. Are you tired? He is your strength. Are you confused? He is your wisdom. Are you stressed? He is your peace. Be in His presence.

Second, be in the moment. How can you possibly "give yourself fully to the work of the Lord" if you are not fully there? My family will never forget the time Annalise, my then sixteen-year-old, called home to tell me that she had been in a car accident. She was fine; she assured me. So, I did what any non-engaged parent would and kept working. It wasn't until I mentioned it on the phone to her older sister, who responded with the classic "Mom!" that I realized I was in the wrong place. In that moment, I belonged with Annalise. Are you working math problems? Work math problems. Are you playing soccer with your children? Pay attention to the game. Are you doing the dishes together? Know what's going on around you. Whether or not you are able to enjoy your children says volumes. What did they say that was funny? What concerns them? What problem needs immediate attention? "Give yourself fully to the work of the Lord" The most important work you will do for the Lord right now is to raise your children. Be engaged and don't miss the moment. Is your son or daughter talking to you? Listen!

Next, be wise. Part of giving yourself fully to the work

of the Lord is doing those things that will enable you to continue. Your car will not go very far for very long without gas, oil changes, proper tires and maintenance. If you want to go somewhere in your car, you have to take care of it. And to "give yourself fully to the work of the Lord" you have to get enough sleep, exercise and healthy food. There is nothing noble or spiritual about running yourself into the ground. "You are not your own. You have been bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your bodies." This admonition applies to a lot more areas than you may think. And be careful with whom you spend time. Surround yourself with like-minded people who will be supportive of what God has called you to do and who will encourage you. Guard who your children spend their time with—and that includes the Internet and television. Point them to Jesus—all day long.

Fourthly, be generous. "Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord." I don't care how little you have to live on or how tough it is, you can't afford not to give. So often people make the mistake of thinking that generosity is about money—how much you have or don't have. Being generous and tithing is about faith. It's making a statement that God is your provider, and He will not let you down. It's reminding yourself and your children that you don't walk in fear and that God is sovereign. One December, early in our single-parent adventure, I found myself \$2,000 short of what I would need just for basic expenses to finish the year. This was an exorbitant amount for us when every dollar mattered, but the Lord assured me that He would provide. My response was to tithe on



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the \$2000 immediately, even before God gave it. I would trust Him. Needless to say, by the end of the month God provided the money. He is always true to Himself. So give when God says to, regularly and extravagantly. Be generous and prove the faithfulness of God.

Finally, do you really know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord? If you do, you'll not waste time second guessing, regretting or vacillating. Webster's defines "vain" as *having no real value or significance; worthless, empty, idle, hollow. Without force or effect; futile, fruitless, unprofitable.*

Key is the phrase "in the Lord." John 15:9 says that Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. He who abides in Him and in whom Jesus abides bears much fruit; for without Him we can do nothing. When we labor by the power of the Holy Spirit, God sees to it that fruit is produced. It is the natural result. Our responsibility is to abide. The fruit will come.

Your labor, your homeschooling, has real value and significance. It is not in vain. The training of your children not only prepares them academically, it has eternal consequences. As they choose Christ for themselves,

they choose life. Homeschooling is effective because it changes lives. It allows you to nurture natural gifts and abilities while strengthening weak areas. It bears fruit in your life, the lives of your children and the lives you touch with the love of Jesus. It is not in vain.

Several years ago we had a pool. For eight months of the year, an enormous piece of black plastic protected our pool from frogs, leaves and other debris. By spring the rains would put it under four feet of water. So we pumped off the water, leaving a thick coating of green slime and leaves. My children then labored to get the plastic off the pool without dumping the rubbish into it. One memorable day, it was Josiah and I who wrestled the cover through the little gate and out of the pool area. Our plan was to hose it off once it was clear of the pool. But before we could do that, we had to get rid of the huge pile of rotting leaves on it. Unfortunately, the most effective means of getting them off proved to be just using our hands. The slime clung to us in thick chunks on legs and arms. The smell of decay was strong. Then, just as we were finished laying out the massive plastic in the yard, four young bulls raced by. The neighbor's calves were out.



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Well, what are you going to do? You help get those calves. And before you know it, there you are, covered in slime, chatting casually with the neighbor you only just met. And you wonder, why can't we deal with just one mess at a time? Why do your children get poison ivy all over their face before the grandparents visit? Why do financial problems happen in the midst of emotional disasters? Why do you still homeschool without a spouse? Why do you have to fight beasts in Ephesus while trying to deal with immature believers in Greece? I don't know.

But the value of the pool to my family and the value of the pool to our friends was not in the slime Josiah and I battled, or the cattle that interrupted. The value of the pool was experienced later. We persevered because we had hope that our actions were part of a big picture.

Likewise, don't judge your homeschooling by the slime, the bad days, the difficulties, the failures. And don't think it strange that you press on in multiple arenas. Keep your focus on eternal things. Fight those beasts because you have an eternal hope, a hope that led you to homeschool in the first place—a hope that will see you through to the end.

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."



Delnora Williams is the single homeschooling mother of five children, ages fifteen to twenty-five and founder of Kairos Equipping. A graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle, she has taught high school classes to homeschooled teens, administered the Woodcock-Johnson test of achievement and worked with youth in her community for over thirteen years. For the past three years, she has regularly hosted worship, study and prayer weekends in her home for teens and young adults to experience the love of the Father, the richness of the Word of God and the freedom available in Christ.

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INSTRUCTION

by Aaron Belz

Kid, look. Life is full of shiitake mushrooms, portabella, white button, etc.—great—but they grow together with webcap and varieties of *amanita* and *tricholoma* whose amatoxins will sicken you or worse: lead to loss of breath, of limb, cause vomiting or even death.

And while I value your freedom to roam and pluck and gnaw and figure all this out the way I did (entirely on my own), wait a sec. Sit. Memorize the mushroom chart for not only your health but your heart.

You won't remember it, I know. You'll go and lose your breath, maybe your life or worse: your career, credibility, wife.

There are dangerous fungi out in the wood easily mistaken for tasty and good, no way to avoid it. It'll poison your heart.

But it's best to learn morels before you start.

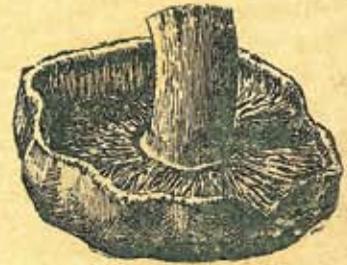


FIG. 26. A FLOCK-DISEASED MUSHROOM.



FIG. 25. MUSHROOM AFFECTED WITH BLACK SPOT.

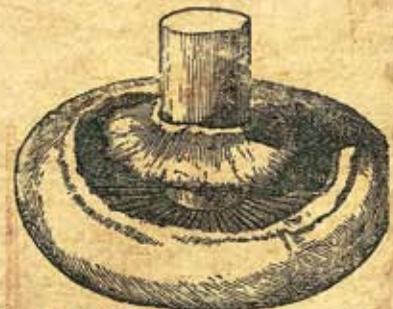


FIG. 24. A PERFECT MUSHROOM.



Aaron Belz lives in Hillsborough, NC, and teaches at Durham Technical Community College. He's published two books of poetry, *The Bird Hoverer* (BlazeVOX, 2007) and *Lovely Raspberry* (Persea, 2010), and has a third forthcoming, *Glitter Bomb* (Persea, 2014). For more information, visit <http://belz.net>.

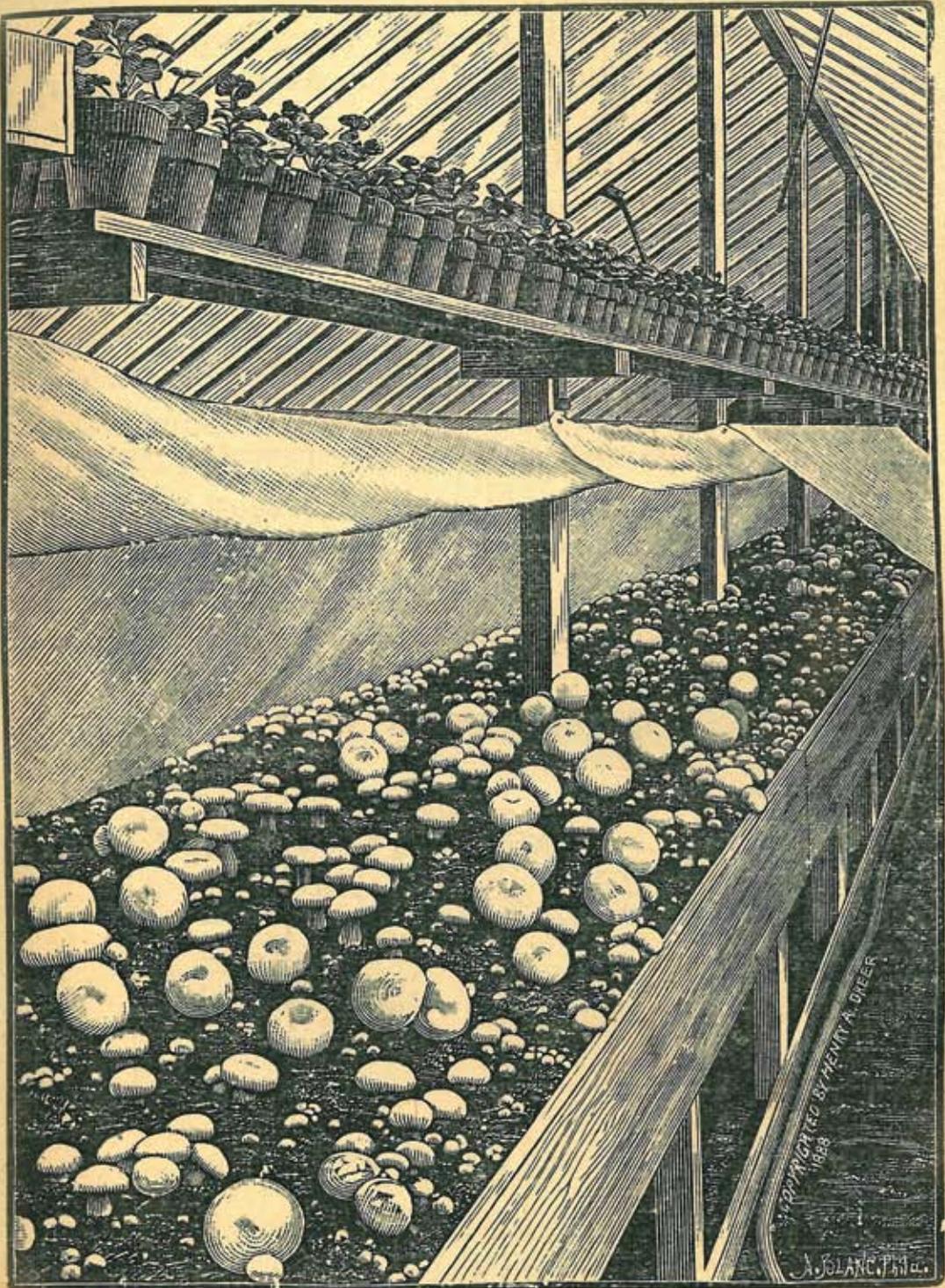


FIG. 12. MUSHROOMS GROWN ON GREENHOUSE BENCHES AT MR. J. E. KINGSLEY'S MODEL FARM.

MUSHROOMS: HOW TO GROW THEM. A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON MUSHROOM CULTURE FOR PROFIT AND PLEASURE, BY WILLIAM FALCONER, 1892.



COPING WITH THE UNTHINKABLE

We've been a homeschool family for over seventeen years, and one of our four children became a drug addict. Shocking, isn't it? We certainly experienced shock. Your mind is probably anxious to know the reason, so you will be able to protect your own children from such a fate. We wish we could give you one.

Our family can be described as a conservative Christian home with no serious issues. We have tried to be faithful to the Lord, to our marriage, to our children and to our church.

We have tried to be reasonable in child discipline. We have established routines and close relationships. We have boundaries for our children to keep them safe. There were admittedly times when we were too harsh and times when we were too lenient. We've made plenty of mistakes. For a long while, we thought that there must have been some invisible line that we crossed in our parenting that led this child to reject everything that he had been taught.

Our son has shown patterns of behavior since he was young that caused us concern. He craved sugar and adrenalin rushes. He always wanted instant gratification. These are characteristics of an addictive personality. His adventure with drugs evidently began while he attended a Christian school for one year. As homeschoolers, some may be quick to assume that the school was the cause of our tragedy, but we think his getting involved with drugs was only a matter of time. The school was not the problem. The problem was inside our son.

Over the course of several years, we tried professional counseling, psychiatric visits, prescription medicines and diet changes in order to help him. Drug rehab programs would not accept him because he was not ready to admit he had a problem. Our attempts to control revealed him to be a master at deception. Our attempts to help revealed him to be a master at manipulation. Nothing we did seemed to make any difference. Drugs were his answer to all life's problems. It was like a conversion in the wrong direction. He totally lost interest in family activities and became like a stranger in our home.

This child, who no longer lives with us, is now a young adult with no high school diploma, working a low wage job, and sharing life with other likeminded individuals. His addiction to drugs, alcohol and tobacco seem to be enough to fulfill his life. He does not see any reality in God.

We maintain open lines of communication with him but give him no financial help. Our teaching responsibilities to him are over. We are letting the natural consequences of his own choices teach him. We have detached with love, which is a hard thing to do. We are thankful for the help the Lord has given us through other people: some from our church and some from a weekly support group called Nar-Anon. (These groups can be found on the Internet and are for those who have an addicted loved one.) We have other children who need us to continue to be functioning parents to them, so we must constantly fight the discouragement that this trial brings on us.

There are two books that have been immensely useful in helping us understand the nature of what we are dealing with: *Addict in the Family* by Beverly Conyers and *Setting Boundaries with Your Adult Children* by Allison Bottke. Both of these authors have had children with addictions and their gained wisdom has been invaluable. We have learned that although we love him dearly, we cannot fix our son. He will have to submit himself to God when he is ready to change. Thankfully, we know a Savior who is mighty to save and will be right there, if (and we trust, when) our son is ready to surrender.

Through all of this misery there have been some positives. We are learning to be less judgmental and more compassionate, less controlling and more accepting. We pray a lot more. We are learning to trust that our God is big enough even for this. We have always hoped that this son would be a gospel preacher one day. We are still praying that he will.

The author prefers to remain anonymous.



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TWO HOMESCHOOL STYLES:

THE SAME HOMESCHOOL BENEFITS



by Judi English

I am blessed to be raising a family of second-generation homeschoolers. My husband, Paul, was homeschooled as a missionary kid growing up in Korea and loved it, so we knew before we got married that we would homeschool our children.

I want to clarify from the beginning that I am a lifestyle homeschooler. For us, the choice to homeschool our children ultimately comes down to believing that it is the way we can best obey God's command to teach our children to know Him and His world. This is not to say that every family must reach the same conclusion. It is simply to say that we have a long-term personal commitment to homeschooling and see it as far more than simply another educational option. I am sharing my thoughts with you today because I love homeschooling; I see so many benefits from it, and I want to encourage those who want to homeschool to help them succeed.

The way Paul and I are homeschooling our children is very different from the way Paul was homeschooled, but I want to tell you more about both families to show you how some of the biggest benefits of homeschooling carry across no matter what your style is.

The first family I will refer to as "Paul and his brothers." There were four of them, born in less than four years. Paul is the oldest. They began homeschooling when they were in second through fifth grade, and their mother is an extremely well-organized, logical, math-teacher sort of person.

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The second family I will refer to as “our children.” There are nine of them, born about every two years. Our oldest is twenty-two, and our youngest is six. We have always homeschooled them, and the mother in this family is not highly organized, or necessarily very logical and definitely not a math-teacher type.

There are many different styles of homeschools; this is one of the beauties of homeschooling. We can step out of the box of “what education has to look like” and tailor our children’s education to their needs.

Paul and his brothers were very much in what we often call a *school-at-home* setting. Homeschooling was barely even heard of in 1975 when they started, so Paul’s mom took the textbooks used by the missionary school in Korea, divided each book into 180 assignments, and that was what the boys studied. Their school began each morning at 8:30 and ended at lunch time, which was generally plenty of time for them to finish their work.

Our children, on the other hand, are growing up in what I call a *relaxed homeschool*. We do have textbooks, although they are from a wide variety of places, some of them unconventional. We do keep grades and make transcripts for our high school students. We are always working at improving our productivity and organization. But academics happen at all different hours of the day or evening, and we’ve been known to take two years instead of one to finish textbooks. Our younger children are often behind in math for a few years while their unusual curriculum runs its course (thankfully, they’ve all caught up just fine when they reach high school). For our younger kids, reading biographies or good historical

fiction makes up most of their history curriculum. Reading magazines like *Nature Friend* or *Creation* is their science curriculum until they reach high school.

However, both families have experienced some of the great benefits of the homeschooling lifestyle in spite of the surface differences between them. Here are some of those benefits:

First and best of all, homeschooling provides greater opportunity to share with your children your love for the Lord. Paul’s parents are incredibly blessed to see not only their four sons living for the Lord but also their eighteen grandchildren, who are all homeschooled, and to see their great-granddaughters being raised by godly parents. Our children’s spiritual growth and their love for the Lord is exciting and gratifying, and we are thankful for the time we have to teach them, pray with them and encourage them in their love and obedience.

Secondly, homeschooling provides the opportunity for your family to grow close and be able to do things together. Paul and his brothers helped build their home in Korea after their house burned down. Our children were able to help build our home about seven years ago. Both our families love reading aloud together and have shared many wonderful books as families. Paul and his brothers are all capable in the kitchen, which is great at Thanksgiving. Our children, too, love cooking and baking, and we spend many hours together in the kitchen. Paul’s current job is delivering bread, and he employs each of our children on a different day to work with him, cutting down considerably on his hours, providing great work and life experience for our children and best of all, giving him the opportunity to spend hours with them each week.

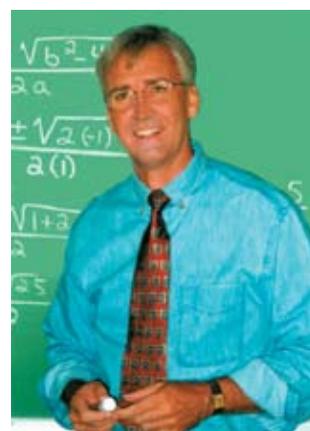
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Third, homeschooling provides the flexibility to work with each child's strengths and weaknesses. Paul's youngest brother was a late bloomer who struggled with school and reading well into high school. Although his mother was very structured in her homeschooling, she also had the wisdom and flexibility to work with Bill at his own pace, which eventually paid off. One of our children has struggled all his life with what we eventually discovered to be mercury toxicity and related health problems. This manifested itself in major behavior issues and symptoms that looked almost autistic. Many of these things we did not understand until the last two or three years, but what we did know was that Elijah needed to move along at his own pace with much patience and understanding. Thankfully for him, too, most of these struggles are now in the past.

Paul had the freedom in high school to spend hours putting together a newspaper that chronicled the summers the missionary families spent together on a mountain in Korea. One of our children spent hours and hours writing novels in high school, sent one off to Tate Publishing almost on a whim and received a contract for the book when he was seventeen.

Fourth, homeschooling works academically, in spite of our imperfections. If you wonder whether your child will be able to compete in college or the work world if he is homeschooled, I assure you that homeschooling does not have to be done perfectly to bring about amazing results academically. Paul's brother Bill, who struggled for so many years and declared he would never go to college if it meant writing, loves writing and

ended up getting his master's degree in film, writing scripts, poetry and essays. Paul and his brothers all did well in college and all are independently employed.

Our oldest child was a fine student in high school but not outstanding, and I felt that he had plenty of gaps in his education when he graduated. Now he has graduated with honors from Covenant College in Georgia.

Our second son, the author, is in his second year of Medieval Studies at the University of Wales in the United Kingdom, and last year he had second and third year students asking for help writing essays. His education was also one that I felt was lacking in many ways, with gaps and weaknesses, but he also is doing great in the college world.

So these families who look so different at first are both examples of the multiple blessings of a lifestyle of homeschooling, of seeing all of life as an opportunity to learn, to grow and to draw closer to our Creator and of serving Him together with our children. The benefits I mentioned here: more time to share our love for the Lord, family closeness, tailoring homeschool to our children's strengths and weaknesses and academic success are some of the wonderful reasons I am a homeschooling mom.



Judi English and her husband, Paul, have been married for twenty-five years and have lived in Concord since 1994. They share the position of president of the Cabarrus County Home School Association.

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Benefits of Participating in a Nursing Home Ministry

by Christina Parker Brown

Although we live in a society that honors youth, it is God's command to honor the elderly. Often older people are seen as burdens instead of blessings. It is important to realize that these men and women are someone's sisters, brothers, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters.

Over the last eleven years in our own nursing home ministry, we have not seen many visitors (at least during the week). Some residents may not even have family living in the same state. Sometimes the only touch residents receive is when they are given meds or helped medically. Most health care workers are just too busy. Volunteers make a valuable contribution in this area. My girls have been hugging and touching elderly people since they were small. There is a healing power in touch.

But this wasn't always the case.

At the nursing home where my firstborn and I visited my grandmother, there was a wheelchair-bound lady who would often scream at the top of her lungs. Being distressed, sometimes she would scream angrily, but other times she would yell for help. The screaming seemed constant, and the nurses appeared to ignore her for the most part. It was very sad to witness. My four-year-old would be frozen in terror as this woman would shriek at her before I could intervene. She would have nightmares and would beg not to visit her great-grandmother.

I talked to my daughter about her fear of this woman. I explained to her that the woman was scared and lonely. I suggested to my daughter that she draw a picture for this woman. I explained that the lady may scream at her and

even went over some possible scenarios of what might happen when she gave her the picture. I wasn't sure what would happen. The woman was so touched; she accepted it gratefully, almost surprised that anyone would give her attention. She stopped yelling, for the moment, anyway. My daughter's nightmares stopped. I will never forget the look on my daughter's face when she made a difference in that lady's life. Her fear was gone. It was compassion that had made the difference. This experience was the inspiration for my wanting to start some kind of ministry that we, as homeschoolers, could do in our own area.

Why take the time to spend with the elderly? As a normal homeschool family, we have way too many things on our plate as it is. However, we have found, by consequence, several ways our nursing home ministry has benefited our lives and has become a part of our lives.

Benefits of a Nursing Home Ministry

1. My children and I are learning from an older generation. Both my parents and grandparents have passed away. Time we spend with these sweet friends is precious and in some ways I adopt them as my elderly parents. A nursing home ministry allows you to meet all kinds of different people. God makes beautiful people.
"The oldest trees often bear the sweetest fruit." German Proverb
2. Volunteering has taught us just how important it is to be needed. Once, on our routine scouting through the home to find participants for our activity that month, I came



across a lady who was uncomfortably slumped, dozing in her wheelchair. I gently woke her and asked her if she would like to join us. With a soft dejected voice, tears in her eyes and dramatic hand gestures, she replied exasperated, "I just need to do something!" She was well cared for, but she was bored beyond what I can imagine. She felt useless. How hopeless life

would be to feel useless. Many people in nursing homes just need to feel loved and needed. The gift of your time is a bright spot for them.

"No matter what age you are, or what your circumstances might be, you are special, and you still have something unique to offer. Your life, because of who you are, has meaning."
Barbara de Angelis

3. Encouraging these men and women has proven valuable to me and my girls by stretching us out of our comfort zones. It has caused us to grow. Some residents are lonely or depressed. We compliment them, hug them and get on their eye level and talk to them. Volunteering your time helps you to see your own life from a different perspective. Things that may have been bothering me when I walk into the nursing

home do not seem quite as important when I walk out. We are blessed as we bless others.

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

4. In volunteering through this ministry, our kids are learning what real honor and respect for the elderly looks like. It is different than just telling them about honor or reading a Bible verse. The learning comes through the doing. I learn, too.

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." Romans 12:9-10

"You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the Lord." Leviticus 19:32

5. Visiting and honoring the elderly is something God has asked us to do. It is teaching not only my children but me to be obedient.

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." James 1:27

6. Loving people with our time is teaching all of us how to love unconditionally. Loving another human being for no other reason than to love them is a selfless act. When your children witness your unconditional love and see what it can do for people, they develop this gift of loving unconditionally as well.

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"Time is the most precious gift one can give. Each moment is unique because it will never happen again...the gift of your time spent with others is the ultimate display of unconditional love." Robert W. Merriweather

7. Kids learn to interact not only with peers but also with people of all ages, backgrounds, and history. This is truly an experience and one we would not get if we did not participate in this ministry. One misunderstood aspect of homeschooling is that homeschoolers are not well socialized. Addressing that criticism could be another article entirely, but I would like to mention that socialization does not occur in a room full of peers. True socialization is relating to many people in society. And in a changing society, relating well to the older generation will be needed more and more. When you consider the number of baby boomers, you can see why.

According to the US Census Bureau, "The US population age 65 and over is expected to double in size within the next 25 years. By 2030, almost 1-out-of-5 Americans—some 72 million people—will be 65 years or older. The age group 85 and older is now the fastest growing segment of the U.S.

population."

8. Learning to share the love of Jesus Christ with the elderly (or anyone) is a valuable skill. Praying with residents is a powerful gift that is both given and received. This past year, one lady I met was upset about being in the nursing home. She was brand new, on oxygen and clearly distressed and confused. She felt abandoned. My children and I prayed over her right then and a peace washed over her. She stopped visibly fretting. I felt this peace, too, and so did another family that prayed with us. The following week, she died. I will never forget that.

"Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3:18

When you look deep into the eyes of an elderly person, you are looking into the window of your own soul. You are looking at yourself. We pass nursing homes and don't even glance their way. I hope I am not forgotten too.

"Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant with the weak and the wrong. Sometime in your life you will have been all of these." Dr. Robert H. Goddard

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How to Start a Nursing Home Ministry

Begin interacting at a facility where you know a resident, family or friend. Or if you are interested in starting your own ministry, below are some ideas to get you started.

First, know that anyone can do this.

Second, trust that this ministry will greatly enrich your lives in more ways than I could put in words.

And third, never doubt that the power of one can change the world, or specifically, someone's world.

Knowing some things ahead would have made our journey a little easier, so I offer these ideas as an encouragement to you.

1. Small nursing homes are easier to navigate than larger ones and usually do not have the resources that larger ones do. The assisted living place where we volunteer is small. Larger nursing homes may require background checks, etc., however, I do not think working through those requirements would be difficult.



2. The activity director is your friend. Activity directors are always looking for things to put on the agenda. They welcome suggestions and love all that we do for the residents.

3. The activity director wants something that is of value to the program. I met a gal who was trying to be a part of what a nursing home offered the residents and was told many times that her kids were too young to help in their ice cream shop, etc. Find ideas that will benefit the home. Start with a consistent time, once a month, bi-monthly or weekly. Many activity directors make schedules, and it is good to get on their schedule so they do not plan

something else during your time and so they can get the residents ready for your visit.

4. Most of the activities we do would work perfectly with pre-school children. They are easy, do not require a lot of time and are inexpensive. Some residents will put things in their mouths or take things back to their rooms so you need to be aware of this. (We did a bead craft once and a resident thought it was candy.)

5. It helps to get another family to volunteer with you. It helps you be consistent. They share the burden of having to come up with ideas, and it makes it more fun.

6. Relationships, relationships, relationships—they will be so rich. The more you visit and get to know the people, the more you will fall in love with them. Ask questions and learn about them, where they came from, their family, favorite colors, etc. You will be surprised at what you learn. We have met women who served in the military in WWII, men who flew in fighter jets and beautiful Sunday school teachers. These are precious lives with precious stories. Ask!

7. Death happens. Just when you and your children have fallen in love, it often happens. We have grieved over losing a relationship many times. It does get easier over time but is a difficult transition for children. Death is a part of life. I truly believe it is healthy for children to experience this. Talk to your kids about this aspect before beginning your ministry.

8. It really is amazing what music can do. Use music whenever possible, especially popular or religious songs from their era. Most nursing homes have collections that you can play. Ask! One resident sang the same song over and over during the course of the year. "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" will never be the same for me. Sometimes the residents who appear to not have any mental activity will come alive with music.

Here are some ideas we have used with our residents:

Activities

- Put on a puppet show. (This was so successful, another nursing home close by asked if we could come and do it for their residents).
- Conduct a chair exercise class with kid songs. (Think “Head Shoulders Knees and Toes” or “The Hokey Pokey”)
- Do manicures and pedicures. The touch is healing.
- Do a Christmas Nativity with kids dressed as Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds and wise men. The children just stood there looking cute as Christmas music played.
- Sing Christmas carols.
- Do skits of various types.
- Make Thanksgiving trees with resident’s pictures on branches. Another time we pressed their finger prints to decorate a Thanksgiving tree.
- Play with a parachute where the participants all hold part of the parachute. You can also toss a beach ball on it.
- Participate in a Veteran’s Day celebration.
- Play music of the 30s and 40s and dance.
- Play dress-up. They loved this, hats and all!
- Play ball with a beach ball or balloons.
- Have an ice-cream party with all the toppings. (Offer sugar free for any diabetics. Ask the activity director.)
- Decorate cookies.
- Look at shell collections, coin collections or other collections.
- Create an interview of all kinds of questions: favorite color, what they would like to be remembered by, favorite food, things they love, memories of children, where they worked, etc. Write answers and make a keepsake for their family.
- Carve a pumpkin with the residents. The room smelled like pumpkin. It was wonderful.



Crafts. Remember to think pre-school

- Play-doh, make your own or bring store bought.
- Color.
- Cut out snowflakes and hang them in the activity room to make it a winter wonderland.
- Paint. Watercolors are easy.
- Make homemade Christmas/Valentines/Mother’s Day/ Easter cards and give out to residents.
- Make cute things on string to hang on their walkers or doors.
- Make small floral wreaths to hang on their doors.
- Make fall yarn leaves.
- Trace handprints for a hand print heart wreath.
- Make heart shaped doily flowers.
- Make Christmas mosaic cards.
- Make Christmas ornaments.
- Make salvation bracelets and have children explain the Gospel.
- Make pictures with foam cut-outs.
- Create tissue paper flowers or giant flowers for Mother’s Day.
- Make a cross painting.
- Use Enchanted Learning , Pinterest and Family Fun websites for great kids crafts that can be turned into crafts for senior residents.



Games:

- Bingo. Let children call out.
- Preschool puzzles. Wood ones or chunky ones are especially good.
- Relay races. Human tree trimming relay or make some up of your own.
- Cards (Old Maid, UNO, War).



Christina Parker Brown is a homeschooling mother of three. Her writing is inspired from her faith in Jesus, being a homeschool mom of eleven years and authentically embracing an imperfect life. Her passion is to encourage others. Most often you can find her yard saling, reading or writing about her faith, family and adventures in North Carolina on www.akahomeschoolmom.com.

SURVEYING THE SITES by Lorie Codispoti

Not everyone has the time to scavenge around the Internet to find informative, fun, and educational websites for their family to enjoy. That's why we offer this column. By dividing it into four sections, we work towards our goal—to provide something for everyone. We hope that you will enjoy what we've mined for you this month.

Articles of Interest

Curriculum Shopping by Maribeth Spangenberg
homeschoolenrichment.com/articles/view/curriculum-shopping

"As I approached the display of 'goodies,' and wanting to hide my enthusiasm so as not to appear childish, I took on a casual gait as I strolled halfway down one side of the table." (MS)

"A Reward Worth the Pain" by Timothy Palla
homeschoolenrichment.com/articles/view/a-reward-worth-the-pain

"People value those things which require the most personal sacrifice and endurance. Suffer through something and you communicate to others that it is worth the pain and agony to have it. Discard or leave something when times get tough, and you communicate that it held little value to you." (TP)

Teacher Feature

We Give Books
www.wegivebooks.org

Parents, promote literacy by instilling and combining a lifelong love for reading with a lifelong love for giving. This free website will assist you in meeting that goal; the

more books your children read the more they are able to give books to those in need. It's a win-win project for everyone.

American Heritage Education Foundation
www.americanheritage.org/k-12_lessons.html

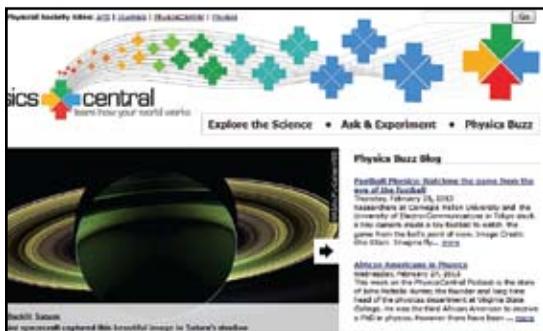
Looking for something that will provide the factual and philosophical significance and meaning behind events, causes and effects of early U.S. History? AHEF writes, produces, and distributes free K-12 lesson plans in order to accomplish their patriotic mission. You won't want to miss the offering of this foundation.



It's Elementary

Art Is Fun
www.art-is-fun.com/

Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned aficionado you will enjoy this colorful website. Articles and tutorials will fuel your passion for self-expression as you read, learn, and practice the beauty of art through painting and drawing.



Physics Quest

www.physicscentral.com

Super heroes help to solve physics problems with these story-based comic books and coloring books designed to get kids interested in the science of how their world works.

High School and Beyond

Kahn Academy

www.khanacademy.org/about

Whether you're in grade school or beyond you will find that this free, self-paced learning tool is a great resource. Providing a series of tutorials, Kahn Academy offers an interactive, real time, dynamic system for helping each of their students. Once students create a custom profile their success can be tracked, measured and rewarded.

The Fumbletons

www.thefumbletons.com

This archive of creative and entertaining videos puts the fun in learning those boring how-to tasks every household begrudgingly pursues. Enjoy family friendly humor as the awkward and quirky Fumbletons try, but just can't seem to get anything right. In the end, however, you will learn how to boil eggs, clean shower doors, save money, and much more.

Note: Ideas and opinions expressed on the websites in this column are not necessarily those of the author or NCHE.



Lorie Codispoti is retired from homeschooling after successfully graduating her two children. She and her husband, John, are former NCHE board members. Lorie can be reached at GatesOfElloree@gmail.com.



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2013 NCHE Athletic Commission Holds SECOND ANNUAL STATE SWIM MEET

by Ernie Hodges

On February 9, NCHE Athletic Commission (NCHEAC) sponsored the second annual state swim meet with fifty-two swimmers representing teams in Asheville, Clinton and Raleigh, along with seven independent swimmers from various areas of the state. Both the boy's and girl's championships were won by the Raleigh Seahawks.

The meet was conducted under National Federation of High School Rules, and the meet officials were NC Swim Certified Officials. NCHEAC has initiated plans to secure NC Swim sanctioning for the annual meet in 2014. For complete results, go to www.ncheac.com.

Swim Meet Results - Codes for teams: **A**-Asheville Trailblazers; **C**-Clinton Barracudas; **R**-Raleigh Seahawks, **U**-Unattached

Boys 200 Yard Medley Relay

1. Raleigh Seahawks A Relay
Basden, Will
Hager, Johnathan
Hargett, David
Finneran, Sean
2. Clinton Barracudas A Relay
Bradshaw, Joel
Linton, Alec
Johnson, Joseph
Bradley, Eli
3. Raleigh Seahawks B Relay
Martin, Alec
Walker, Stephen
Hargett, Joel
Martin, Chandler

Boys 200 Yard Freestyle

- 1 Key, Zachary**U**
- 2 Moretz, Drake.....**A**
- 3 Hargett, Joel.....**R**

Boys 200 Yard IM

- 1 Hager, Johnathan**R**
- 2 Loew, Harry**A**
- 3 Martin, Alec**R**

Boys 50 Yard Freestyle

- 1 Hargett, David.....**R**
- 2 Finneran, Sean**R**
- 3 Mills, Peter.....**U**

Boys 100 Yard Butterfly

- 1 Williams, Michael.....**A**
- 2 Basden, Will**R**
- 3 Hargett, Joel.....**R**

Boys 100 Yard Freestyle

- 1 Key, Zachary.....**U**
- 2 Hargett, David.....**R**
- 3 Mills, Peter.....**U**

Boys 500 Yard Freestyle

- 1 Williams, Michael.....**A**
- 2 Pashby, Jack**R**
- 3 Pashby, Bill.....**R**

Boys 100 Yard Backstroke

- 1 Basden, Will**R**
- 2 Moretz, Drake.....**A**
- 3 Johnson, Joseph.....**C**

Boys 100 Yard Breaststroke

- 1 Hager, Johnathan**R**
- 2 Linton, Alec.....**C**
- 3 Schnoor, Aaron.....**R**

Boys 200 Yard Freestyle Relay

- 1 Raleigh Seahawks A Relay
Basden, Will
Hager, Johnathan
Hargett, David
Finneran, Sean
- 2 Raleigh Seahawks B Relay
Pashby, Bill
Finneran, Torin
Schnoor, Aaron
Pashby, Jack

Boys 400 Yard Freestyle Relay

- 1 Raleigh Seahawks A Relay
Hargett, Joel
Pashby, Bill
Walker, Stephen
Pashby, Jack
- 2 Raleigh Seahawks B Relay
Martin, Alec
Schnoor, Aaron
Finneran, Torin
Martin, Chandler

Girls 200 Yard Medley Relay

- 1 Asheville Trailblazers A Relay
Moretz, Indya
Aiello, Claudia
Wallace, Ariel
Payne, Meredith
- 2 Raleigh Seahawks A Relay
Schnoor, Laura
Fernandez, Lili
Hager, Samantha
Finneran, Rachel
- 3 Raleigh Seahawks B Relay
Jacob, Rachel
Gordon, Christa
Hager, Ariel
Jacob, Hannah

Girls 200 Yard Freestyle

- 1 Dodson, EmmaR
- 2 Payne, MeredithA
- 3 Finneran, TrissaR

Girls 200 Yard IM

- 1 Schnoor, LauraR
- 2 Johnson, ElizabethC
- 3 Wallace, RachelA

Girls 50 Yard Freestyle

- 1 Clark, Anna GraceR
- 2 Finneran, RachelR
- 3 Payne, MeredithA

Girls 100 Yard Butterfly

- 1 Wallace, ArielA
- 2 Moretz, IndyaA
- 3 Fernandez, LiliR

Girls 100 Yard Freestyle

- 1 Wallace, ArielA
- 2 Clark, Anna GraceR
- 3 Finneran, RachelR

Girls 500 Yard Freestyle

- 1 Dodson, EmmaR
- 2 Hager, ArielR



Girls 100 Yard Backstroke

- 1 Moretz, IndyaR
- 2 Schnoor, LauraR
- 3 Jacob, RachelR

Girls 100 Yard Breaststroke

- 1 Fernandez, LiliR
- 2 Hager, SamanthaR
- 5 Aiello, ClaudiaA

Girls 200 Yard Freestyle Relay

- 1 Raleigh Seahawks A Relay
Dodson, Emma
Clark, Anna Grace
Finneran, Rachel
Fernandez, Lili
- 2 Asheville Trailblazers A Relay
Edwards, Hannah
Wallace, Rachel
Haire, Leah
Wallace, Ariel
- 3 Raleigh Seahawks Relay B
Gordon, Christa
Jacob, Rachel
Pashby, Shannon
Jacob, Hannah

Girls 400 Yard Freestyle Relay

- 1 Raleigh Seahawks A Relay
Dodson, Emma
Hager, Samantha
Schnoor, Laura
Clark, Anna Grace
- 2 Raleigh Seahawks B Relay
Shanton, Kalya
Finneran, Trissa
Shanton, Mariah
Hager, Ariel



Winning team—Raleigh Seahawks



NCHEAC Basketball Champions PLAYED IN FEBRUARY

by Ernie Hodges

The 2013 NCHE Athletic Commission Basketball Championships were played in February. February 15-16 the eastern regional took place in Wake Forest, while the western regional was in Winston-Salem. The top two teams in each division advanced to the state final four at Greensboro College on February 22-23.

The eastern regional final results are:

Middle school girls: 1) Wake Forest, 2) North Wake, 3) Durham, 4) South Wake.

Middle school boys: 1) South Wake, 2) Goldsboro, 3) (tie) North Wake and Wake Forest, 5) Durham, 6) Raleigh.

JV girls: 1) Wake Forest, 2) Goldsboro, 3) Harnett.

JV boys: 1) South Wake, 2) Wake Forest, 3) (tie) Durham and East Wake, 5) Alamance.

Varsity girls: 1) Durham, 2) North Wake, 3) Wake Forest.



Raleigh Hawks—From left to right: Coach Matt Finneran II, Head Coach Matt Finneran, Coach Brandon Green, Joel Hargett, Hunter Ellis, Sean Finneran, Will Basden, Danny Barnette, Reid Blanchard, Jessie Romeo, Chris Barnette, John Stoffregen, Isaac Green



*Cabarrus Stallions—Kneeling left to right: Haley Long, Grace Potter
Standing left to right: Asst. Coach Phil Long, Hope Seager, Storm Lewis, Alayna Long, Karley Long, Anna Messisco, Lindsey Olson, Kara Kiker, Kaitlyn Holm, Head Coach Sherri Holm*

Varsity boys: 1) Raleigh, 2) Durham, 3) (tie) South Wake and Wake Forest, 5) Goldsboro, 6) (tie) Harnett and North Wake.

The western regional final results are:

Middle school boys: 1) Cabarrus, 2) Asheville, 3) Forsyth, 3) High Point.

JV boys: 1) Asheville, 2) Forsyth, 3) High Point, 4) Surry.

Varsity girls: 1) Cabarrus, 2) Surry, 3) Asheville, 4) Greensboro, 5) Hickory, 6) High Point.

Varsity boys: 1) Asheville, 2) Cabarrus, 3) Greensboro, 4) Hickory.

To find information on eastern and western regional all-tournament teams, go to www.ncheac.com and click on *basketball league*.

At the state championship tournament, the Raleigh Hawks claimed the varsity boys division over the Asheville Trailblazers 58-46. They were led in scoring by Sean Finneran with 25 points and Hunter Ellis with

12 points. The varsity girls champions are the Cabarrus Stallions who won the varsity girls division 48-38 over the Durham Flight and were led in scoring by Kaitlyn Holm with 14 points and eleven rebounds, while Lindsey Olson chipped in 11 points.

The division winners are:

Middle school girls: 1) Greensboro, 2) Durham, 3) North Wake, 4) Wake Forest.

Middle school boys: 1) South Wake, 2) Cabarrus, 3) Goldsboro, 4) Asheville.

JV girls: 1) Goldsboro, 2) Wake Forest, 3) Greensboro, 4) forfeit.

JV boys: 1) Asheville, 2) Forsyth, 3) South Wake, 4) Wake Forest.

Varsity girls: 1) Cabarrus, 2) Durham, 3) North Wake, 4) Surry.

Varsity boys: 1) Raleigh, 2) Asheville, 3) Cabarrus, 4) Durham.



© Sarah Hargett

The all-tournament team members are:

Middle school girls: Megan Grant, Greensboro; Ashton Hamlett, Greensboro; Emma Privette, Greensboro; Hannah Geerts, Durham; Tirza Loyd, Durham; Brittany Stone, North Wake; Gabrielle Brown, Wake Forest.

Middle school boys: Mason Mclean, South Wake; Noah Wilson, South Wake; Blake Pierce, South Wake; Raeshawn Sutherland, Cabarrus; Bailey Benham, Cabarrus; Matt Poland, Goldsboro; Samuel Rennard, Asheville.

JV girls: Kaler Hunter, Goldsboro; Rebecca Edmundson, Goldsboro; McKayla Parks, Goldsboro; Sarah Floyd, Wake Forest; Jaeda Jennings, Wake Forest; Tia McCutcheon, Greensboro.

JV boys: Holder Mills, Asheville; Paul Rennard, Asheville; Bryson Buckner, Asheville; Paiden Hutchens, Forsyth; Tyler Cox, Forsyth; Jacob Mauthe, South Wake; Jason Herbert, Wake Forest.

Varsity girls: Kaitlyn Holm, Cabarrus; Linsey Olson, Cabarrus; Grace Potter, Cabarrus; Rebecca Lobach, Durham; Stormi Abnernathy, Durham; Hannah McDonald, North Wake; Jessica Boyd, Surry.

Varsity boys: Sean Finneran, Raleigh; Daniel Barnette, Raleigh; Hunter Ellis, Raleigh; Mark Page, Asheville; Will Rennard, Asheville; Randy Hanson, Cabarrus; Carrson Oakley, Durham.



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Ernie Hodges and his wife, Iris, homeschooled their three children to high school graduation. Ernie serves as advisor on the NCHES board and is the NCHES state director.



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North Carolina Homeschool History

Although home education is the oldest form of education, it was not officially recognized in North Carolina until a Supreme Court decision in 1985 ruled that a homeschool could operate under the existing private school law. Through the efforts of concerned members of North Carolinians for Home Education, a bill was passed in 1988 that specifically named home education as an alternative for complying with compulsory school attendance requirements.

About NCHE

Our purpose is to protect the freedom to educate at home, to provide encouragement and support to families choosing home education for their children and to promote home education as an excellent educational alternative. Since its beginning in 1984, NCHE has grown from a few pioneering families to a statewide association of home educators that promotes home education and supports home educators. NCHE is governed by a working board of directors who volunteer their time and efforts to represent homeschoolers in every part of the state. A non-profit organization, NCHE operates on the basis of biblical principles and living faith. NCHE welcomes members of all races and religions.

NCHE Membership

Membership in NCHE is available to all residents of North Carolina who pledge to uphold the ideals of NCHE and comply with the North Carolina homeschool law. Membership is obtained by donating any amount to NCHE (suggested donation is \$25). The service of NCHE is made possible by the generous and consistent contributions of its supporters. The NCHE ideals are: educational excellence, parental authority and responsibility for education, protection and promotion of the family, diligence in moral and ethical instruction, responsible citizenship, freedom of choice among educational alternatives, and defense of constitutional rights.

Visit Us Online at nche.com

BULLETIN BOARD

NCHE Twenty-Ninth Annual Conference and Book Fair will be May 23-25, 2013, at the M.C. Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem, NC. For all conference information, go to conference.nche.com.

Email addresses wanted. Since NCHE uses email for much of its communication, your email addresses are needed in order for us to stay in touch. Please send an email to nche@nche.com with your name and mailing address. We'll verify our records and send you a response confirming that we now have your email address.

GREENHOUSE Online. GREENHOUSE articles are made freely available online. Users may access a digital version (PDF) of the magazine in its entirety at nche.com. Users may also enjoy a mid-week update every Wednesday as NCHE makes one article from the current volume available in an online readable format at greenhouse.nche.com.

From Our Friends

A Homeschool Prom will be held Friday, May 10, 5:00-11:30 P.M. at the First Baptist Church in Hickory. Advanced tickets are \$45

per person and \$80 per couple. Website for details and tickets is <http://cvhsp.weebly.com/index.html>. For questions call Stacy Gibson at (828) 310-3457.

Homeschool 101: Beginning Basics seminar sponsored by Dayspring Home Educators will be Saturday, June 29, 2013; 8:30 A.M.-12 NOON in the annex of New Horizons Fellowship, Apex. Registration opens at 8:00 A.M. A continental breakfast will be provided plus refreshments. Childcare is not provided. For fees and more information, contact Karen Shinn, skshinn@gmail.com, or visit the website, dayspringhomeeducators.com.

HINTS Book Fair. The HINTS Book Fair will be held July 12-13 at Christ Covenant Church in Matthews, NC (Charlotte area). Hours are 9:30 A.M.-6:00 P.M. Friday, and 9:30 A.M.-3:00 P.M. Saturday. Registration opens half an hour before the book fair. The cost is \$5 per individual or married couple and \$1 per child. Grandparents and newborns are free. For more information, see the website at www.hintsonline.org.

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