

Greenhouse Report

North Carolinians for Home Education

Mar/Apr 2012 • Volume 30, No. 4

Find Your Energy at NCHE (Conference and Book Fair, That Is)

by Kay Bindrim

Where can you find encouragement, fellowship, fun, knowledge, old friends, new friends, laughter, tears, restoration, help, answers and more, all in one place? At NCHE's 2012 Annual Conference and Book Fair. This year's theme is *Energizing Your Homeschool*. I don't know about you, but about this time of year our school and its teacher need a bit of energizing. NCHE's Annual Conference has never failed to renew me in some way. I know that this year will be no exception. How do I know? First of all, I have seen the line up of keynote speakers: Voddie Baucham, Chuck Bentley of Crown Financial Ministries and John Stonestreet of Summit Ministries. Other featured speakers are Carol Barnier, Susan Chrisman and Heidi St. John. These speakers alone could provide enough information and encouragement to spur us on to greater works, but we are providing a wide variety of other speakers who will cover a wide variety of subjects, trusting that the unique need of your heart will be met. There will be sessions just for moms, dads, leaders, teachers of special needs and struggling learners, teachers of preschoolers, those beginning homeschooling and those getting ready to graduate their student(s). No matter where you are on your journey, you will find sessions to encourage your heart and energize your homeschool.

Not only will you leave with your heart full, but your arms may be loaded with goodies as well. You asked and we listened—this year's book fair will be expanded to include some special non-academic products.

Not only will NCHE be providing its usual line up of the finest curriculum vendors in the nation, we will also be adding some special interest vendors this year! Some of the new products offered will be grain products, duct tape weapons, handmade jewelry, and sewing projects.

There's more! These are new features NCHE has lined up for this year's conference:

- A preschooler track with free admission for parents of preschoolers
- A children's conference
- Discounts for family activities around the Winston-Salem area

You will also enjoy the NCHEAC basketball games, teen and alumni activities, a workshop track for homeschool leaders, a struggling learner track, one-on-one mentoring from experienced homeschoolers, and much, much more!

This year's conference offers education, inspiration and more entertainment than ever! The Talent Showcase is always a favorite feature of the conference. In this showcase, NC homeschool students have the opportunity to show us their best—and we are never disappointed. New this year will be entertainment prior to the keynote addresses. The Snyder Family Band will perform on Friday and the Peculiar People will perform on Saturday.

The conference will conclude with the only state-wide homeschool graduation in NC. From the cap and gown procession, inspirational keynote address, to the awarding of diplomas, this is a moving ceremony that celebrates the entire homeschool journey.

The conference is always a highlight of my school year. From all I've heard, I expect this year's conference to be fabulous! I hope to see you there! Register today for THE homeschool conference, produced by THE NC state-wide homeschool

organization (fellow homeschoolers) that has been providing one of the largest and best organized nationally known conferences for the last twenty-eight years! You are sure to leave encouraged, challenged, energized and ready to recommit to the awesome task of homeschooling that you have been faithfully carrying out on a daily basis. Your vision to equip the next generation will have been renewed.

Kay and her husband, Tommy, serve as directors of NCHE region 12, northeastern NC. They also own Testing and Educational Services through which they offer a variety of educational services. Kay can be reached at <http://www.Testingandeducationalservices.com/>.



In This Issue ...

Announcements	4
Spencer's Space	5
Conference Featured Speakers	7
Other Conference Speakers	9
Conference Schedule and Workshop Schedule	12
Important Conference Information ..	14
Our 2012 Special Guest Artists	15
Are You in the Gentle Stream or the Rock Tumbler?	17
How to Teach Your Platypus	21
Scavenging the Sites	23
The Last Note	24





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Why order the TerraNova (1996 with updated 2005 norms) rather than an earlier (1970, 1986 or 1991) test edition?

Publishers develop new tests every few years to keep current with the learning objectives and curricula in use across the country. They construct test questions that demonstrate the students' ability to apply concepts and skills that will reflect achievement. Most homeschools utilize recent curricula, so the newer test edition will more accurately indicate the students' achievement.

To order, mail a check or money order with your name, address, phone number, test type (CB+, SV+, TCS/2) and your test week. Tell us the grade level for each student. Note that you agree to follow all CTB and Bayside instructions.

You can email your order information and pay with PayPal. See our website for details.

Along with your tests, or separately, order our Guidebooks for Elementary (K-5) or Senior (6-12), mailed right away.

Test weeks are not guaranteed, although we rarely miss one! Prices are subject to change. Orders may be revised, but there are no refunds or cancellations.

Important: Do not let affordability determine your test choice! We have limited partial scholarships available. If you need help, write us at the above email or mail addresses.

TerraNova Complete Battery Plus \$55

For Grades K-12, the comprehensive form most schools use

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TCS/2 (Cognitive Skills IQ test) \$60

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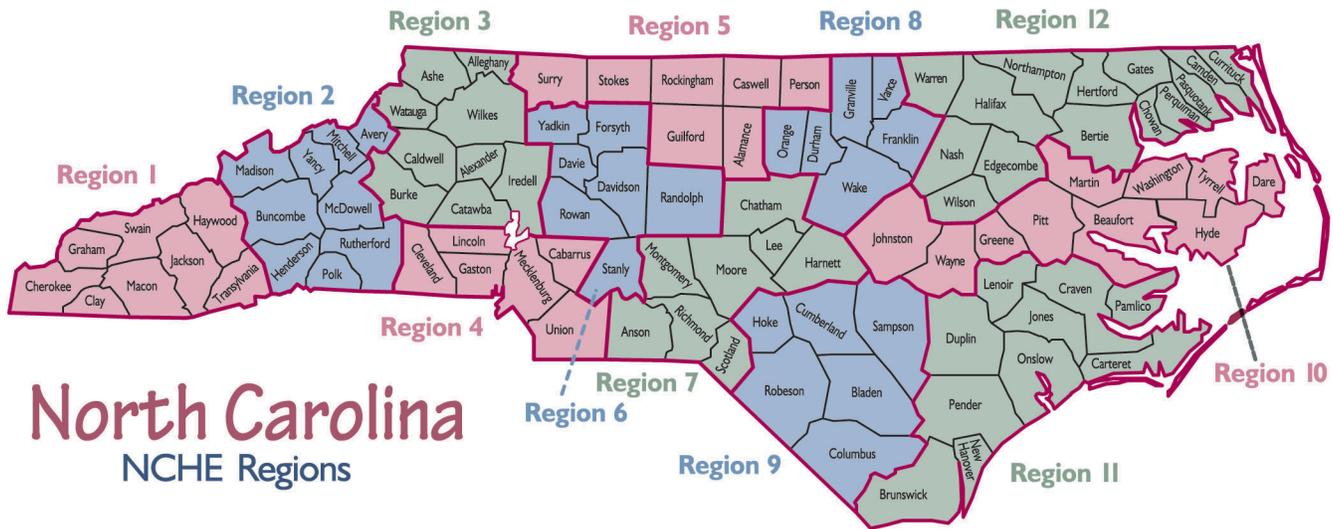
For more details, visit our website; then if you have questions, email (preferred) or call graduated homeschool parents Donny & Sandy Ball. You'll wonder why you ever worried about testing!

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North Carolina
NCHE Regions

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 home school 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.

Greenhouse Report Information

The *Greenhouse Report* is the newsletter of North Carolinians for Home Education. It is published six times a year, bimonthly. A paper copy is mailed to those who subscribe for \$15 per year. It is made available online to all members at the NCHE website <nche.com>. The name *Greenhouse* was chosen to represent the type of care homeschooling parents are able to give to their children. Children are lovingly “tended” in a protected and nurturing environment until they are sufficiently mature to go out and take a place of service in the world. Letters and articles addressed to the *Greenhouse Report* become property of NCHE with full right to publication without further permission required. Ideas and opinions expressed in letters and articles do not necessarily represent those of NCHE.

DEADLINES (Received By)

Issue Date	Letters and Articles	Ads and Announcements
Jan/Feb	Nov 15	Dec 1
Mar/Apr	Jan 15	Feb 1
May/Jun	Mar 15	Apr 1
Jul/Aug	May 15	Jun 1
Sep/Oct	Jul 15	Aug 1
Nov/Dec	Sep 15	Oct 1

Advertising: The publication of advertising in the *Greenhouse Report* in no way expresses or implies endorsement by NCHE of products or services.

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 (recommended donation is \$25). NCHE is supported by the consistent contributions of its members. 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.

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Announcements

Conference Announcements

NCHE Twenty-Eighth Annual Conference and Book Fair will be held May 24-26, 2012, at the M.C. Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem, NC.

Conference information is on the NCHE website <nche.com>.

Conference Registration. Conference registration is online <nche.com>. Early Bird registration ends April 20. Pre-registration ends May 20. At the door registration begins on-site, May 24. All registrations are **non-refundable and non-transferable**. Bring your printed registration confirmation email to the conference. **There will be no confirmations or nametags mailed.** Wristbands will be provided at the registration booths on-site. \$3 replacement fee will be charged for lost wristbands.

Volunteers Needed for Conference. NCHE would like to thank all those who have volunteered in the past at the NCHE Annual Conferences. The conference would not be possible without the help of many volunteers. As a volunteer, you will be rewarded with recordings for hours served and one hour total of book fair shopping just for you (thirty minutes before its opening on Friday and Saturday) and other incentives. To add your name to our VIP list, contact <volunteers@nche.com>. We need about 250 volunteers. See the volunteer jobs needed on the NCHE website. *Note to volunteers: In past years, volunteers were granted an hour of special shopping before the book fair opened on Thursday. That is no longer the case. Now, two hours of exclusive shopping before the book fair opens to the public is reserved for pre-registered full conference attendees.*

Parents of Preschoolers Free Admission Program. We are inviting parents whose children are all under five years of age and who have never attended the NCHE Conference and Book Fair to attend for free this year. Printable mail-in application form and full details are online <nche.com>. Application postmark deadline is April 20.

Children's Conference. We are delighted to offer a children's conference this year for children ages five-twelve hosted by Children's Conferences International. The optional children's conference will be held on-site on Friday and Saturday. Space is limited, so sign up early! Details and registration are online <nche.com>.

Volunteers Needed for Children's Conference. To be able to offer the children's

conference, we need *volunteers* to help. Anyone age thirteen and older may apply to CCI to help serve during the conference! CCI utilizes various online tools to secure a paid background check for any volunteer who has public records and who is eighteen or older. Volunteer online <nche.com>.

Leadership Track. This year we are changing the way we handle our Leadership Track. In order to not take away from the rest of the conference, we are moving the Leadership Track to Thursday 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., before the full conference starts. We have picked three sessions specifically for support group leaders. The Leadership Track will still include a luncheon.

Mentoring at Conference. Experienced homeschool moms and dads will be waiting to answer all of your homeschooling questions. This opportunity is perfect for beginner homeschoolers to get help navigating the book fair before you go in! But mentoring is not only for newbies! Do you have questions about middle school, high school, special needs? Any questions are welcome! Look for the table outside the book fair that will be staffed throughout the weekend with veteran homeschool moms.

Teen and Alumni Activities. For the fifth consecutive year NCHE has planned activities to encourage friendships among young people from different parts of the state. On Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. (earlier time) we will have a cotillion-style dance class for ages 12 and up. Our teacher's teaching style will put students at ease regardless of their ability, and teens are encouraged to dance with many partners. The dress for these dances is modest casual (what you wear to the conference). On Friday night, a games social will be held from the closing of the talent show until 11:30 P.M. Again this year the alumni coffee social will be held on Thursday night after the dance, at 9:45. Full conference registration is required for all activities.

NCHE Talent Showcase. The Annual Talent Showcase will be held at the NCHE conference at 7:45 on Friday evening. To audition, students must submit a 2012 Talent Showcase registration form and a DVD of the presentation to be performed while wearing the actual clothing that will be worn at the performance. Each presentation will be limited to four minutes. Audition submissions must be postmarked by April 8. Entry forms are available from the NCHE website.

State Homeschool All-Star Games will be hosted by the NCHE Athletic Conference

(NCHEAC) on May 25 at Piedmont Baptist College. We will have girls and boys varsity basketball all-star games and a girls varsity volleyball all-star game. We welcome you to attend the games. The girls volleyball game is 3:00 P.M.; the girls basketball game is 5:30 P.M.; the boys basketball game is 7:00 P.M. Cost is \$5 per person with a \$15 immediate family maximum.

Single parent conference scholarships are being offered by an anonymous donor. If you are a homeschooling single parent and would like more information, subscribe to the yahoo group SHPSNC (Single Homeschooling Parents of NC) at <SHPSNC-subscribe@yahoo.com>. Deadline is March 31.

Friday-Only Remote Parking for the Conference. NCHE will again provide Friday remote parking with shuttle bus service to the front door of the Benton Convention Center.

ADA Policy for the 2011 Annual Conference and Book Fair. NCHE will provide assistance for a registered conferee who requests it and will use competent volunteer interpreters where possible. Guests needing interpretation will have to submit a list of desired workshops. The conference center is wheelchair accessible except for the stages. If access to a stage in Room A or South Main is necessary for graduation, contact the NCHE office. The deadline for conferees to request these services is April 1 in order to allow time to make arrangements.

Special Winston-Salem Family Activities. Several local historical and educational facilities have offered special pricing for NCHE conference attendees: Historic Bethabara, Old Salem, SciWorks and the Children's Museum of Winston-Salem. Full details online <nche.com>.

NCHE General Announcements

NCHE Athletic Conference Team Locator. The NCHE Athletic Conference (NCHEAC) has a total of ninety-six teams competing in basketball, baseball, boys and girls soccer and volleyball. There are also four to six non-conference teams participating in softball and swimming. We would like to help you find sports in your area. Go to <<http://nche.com/sports>> to find a table that contains sports and contacts listed by area. Click on the *Team Locator* link to have your e-mail forwarded to a coach in your area.

Continued on page 6



Why Should You Join NCHE?



NCHE needs you! NCHE is the oldest and largest statewide homeschool organization in North Carolina. The homeschool law providing the freedoms that we enjoy today is the result of NCHE leadership in 1987 and 1988. We fought bills in the NC House and Senate that would have made homeschooling much more difficult for everyone and impossible for many families, and we got the substitute bill passed into law that we enjoy today. When threatening bills were introduced, the members of the legislature said they had never had so much response and so many visits, calls and letters. They did not want to go through that experience again any time soon! This success was the result of coordination by NCHE. Since then, NCHE's mission has been protect the freedom to educate at home, to provide encouragement and support to families choosing homeschooling for their families and to promote homeschooling as an excellent method of education.

NCHE protects the right to homeschool by monitoring the NC legislature and NC government agencies to insure that bills that are introduced and regulations that are proposed will not affect homeschooling freedoms. Our registered lobbyist, Mari Fitz-Wynn, helps us to keep tabs on government activities and helps us to discern when we need to take action to deal with a threat. There are times when a bill containing more homeschool regulation is introduced, and then dies in committee. In those cases, it is best for NCHE to quietly monitor these bills to be sure they don't become a real threat and then let them die without NCHE involvement. NCHE takes action when the changes are real threats to homeschool freedoms. For example, in 2005 the Secretary of Administration, Gwynn Stinson, proposed to a Joint Appropriations Committee that DNPE be moved under the Department of Public Instruction as a cost saving move.

The day we learned of this proposal NCHE sent an NCHE Alert to every member on our email list. The calls and emails to our legislators and Appropriations Committee members began. The next day NCHE sent another alert with the following message, "The response from the homeschoolers of North Carolina on the proposed DNPE to DPI issue has been very

effective. The legislators in Raleigh have heard our collective voice. PLEASE HOLD FURTHER CALLS AND E-MAIL. More at this time may be counterproductive to our interests. If the need returns, NCHE will let you know as quickly as possible; your responsiveness has been impressive." Most legislators had full email boxes, and the legislative switchboard had been clogged with incoming calls. After the second alert was sent the emails and calls slowed to a trickle, and the proposal to move DNPE under DPI was abandoned. The legislature was impressed with NCHE's effectiveness in starting and stopping the emails and calls.

NCHE provides encouragement and support in a number of ways. The annual conference in Winston-Salem is the third largest homeschool event in the eastern US. Every year thousands of home educators come to be encouraged, to receive practical training, to buy curriculum and educational aids and to meet with homeschool friends from across the four-state region. The *Greenhouse Report* is another way we keep homeschoolers up-to-date with articles about learning theory, methods of education, managing a homeschooling household and also articles that motivate.

The Homeschool Resource Guide <<http://nche.com/hrg>> is the most comprehensive manual available for establishing and maintaining a homeschool in North Carolina. NCHE E-briefs keep NCHE members informed of opportunities in each region of the state and of what is happening in the legislature. NCHE can help new support groups get started, and the NCHE library fund helps new local support groups get started on their library. Additionally, NCHE honors local support group leaders by inviting them to attend a support group leaders' luncheon during the annual conference.

Our office in Raleigh is staffed with full-time employees who are homeschool savvy, and they can answer questions about home education. Also, we have been making a lot of our resources available to the homeschool community on our website. Much of the effort that we have applied to our website is not readily visible to the public, but the changes we are making to our database will position NCHE to be of greater service to NC home educators in the future.

NCHE actively promotes homeschool excellence by making board members

available to the media for interviews and sponsoring such events as Capital Fest, where homeschool families come to Raleigh for a day of visiting legislators and learning more about our system of government. In March, 2011 NCHE released a study of academic achievement and demographic characteristics <http://nche.com/shared_files/NC%20Homeschool%20Study%20Summary/NC_HS_SummaryScreen.pdf> that showed, among other findings, that NC homeschool students score in the 84th percentile on nationally standardized tests. This compares very favorably with the national average of the 50th percentile.

By joining NCHE you can help NCHE continue to provide these services that benefit all NC home educators and to explore providing additional services to the NC homeschool community.

Some Benefits of Membership

- Access to the "members only" section of the website which will include an online edition of the *Greenhouse Report*.
- Discounted admission to the largest homeschool conference in the Carolinas.
- Discounted participation in the NCHE graduation ceremony and a beautiful diploma for graduating homeschool students
- Eligibility for homeschool students in member families to participate on teams in the growing North Carolinians for Home Education Athletic Conference

Finally, the more members we have, the greater our clout in Raleigh. **We need you to help us help the homeschoolers of this state!** If you are not a member, please join now. A tax deductible donation of any amount is all it takes! <<https://nche.com/donations/new>>

A Threat to Parent's Rights Is a Threat to Homeschooling

The Campaign for US Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) began collecting signatures for a petition to President Obama urging him to, "make it your priority to send the CRC to the US Senate for its advice and consent by November 20, 2012." *Time* ran an opinion piece titled "Why Is the U.S. Against Children's Rights?" <<http://ideas.time.com/2012/01/24/why-is-the-us-against-childrens-rights/?iid=op-article-latest>>. This article also urged the ratification of the CRC. One interesting thing

Continued on page 10



Announcements *(Continued from page 4)*

Be an NCHE Facebook fan. A new way to interact in the NCHE community is to access the NCHE Facebook fan page <<http://www.facebook.com/nche1984>>. On our page you may ask questions and get answers from others in the community, get links to helpful websites and be a part of the exchange of ideas with other homeschoolers.

NCHE Membership Policy. You may join or renew your membership with an annual tax-deductible donation of any amount. (The recommended donation is \$25.) The *Greenhouse Report* will be available online for all members. Those who prefer a paper copy in the mail may receive it for a \$15 subscription fee.

Policy on Spotlights. In order for a student to be included in a spotlight article, the student's family must be an NCHE member. For articles about groups, at least half of the families represented must be NCHE members. Send parents' names and member number with the article.

NCHE Ebrief. This email publication provides up-to-date news. To begin receiving this free (to members) publication, log into

the website <nche.com> and click the "Receive NCHE-brief email" checkbox on your Member Account Information page or email <memberservices@nche.com>.

House, Senate and Governor's Page Weeks. If you are an NCHE member and would like your student to participate in this program, contact NCHE's legislative administrator, Mari Fitz-Wynn, at <LegAdmin@nche.com> for information about opportunities in Raleigh to page one week for a member of the legislature or the governor.

NCHE is a 501(c)(3), non-profit educational organization. All donations are tax deductible. Your donation will help NCHE to provide support to the homeschoolers of this state.

Moving? Please keep NCHE informed when you are planning to move. It saves us time, energy and money if you give us prompt notification of your address change. Schools listed with the state are required to notify the NC Division of Non-Public Education of address changes in writing or by calling (919) 733-4276.

Support Group Announcements

HINTS 2012 Book Fair. The twenty-first annual HINTS Book Fair will be held July 13-14 at Christ Covenant Church in Matthews, NC. Book fair hours are 9:30 A.M.-8:00 P.M. Friday, and 9:30 A.M.-2:00 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. Come visit some of your favorite vendors and enjoy the informative workshops! For more information and directions to the book fair, see our website at <www.hintsonline.org>.

General Announcements

DNPE Website. The website for the NC Division of Non-Public Education is <www.ncdnpe.org>.

The Catawba County Homeschool Prom will be held Saturday, April 28, 6 P.M.-12 MIDNIGHT at the Main City Cellar Club in Hickory. Tickets are \$45 and include dinner, music, dancing and professional portraits. Go to our prom website for details and to order tickets. <www.catawbavalleyhomeschoolprom.weebly.com>. For questions call Tamara Younce at (828) 465-4716. 📞



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Conference Featured Speakers

For workshop descriptions go to <nche.com>. Number denotes session, example: 4.=session 4

Carol Barnier

Carol is a fresh, fun and popular conference speaker. Her objective in all her communication is to have the wit of Erma Bombeck crossed with the depth of C. S. Lewis. While her humor will have you leaning sideways, her faith is solid stuff. Whether speaking about her first born son's thirteen surgeries, her family's many ADHD challenges, or her own walk from being a God-denying atheist to the most grateful recipient of God's amazing grace, this woman speaks from the heart. Her slightly irreverent humor coupled with her insightful perspective has led to speaking engagements in over twenty-five states and made her a regular radio guest, including becoming a frequent provider of commentary for Focus on the Family's *Weekend Magazine*. She is the author of three books and has written articles for many magazines including *Proverbs 31 Woman*, *Clubhouse Junior*, *Focus on the Family Magazine*, *The Old Schoolhouse*, *Homeschool Enrichment*, as well as others.



Leaders' Track. If Thou Seekest Thee Deep Appreciation, Goest Thou Quickly and Buyest Thee a Dog

1. Seventeen Years of Homeschooling and I Hardly Twitch at All Anymore
2. What Are You *Thinking?*—Learning Styles and Beyond
5. *Help!* How Do I Teach This Highly Distractible Child, Part 1
6. *Help!* How Do I Teach This Highly Distractible Child, Part 2
8. Teaching Your Child to Read—Made Easy
9. Don't Miss the Gift in This Child
11. Margins for Moms—Limits that Liberate

Voddie Baucham

Voddie wears many hats. He is a husband, father, pastor, author, professor, conference speaker and church planter. He currently serves as pastor of preaching at Grace Family Baptist Church in Spring, TX. He has served as an adjunct professor at the College of Biblical Studies in Houston, TX, and Union University in Jackson, TN. He has also lectured at Southern Seminary. Voddie's area of emphasis is cultural apologetics. Whether teaching on classical apologetic issues like the validity and historicity of the Bible or the resurrection of Christ or teaching on biblical manhood/womanhood, marriage and family, he helps ordinary people understand the significance of thinking and living biblically in every area of life. Voddie holds degrees from Houston Baptist University (BA in Christianity/BA in Sociology), Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.), Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (D.Min.), an honorary degree from Southern California Seminary (D.D.) and has done additional post-graduate study at the University of Oxford, England (Regent's Park College). Voddie and his wife, Bridget, have been married since 1989. They have seven children: Jasmine, Trey (Voddie, III), Elijah, Asher, Judah, Micah and Safya. They are committed home educators.



5. The Role of the Father in Home Education/Discipleship
7. Why Your Family Needs the Church
8. Don't Let Home Education Destroy Your Marriage!

Keynote (Friday): Teaching Your Children with Your Grandchildren in Mind

Chuck Bentley, Crown Financial Ministries, CEO

For over a decade, Chuck has traveled the world teaching biblical financial principles to the affluent, middle class, poor and ultra poor. As host of the daily national radio broadcast, *My MoneyLife™*, Chuck connects with all generations and inspires his audience with a strong scriptural emphasis. Following in the footsteps of Crown's cofounders, Howard Dayton and the late Larry Burkett, Chuck has assumed the mantle of a strategic organization, founded in 1976, that now reaches around the world with staff on every continent, a media presence throughout North and South America and books and materials serving the spiritual and financial needs of all people. Crown's outreach impacts individuals, families, churches and businesses through the joyful, liberating biblical truth of making and managing money so that God's purposes for one's life can be fulfilled. Chuck is the executive producer of the *God Provides™ Film Learning Experience*, Crown's first series of short films designed to convey God's principles of provision and sustainability through dramatic Bible stories. He is also the co-creator of the *Crown Money Map™* and a contributor to Saddleback Church's small group series, *Managing Our Finances God's Way*. These powerful resources are being used to transform lives around the world. In July 2011, Chuck's first book, *Root of Riches*, was released. Chuck and his wife, Ann, have been married since 1978. Both are graduates of Baylor University. Chuck and Ann live near Atlanta, Georgia, and have four sons, a daughter-in-law and a grandson.



2. Creative Ways to Decrease Expenses, Increase Income and Strengthen Your Household Finances
4. The Root of Riches—How to Train Your Family to Think Differently about Money, Possessions and True Riches
6. Teaching Age Appropriate Financial Lessons and Responsibilities
10. Discovering and Unlocking God's Unique Design for Your Child's Education and Career

Keynote (Thursday): How to Prepare for an Economic Crisis of Biblical Proportion—the SALT Plan

Continued on page 8



Conference Featured Speakers *(Continued from page 7)*

Susan Chrisman

Susan and husband, Jerry, were pioneer homeschoolers, beginning their journey in home education in 1985. The Chrisman's have five children and three grandsons. They have served on the board of trustees for the Oklahoma Christian Home Educators' Consociation since 2001. Jerry is currently serving OCHEC as president, and Susan is the editor of publications and the leaders' retreat coordinator. She also co-directs the Oklahoma City Charlotte Mason Discussion Group, and has published a homeschool resource called *The Practical Planner for Home Education* which is available on her website at <www.lifelonglearneronline.com>. Susan founded a resource service called Lifelong Learners to encourage parents (especially moms) in the training and education of their children. She speaks to support groups, at mom's retreats and at homeschool conventions. Susan's heart and calling are to guide moms in understanding the true education of the whole person, an application of Mark 12:30: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength."



1. Evaluation—How to Know What Your Child Really Knows
2. Education—How to Think Outside the Box
4. Art and Music: Icing on the Cake or Essential Food for the Soul and Brain?
6. Preschool and Kindergarten Education at Home, Part 1
7. Preschool and Kindergarten Education at Home, Part 2
8. Habit Training: Key to Maintaining Your Sanity
9. A Home Educator's Guide to Scheduling and Planning
10. The Will: Bend It? Break It? Develop It? What's a Parent to Do?

Heidi St. John

Heidi has been married to her husband, Jay, since 1989. They have seven children ages five months to nineteen years and have homeschooled all the way through high school. A favorite conference speaker, Heidi approaches homeschooling with humor and grace at events all across North America. Her heart and passion for people comes across in her writing and speaking. She's as down-to-earth in person as she is in her books and workshops. Growing up in Boring, Oregon, with six siblings and a cow named Hamburger has proven to be wonderful inspiration for many of Heidi's workshops. Jay and Heidi are also the founders and executive directors of First Class Homeschool Ministries, a parachurch organization dedicated to helping churches start homeschool co-operatives. First Class has been in operation since 2000 and has over forty locations across North America. The St. Johns reside in SW Washington state. They are blessed to share two acres and a home with Jay's parents. Truly, there is never a dull moment at the "St. John Chateau!"



- Leaders' Track. Foundational Principles for Strong Leadership
1. Toddlers, Tweens and Teens, *Oh My!*
 3. R.E.A.L. L.I.F.E. Homeschooling
 4. The Busy Homeschool Mom's Guide™ to Romance
 6. The Busy Homeschool Mom's Guide™ to Daytime: How to Fit Your Size 16 Day into a Size 10
 7. Ten Marriage Myths That Will Steal Your Joy
 9. Homeschooling High Schoolers—Yes, *You Can*
 11. The First Three Years: A Workshop for Homeschool Rookies

John Stonestreet

John's passion is to illuminate a biblical worldview for today's culture. He's a speaker, writer, cultural commentator and collaborator of worldview initiatives. In his shared role with the Colson Center/Breakpoint and Summit Ministries, John directs conferences and curriculum projects, speaks to groups nationally and internationally, consults on worldview education for schools and churches and appears frequently on web and radio broadcasts. As the new host of *The Point*, a daily national radio program, John provides thought-provoking commentaries on current events and life issues from a biblical worldview. This short-feature radio program speaks to listeners right where they are: facing challenges and cultural questions that all of us deal with on a daily basis. John holds degrees from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (IL) and Bryan College (TN) and is the co-author of *Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview*. He and his wife, Sarah, have three daughters and a dog, and live in Colorado Springs, CO. Connect with John at <ThePointRadio.org>.



1. The Challenges to Your Faith You Need to Know Are Coming
3. Ideas Have Consequences: Why Worldviews Really, Really Matter
4. Ideas Have Histories: Where Postmodernism Came From
7. Christianity and Culture: For What Are We Responsible?
8. Amused to Death: Living in a Culture of Perpetual Distraction
9. Doing the Right Thing: Recapturing a Biblical Ethic for This Generation (a Skyped discussion with Chuck Colson)
11. Discovering God's Will: How to Know What to Do with Your Life

Keynote (Saturday): When Is a Worldview Really Biblical? What Worldview Tests Don't Measure



Other Conference Speakers

For workshop descriptions and speaker bios go to <nche.com>. Number denotes session, example: 4.=session 4

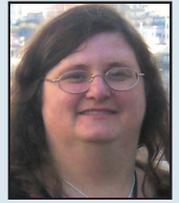
Hope Auer

- 1. How to Write a Book: A Homeschooler's Journey to Becoming an Author



Amelia Harper

- 2. Fantasy Literature and the Homeschooled Child
- 10. Are Parents Really Necessary?



Ken Auer

- 9. Apprenticeship before (and as a Possible Alternative to) College



Mary Harrington

- 10. Teaching a Biblical Worldview by Studying Cicero



Kevin Brown

- 11. Dads—Developing a Spiritual Vision for Your Family?



Sarita Holzmann

- 3. One More Chapter, Please! Develop Lifelong Readers and Ignite a Fire to Learn
- 7. The 3Rs and Beyond—Discover a Homeschool Approach that Is Effective for Your Family



Matthew Bullington

- 6. Beating the System: Nontraditional Methods of Earning a Degree Quicker and Cheaper



Laura House

- 10. Reaching the Reluctant Writer



Davis Carman

- 1. Give Me One Good Reason to Homeschool
- 8. Praise Him in the Storm



Charlie and Ruth Jones

- 9. Faith and Art
- 10. Basics of Drama Techniques



Wendy Dahlgren

- 8. Transitioning from Homeschool to College



Andrew Kern

- 3. Nourishing Your Child's Soul on Truth



Kristen Eckenwiler

- 1. The Struggling Reader! Am I Emphasizing the Right Things?
- 3. Does My Child Have a Learning Disability?
- 4. Teaching the Learning Disabled Child
- 11. How to Assess Your Child's Reading Abilities



Bethany LeBedz

- 5. Organization for Right-Brained and Left-Brained Homeschoolers



J. Mark Fox

- 2. Learning to Lead
- 6. You Can Write!
- 10. Two Roosters in the Same House



Charlie Liebert

- 9. Ten Big Questions Answered from the Bible





Other Conference Speakers

(Continued from page 9)

Bonita Lillie

- 5. Organization for Right-Brained and Left-Brained Homeschoolers
- 8. Transitioning from Homeschool to College



Mike and Ronda Marshall

- 2. Getting Off to a Great Start
- 4. Still Undecided?
- 6. Teaching More than One (Rhonda)
- 8. P.O.W.E.R. Your Homeschool



Debbie Mason

- 1. Homeschooling High School
- 2. Preparing for College
- 4. Top Ten Passions from a Homeschool Veteran
- 7. Parenting the Homeschooled Teen



Marji McIlvaine

- 3. So Much Curricula, So Little Time
- 6. Testing—A Giant in the Land?
- 11. *What Are We Doing?*



Joann Nabb

- 5. The Joy of Learning with Your Young Child
- 7. Foreign Language for Life



Charles Nettles

- 5. Getting Started and the NC Homeschool Law



Charlene Notgrass

- 10. Homeschooling for Imperfect Moms



Ray Notgrass

- 5. The Adventure of American History



Stephen Parrish

- 3. Fun with a Purpose! (Boy Scouts)



Jan Strydom

- 5. Living by Design
- 10. Discovering and Unlocking God's Unique Design for Your Child's Education and Career



Lynne M. Taylor

- 5. Homeschool Martyrs: Are You One? Do You Know One?



Hal and Melanie Young

- 4. Shining Armor—Your Son's Battle for Purity
- 7. What about Social Media? Capturing It for Christ
- 8. Homeschooling Is Not Enough
- 9. Homeschooled from the Beginning—What to Do when Your Children Are Young (Melanie)
- 11. Ballistic Homeschooling



Michele Zavatsky

- 2. Kids Love North Carolina History



Spencer's Space (Continued from page 5)

about the article is that the medical doctors who wrote the article provide legal analysis of the CRC though they have never argued a case before a federal court. I suggest you read this article and then go to <http://www.overruledmovie.com/> and view the thirty-five minute docudrama produced by the Parental Rights Organization. If you don't have time for the whole movie, view one of the trailers at the bottom of the page. Then go to <http://www.parentalrights.org/> and read more about the subject.

Folks, the CRC is a real threat to the family, and we can do something about it. Sign the petition on the Parental Rights website, download the petition and get ten other people to sign it and donate what you can. Contact Senator Richard Burr and thank him for co-sponsoring Senate Resolution 99 against the ratification of CRC. Finally, Contact Senator Kay Hagan, D.C. Office: 202-224-6342, and urge her to co-sponsor S.R.99.

Spencer Mason and his wife, Debbie, homeschooled four children for twenty-six years. They have served on the NCHE board since 1988. 🌸



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2012 NCHE Twenty-Eighth Annual Conference Schedule

M.C. Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem, NC

May 24-26, 2012

General Schedule

Thursday, May 24, 2012

12:00 NOON	Registration begins for full conference pre-registered attendees only
1:00 P.M.	Book fair opens to full conference pre-registered attendees only
2:30 P.M.	On-site registration begins
3:00 P.M.	Book fair opens to public
3:00-4:00 P.M.	Workshop session 1 (free)
4:30-5:30 P.M.	Workshop session 2
6:00-7:00 P.M.	Workshop session 3
7:30 P.M.	Book fair closes
7:30-9:00 P.M.	General business session and keynote address
7:30-9:30 P.M.	Teen and alumni cotillion-style dance class
9:45-10:45 P.M.	Alumni coffee social

Friday, May 25, 2012

7:30 A.M.	Registration begins
8:30 A.M.	Children's conference begins child sign-in
9:00-9:30 A.M.	Volunteer book fair shopping
9:00-10:30 A.M.	Special guest artists and keynote address
9:30 A.M.	Book fair opens
10:00-4:00 P.M.	College and Camp Fair
11:00-12:00 NOON	Workshop session 4
12:30-1:30 P.M.	Workshop session 5
2:00-3:00 P.M.	Workshop session 6

3:00 P.M.	All-Star Volleyball Game—girls
3:30-4:30 P.M.	Workshop session 7
4:50-5:50 P.M.	Workshop session 8
5:30 P.M.	All-Star Basketball Game—girls
6:00 P.M.	Children's conference parents sign out children
7:00 P.M.	Book fair closes for the day
7:45 P.M.	All-Star Basketball Game—boys
9:45-11:30 P.M.	Talent Showcase Games social for teens and alumni

Saturday, May 26, 2012

8:00 A.M.	Registration begins
8:45 A.M.	Children's conference begins child sign-in
9:00-9:30 A.M.	Volunteer book fair shopping
9:00-10:30 A.M.	Special guest artists and keynote address
9:30 A.M.	Book fair opens
11:00-12:00 NOON	Workshop session 9
12:30-1:30 P.M.	Workshop session 10
1:50-2:50 P.M.	Workshop session 11
2:50 P.M.	Children's conference parents sign out children
4:00 P.M.	Book fair closes
5:00 P.M.	Graduation ceremony

Conference Workshop Schedule

- G** Of general interest to all parents
- T** Of special interest to teens
- B** For beginners and inquirers
- L** For parents of struggling learners
- Y** For parents of young children preschool to early elementary
- O** For parents of older elementary age (may include middle school)
- P** For parents of teens (and possibly teens)
- D** For dads
- M** For moms

(Conference workshop descriptions and vendor workshops are on the NCHE website <nche.com>.)

Session 1 Thursday 3:00-4:00 P.M. (FREE SESSION)

- P** The Challenges to Your Faith You Need to Know Are Coming, **John Stonestreet** (Room A)
- G** Seventeen Years of Homeschooling and I Hardly Twitch at All Anymore, **Carol Barnier** (Pavilion)
- G** Toddlers, Tweens and Teens, *Oh My!* **Heidi St. John** (South Main 1)
- G** Evaluation—How to Know What Your Child Really Knows, **Susan Chrisman** (South Main 2)
- B** Give Me One Good Reason to Homeschool, **Davis Carman** (South Main 3)
- P** Homeschooling High School, **Debbie Mason** (Room B-D)
- Y O** The Struggling Reader! Am I Emphasizing the Right Things? **Kristen Eckenwiler** (Room E-G)

- T G** How to Write a Book: A Homeschooler's Journey to Becoming an Author, **Hope Auer** (Gaines Ballroom)

Session 2 Thursday 4:30-5:30 P.M.

- G** Creative Ways to Decrease Expenses, Increase Income and Strengthen Your Household Finances, **Chuck Bentley** (Room A)
- G** What Are You *Thinking?*—Learning Styles and Beyond, **Carol Barnier** (Pavilion)
- D** Learning to Lead, **J. Mark Fox** (South Main 1)
- G** Education—How to Think Outside the Box, **Susan Chrisman** (South Main 2)
- B** Getting Off to a Great Start, **Mike and Ronda Marshall** (South Main 3)
- P** Preparing for College, **Debbie Mason** (Room B-D)
- G T** Fantasy Literature and the Homeschooled Child, **Amelia Harper** (Room E-G)
- O** Kids Love North Carolina History, **Michele Zavatsky** (Gaines Ballroom)

Session 3 Thursday, 6:00-7:00 P.M.

- T G** Ideas Have Consequences: Why Worldviews Really, Really Matter, **John Stonestreet** (Room A)
- G** R.E.A.L. L.I.F.E. Homeschooling, **Heidi St. John** (South Main 1)
- G** One More Chapter, Please! Develop Life-long Readers and Ignite a Fire to Learn, **Sarita Holzmans** (South Main 2)
- B** So Much Curricula, So Little Time, **Marji McIlvaine** (South Main 3)



- G Fun with a Purpose! **Stephen Parrish** (Room B-D)
- L Does My Child Have a Learning Disability? **Kristen Eckenwiler** (Room E-G)
- G Nourishing Your Child's Soul on Truth, **Andrew Kern** (Gaines Ballroom)

Thursday Keynote 7:30-9:00 P.M.

- G How to Prepare for an Economic Crisis of Biblical Proportion—the SALT Plan,—**Chuck Bentley** (Room A)

Friday Keynote 9:00-10:30 A.M.

- G Teaching Your Children with Your Grandchildren in Mind, **Voddie Baucham** (Room A)

Session 4 Friday 11:00 A.M.-NOON

- G The Root of Riches—How to Train Your Family to Think Differently about Money, Possessions and True Riches, **Chuck Bentley** (Room A)
- T G Ideas Have Histories: Where Postmodernism Came From, **John Stonestreet** (Pavilion)
- M The Busy Homeschool Mom's Guide™ to Romance, **Heidi St. John** (South Main 1)
- G Art and Music: Icing on the Cake or Essential Food for the Soul and Brain? **Susan Chrisman** (South Main 2)
- B Still Undecided? **Mike and Ronda Marshall** (South Main 3)
- G Top Ten Passions from a Homeschool Veteran, **Debbie Mason** (Room B-D)
- L Teaching the Learning Disabled Child, **Kristen Eckenwiler** (Room E-G)
- P Shining Armor—Your Son's Battle for Purity, **Hal and Melanie Young** (Gaines Ballroom)

Session 5 Friday 12:30-1:30 P.M.

- G The Role of the Father in Home Education/Discipleship, **Voddie Baucham** (Room A)
- G L *Help!* How Do I Teach This Highly Distractible Child, Part 1, **Carol Barnier** (Pavilion)
- T P Living by Design, **Jan Strydom** (South Main 1)
- Y The Joy of Learning with Your Young Child, **Joann Nabb** (South Main 2)
- B Getting Started and the NC Homeschool Law, **Charles Nettles** (South Main 3)
- G Homeschool Martyrs: Are You One? Do You Know One? **Lynne M. Taylor** (Room B-D)
- G Organization for Right-Brained and Left-Brained Homeschoolers, **Bonita Lillie and Bethany LeBedz** (Room E-G)
- G T The Adventure of American History, **Ray Notgrass** (Gaines Ballroom)

Session 6 Friday 2:00-3:00 P.M.

- G Teaching Age Appropriate Financial Lessons and Responsibilities, **Chuck and Ann Bentley** (Room A)
- G L *Help!* How Do I Teach This Highly Distractible Child, Part 2, **Carol Barnier** (Pavilion)
- M The Busy Homeschool Mom's Guide™ to Daytime: How to Fit Your Size 16 Day into a Size 10, **Heidi St. John** (South Main 1)
- Y Preschool and Kindergarten Education at Home, Part 1, **Susan Chrisman** (South Main 2)
- G B Testing—A Giant in the Land? **Marji McIlvaine** (South Main 3)
- G Teaching More than One, **Rhonda Marshall** (Room B-D)
- T P You Can Write! **J. Mark Fox** (Room E-G)
- P T Beating the System: Nontraditional Methods of Earning a Degree Quicker and Cheaper, **Matthew Bullington** (Gaines Ballroom)

Session 7 Friday 3:30-4:30 P.M.

- G Why Your Family Needs the Church, **Voddie Baucham** (Room A)
- T G Christianity and Culture: For What Are We Responsible? **John Stonestreet** (Pavilion)
- G Ten Marriage Myths That Will Steal Your Joy, **Heidi St. John** (South Main 1)
- Y Preschool and Kindergarten Education at Home, Part 2, **Susan Chrisman** (South Main 2)
- G The 3Rs and Beyond—Discover a Homeschool Approach that Is Effective for Your Family, **Sarita Holzmann** (South Main 3)
- P Parenting the Homeschooled Teen, **Debbie Mason** (Room B-D)
- G Foreign Language for Life, **Joann Nabb** (Room E-G)
- G What about Social Media? Capturing It for Christ, **Hal and Melanie Young** (Gaines Ballroom)

Session 8 Friday 4:50-5:50 P.M.

- G Don't Let Home Education Destroy Your Marriage! **Voddie Baucham** (Room A)
- T G Amused to Death: Living in a Culture of Perpetual Distraction, **John Stonestreet** (Pavilion)
- Y Teaching Your Child to Read—Made Easy, **Carol Barnier** (South Main 1)
- G Habit Training: Key to Maintaining Your Sanity, **Susan Chrisman** (South Main 2)
- G Praise Him in the Storm, **Davis Carman** (South Main 3)
- G P.O.W.E.R. Your Homeschool, **Ronda Marshall** (Room B-D)
- P T Transitioning from Homeschool to College, **Bonita Lillie and Wendy Dahlgren** (Room E-G)
- G Homeschooling Is Not Enough, **Hal and Melanie Young** (Gaines Ballroom)

Saturday Keynote 9:00-10:30 A.M.

- G T When Is a Worldview Really Biblical? What Worldview Tests Don't Measure, **John Stonestreet** (Room A)

Session 9 Saturday 11:00 A.M.-NOON

- G T Doing the Right Thing: Recapturing a Biblical Ethic for This Generation, **John Stonestreet** (Room A)
- G Don't Miss the Gift in This Child, **Carol Barnier** (Pavilion)
- P Homeschooling High Schoolers—*Yes You Can*, **Heidi St. John** (South Main 1)
- G A Home Educator's Guide to Scheduling and Planning, **Susan Chrisman** (South Main 2)
- G T Faith and Art, **Charlie and Ruth Jones** (South Main 3)
- T P Apprenticeship before (and as a Possible Alternative to) College, **Ken Auer** (Room B-D)
- G Ten Big Questions Answered from the Bible, **Charlie Liebert** (Room E-G)
- Y Homeschooled from the Beginning—What to Do when Your Children Are Young, **Melanie Young** (Gaines Ballroom)

Session 10 Saturday 12:30-1:30 P.M.

- G Discovering and Unlocking God's Unique Design for Your Child's Education and Career, **Chuck Bentley** and **Jan Strydom** (Room A)
- G The Will: Bend It? Break It? Develop It? What's a Parent to Do? **Susan Chrisman** (Pavilion)
- G Two Roosters in the Same House, **J. Mark Fox** (South Main 1)
- Y Are Parents Really Necessary? **Amelia Harper** (South Main 2)
- T Basics of Drama Techniques, **Charlie and Ruth Jones** (South Main 3)

Continued on page 14



Conference Workshop Schedule

(Continued from page 13)

- P T** Teaching a Biblical Worldview by Studying Cicero, **Mary Harrington** (Room B-D)
- G** Reaching the Reluctant Writer, **Laura House** (Room E-G)
- M** Homeschooling for Imperfect Moms, **Charlene Notgrass** (Gaines Ballroom)

Session 11 Saturday 1:50-2:50 P.M.

- T G** Discovering God's Will: How to Know What to Do with Your Life, **John Stonestreet** (Pavilion)
- B** The First Three Years: A Workshop for Homeschool Rookies, **Heidi St. John** (South Main 1)
- M** Margins for Moms—Limits that Liberate, **Carol Barnier** (South Main 2)
- O P** What Are We Doing? **Marji McIlvaine** (South Main 3)
- D** Dads—Developing a Spiritual Vision for Your Family? **Kevin Brown** (Room B-D)
- L** How to Assess Your Child's Reading Abilities, **Kristen Eckenwiler** (Room E-G)
- G** Ballistic Homeschooling, **Hal and Melanie Young** (Gaines Ballroom)

Important Conference Information

- **New:** A children's conference will be held on Friday and Saturday—pre-registration required.
- **New:** Parents of preschoolers are admitted free! Full criteria is on our website.
- **New:** Bring your printed registration confirmation email to the conference. **There will be no confirmations or nametags mailed.** Wristbands will be provided at the registration booths on-site. \$3 replacement fee will be charged for lost wristbands.
- **New:** Registration will open at 12 P.M. on Thursday for pre-registered, full conference attendees.
- **New:** The support group leadership track and luncheon will be on **Thursday 10:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M.**
- **New:** We will have special entertainment preceding the keynotes at the Friday and Saturday keynote sessions.
- Conference registration and volunteer forms, vendors, workshop descriptions, speaker bios, accommodations, parking and maps are online at <nche.com>.
- Two activities are planned for teens and alumni: a cotillion-style dance class on Thursday evening and a games social on Friday night. Full conference registration is required.
- For the second year we will host an alumni coffee social on Thursday night at 9:45.
- Workshop handouts for conference workshops will be compiled into a booklet and sold at a modest cost.
- Free admittance is given to homeschool alumni (graduation dates 2008-2011) and grandparents (who are not actively homeschooling).
- Remote parking is available at the fairgrounds on Friday with shuttle service to the convention center.
- The College and Camp Fair will be 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. on Friday.
- Saturday-only admission tickets are available at the door.
- The telephone number to reach the conference center during the conference **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY ONLY** is (336) 727-2976.

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Our 2012 Special Guest Artists

This year we are excited to offer entertainment during the general business session before the keynotes on Friday and Saturday mornings. On Friday morning we will have the Snyder Family Band, and on Saturday morning we will have Peculiar People.

The Snyder Family Band features the talents of siblings Zeb and Samantha Snyder from Lexington, NC. Backed by their dad, Bud, on upright bass, this band has delighted and surprised audiences at venues including Merlefest, Wilkesboro, NC, Bristol Rhythm and Roots, Bristol, VA/TN, Music City Roots, Nashville, TN, and the Red White and Bluegrass Festival in Morganton, NC. They have also appeared twice on the PBS TV program “Song of the Mountains.” Mom, Laine, occasionally joins in with harmony vocals, and six-year-old Owen also makes special appearances singing or playing guitar.



Samantha, now thirteen, began playing classical violin at age three. In 2007 she won first place at the Jimmy Edmonds Homecoming Competition in Galax, VA. In 2008 at age nine she became the youngest ever to win the prestigious Fiddler of the Festival award at Fiddler’s Grove, NC. She also won the 2011 Adult Bluegrass Fiddle competition at the Old Fiddler’s Convention held in Galax, VA. In addition to playing fiddle, Samantha sings both lead and harmony vocals.

Zeb, now sixteen, began classical guitar lessons at age seven. In 2007, he won the top prize, a Wayne Henderson guitar, at the Jimmy Edmonds Homecoming Competition in Galax, VA. In 2011 he became the South Carolina Guitar Champion at RenoFest in Hartsville, SC. He also placed first in the adult guitar competition at the Old Fiddler’s Convention in Galax, VA. In addition to guitar and mandolin, Zeb also plays banjo, bass, and dobro and sings lead and harmony vocals.

Their latest CD, titled “Stages,” was released in October 2011 on the Mountain Roads Recordings record label.



Peculiar People consists of Charlie and Ruth Jones and other actors on occasion. After working several years with the Lamb’s Players Theatre in San Diego, CA, Charlie and Ruth Jones founded Peculiar People in 1987 in Birmingham, AL, where they remained for seven years before moving to Franklin, TN. Soon after celebrating the twentieth anniversary of Peculiar People, Charlie and

Ruth moved to Greensboro, NC. They are exploring new ways of using the Arts to joyfully “give gifts” to their city with the intention of making their corner of the world a better place to live. Their community dinners (Greensboro Grub) and shows have been very successful in fulfilling this mission.

They have recently purchased the building that they have been renting for the past three years. This building is a hotel built in 1903. The plans for the building include a coffee shop that sells peanut butter and jelly “sammiches,” a community stage, drama instruction to inner city children and dormitory housing for interns who want to learn how to transform their own communities.

The Jones have traveled internationally with Peculiar People. Charlie and Ruth both write and act their own material that encompasses a wide variety of themes and styles from sketch comedy to full-length historical dramas. The main focus of their work is a desire to renew astonishment at the power of God’s Grace and to recapture a lost wonder and innocence—without being religious!

For more about Peculiar People go to <www.peculiarpeople.com>.

Workshop Numbers

Number of conference workshops/
keynotes—92

Number of workshops/keynotes new
from last year—84

Number of workshops never done
before at NCHE conference—68

Number of conference speakers—38

Number of new speakers this year—18

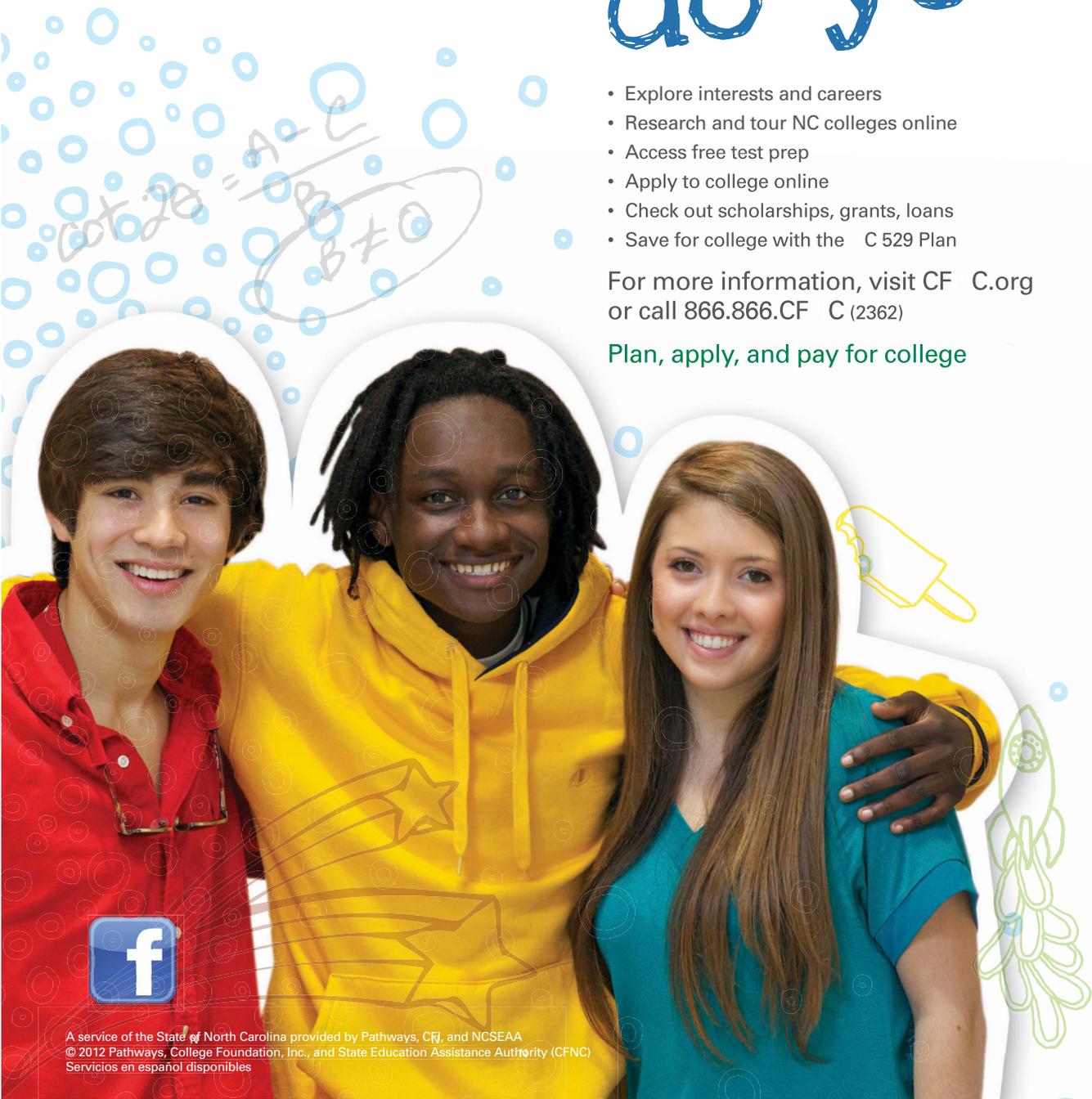


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Are You in the Gentle Stream or the Rock Tumbler?



by **Susan Chrisman**

Recently I read in *Loving the Little Years: Motherhood in the Trenches* by Rachel Jankovic an analogy that keenly related to my life. Although I am in a later season of life than Rachel, God has used her analogy of a rock in a stream to encourage and strengthen my life.

Before I had children I was spiritually like a rock lying in the bottom of a stream. The gentle but consistent flow of the water was smoothing my surface, changing me over time. I was progressing slowly, but steadily.

God, in His mercy, saw the need to step up the pace of changing me into His likeness. So He blessed me with children. Eventually there were five darling, happy, active, noisy children in my home—children who loved me, who needed me and depended upon me; children to clean and cook for, to nurture, to comfort, to correct, to hug and kiss and snuggle, to enjoy; children to train, discipline, educate and disciple. It was as if He had suddenly plucked me from the quiet waters of the stream and thrust me into the crashing, plunging racket of a rock polisher. And although I wanted to be transformed into His likeness, there were times when I longed for the quiet waters I had known before. I had glimpses of that quietness while nursing a tiny infant in the middle of the night, washing dishes alone or rocking a restless toddler to sleep as I sang *Oh, How I Love Jesus* or *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*.

I often felt guilty about the lack of quietness in my life there in the tumbler. I would attend women's retreats and listen as older women told me I had to have an hour each day of quiet before the Lord so I could hear His voice and be transformed by His Word. Condemnation weighed heavily upon me. I believed that in order to be a spiritual woman I had to have that quiet time. I suffered under added guilt because I knew I could never live up to the standard that had been placed before me. Still, my heart cried out to know Him and to please Him.

As the years have progressed and my home is quiet again, I have found the peaceful, though very powerful, waters of the stream returning to pour over me. Though my life is busy, and I sometimes find myself in the rock tumbler again, it is not like the

years I lived there before.

Now that my children are grown, I have the early morning time to be quiet before the Lord, and the fellowship is rich indeed. But honestly, I have struggled with the condemnation of all those years before when life was noisy, and I was being tumbled about; why didn't I spend more time alone in my spiritual closet, quiet before the Lord and in His Word? I see now that God was faithful to me all along. His transforming work in me was just that, His work.

During those years when children surrounded me, God was teaching me how to abide in Him. I understood the grace of God given for salvation, knowing there was nothing I could do to merit His free gift. I failed to grasp, however, that growing into a relationship with Christ is also a work of grace. He does it all.

What does that mean? Jesus Christ is responsible for teaching me, changing me into His image, transforming me by the renewing of my mind. I was so busy trying to do all the right things to make the transformation happen, that many times I missed the truth completely. God allowed me to become totally desperate for Him to work in my life so that I would have nothing in or of myself upon which I could depend. *Nothing*. No amount of Bible study, Scripture memory or prayer could bring about the transformation I wanted and needed. It had to be a work of God. I wanted the change to take place immediately. God saw that it would take years.

What did He require of me? Simply to abide in Him. My first response was, "Great!

Abide, what do I do in order to abide?" I was ready to be about the work of abiding, but through all those years of tumbling and bumping about in the rock tumbler of my life, He showed me that abiding is not a matter of doing, but of being. If your child is misbehaving and making wrong choices, does that make him any less your son? If he behaves well and makes all the right choices, does that make him any more your son? No, just by being, he is your son. It is by being in Christ that I abide in Him. Even as a branch is grafted to the vine and must rely totally and completely upon the life of the vine to sustain and nourish and strengthen it, so I must rely upon Christ Jesus. He is my everything is not a trite saying; it is the whole truth. "In Him we live and move and have our being."

To be in Christ is to know Him. To know Christ is to love Him. To love Christ is to trust Him.

I have spent the last thirty years of my life getting to know Him. He made me hungry for Him and His Word. He showed me ways to get more of His Word into my heart and mind, even in a rock tumbler existence. As I was abiding in the Vine, He was pouring Himself into me.

He was teaching me to walk day-by-day, moment-by-moment with Him. God wanted more than an early morning hour with me. He wanted all of me all the time. My life was being sustained by Him, the Vine, and God, as the Husbandman, was faithful to keep and to prune me so I could bear more fruit.

Continued on page 19

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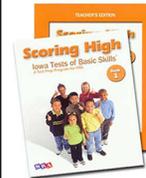
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Are You in the Gentle Stream or the Rock Tumbler? *(Continued from page 17)*

Often I worried about the fruit. Would I ever bear much fruit? How could I, if I did not spend hours in His Word and hours doing the work of ministry? It took years for me to learn that the fruit was the product of the vine through the branch, not the product of the branch on its own. Have you ever walked past a vineyard and heard the branches straining and groaning to bear fruit? No, it is the living sap of the vine flowing through them that enables the branches to bear fruit. It is through abiding in Him that we receive life from Him, and it is His work to conform us into His likeness, enabling us to bear fruit.

As I continue a life of abiding, I desire to know Him more completely. He will be my lifelong pursuit—not by doing, but by being, by abiding in Him. Just as I received Jesus Christ by faith, it is by faith that I abide in Him. It is for Him to choose how He will work in me.

The same is true for those of you crashing and banging into one another in the rock tumbler with your children. Abide in Him. Walk with Him. Pursue Him moment by moment. Submit and surrender to Him. Say, “I abide in You now,” with each challenge or peaceful moment He allows. Do

not despise this noisy time. Christ Jesus is using this time to bring you to the end of self—self-righteousness, self-reliance, self-motivation, self-anything. He is guiding you to the place where you will depend entirely upon Him. He is teaching you to abide. Be grateful. Be joyful. It is His work, and He will do it!

The time will come when the quiet, powerful waters will flow around you and over you, and the fellowship with Jesus will be so much sweeter because of what the two of you have already walked through together. Changing into His image will come easier in the quieter time because you have become accustomed to listening for His voice and obeying His commands even in the noise of the rock polisher. His commands will become as dear to you as His promises, because you see the love and purpose in the commands, having abided in Him while in the rock tumbler. Belief will be more secure, faith will rise up more quickly, and love beyond your highest thoughts will envelop you. You will continue to learn, as I am still learning, to abide. Abide in Him during every moment you are consciously communing with Him, knowing He loves you and desires to dwell

in you, becoming one with you as He is one with the Father. Abide in Him in every moment of fear and unbelief or need or darkness, knowing that He is faithful to you *always*. Abide in Him every moment that your God-given responsibilities and the tasks necessary for living demand your full attention, knowing that He is all-powerful to keep you abiding in Him during those times as well.

Let God do His work in you now. And thank God for the rock tumbler of your life.

Susan Chrisman, a twenty-five year homeschool veteran, is a featured speaker at the 2012 NCHE Conference. She has served with her husband on the Oklahoma Christian Home Educators' Consociation board since 2001 and edits OCHEC publications. Susan also co-directs the Charlotte Mason discussion group of Oklahoma City. She published The Practical Planner for Home Education, and founded a resource service, Lifelong Learners, to encourage parents in training and educating their children. The Chrismans have five children and three grandsons. You can visit Susan's website at <www.lifelonglearnersonline.com>.



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How to Teach Your Platypus by Carol Barnier



"My boy's a platypus!" she gushed enthusiastically.

"He's a what?" I was certain I must have misunderstood her.

"He's a right brained, quasi-lateral, confrontational platypus!"

"Oh," was all I could muster. I was really hoping my cynicism wasn't showing. "Well that is great."

My friend had recently purchased the latest learning styles program and clearly, she had just completed the what-type-is-he questionnaire. This also explained why I had heard her walking around muttering questions to herself like, "Is he happier alone or in a group?" "Does he prefer throwing stones across a quiet lake or leaping through a fast moving stream?" "If he could be an ice cream flavor, would he be vanilla or pistachio ripple with chunks of dried corn?" She'd been at it for almost a week. But now her efforts had paid off.

She had a name for him.

The problem, it seemed to me, is that the name didn't tell her anything she didn't already know. And of greater importance, if this program was like many others, it wasn't going to give her a whole lot of information from this point forward. I mean, I want to know how to teach my little Platypus when he doesn't understand why the denominators of fractions need to match before adding. I want to know what do you do when a Platypus can't remember how to spell "familiar" even though he tested perfectly on it just yesterday. And I want this fancy program to tell me why he is upside down in his seat just as often as he's right side up. Frankly, I was growing a little wearing of teaching to his tookis (just how does one spell tookis?) more often than his adorable face.

But instead I often found information that I didn't quite know what to do with. "Be proactive in teaching this child." "Get them more involved physically with the lesson." Much of it seemed like valuable advice, but I usually came away saying, "Okay—how?" When Monday morning would roll around and I faced my struggling learner once again, I usually had no idea what to change in order to accommodate his new name. Where was the book on *Platypus Math*?

Eventually I came to the conclusion that it was time to experiment. So I went on a hunt for unique ways of teaching every academic subject. I found every different teaching method that I could and then—are you ready for the really complex system I put into place?—I simply tried it with my child. I found ways to teach that

were unfamiliar. I found ways to teach that were surprising. I found ways to teach that were downright odd. I passed no judgment on any possible idea until I had given it a try. And that's when I began to discover some wonderful things about my own dear little Platypus. He could learn. He could learn well, and fast and with enthusiasm, once I found ways in which he *did* learn. And along the way, there were many surprises that most learning style programs would never have predicted.

For example, I one day discovered my son repeating his spelling words over and over until a natural rhythm developed. This one really surprised me as I had been absolutely certain, at least up to that moment, that he was completely without musical ability. Thus, rhythm as a learning vehicle had been completely ignored by me. I tested this idea and set several things to either rhyme or to a beat. Wow! It burst open a new avenue for learning. The result was that we now have added a simple daily recitations section to our schooling. During the years he (and all my children) learned the names of the presidents in order, many rules of math, the books of the Bible, the elements of the Periodic Table, parts of speech, the planets in order from the sun, and a gazillion dates and events from history.

I learned that this child, who most definitely is *not* a visual learner, was nonetheless, able to work through material better that was color-coded. Go figure.

- If he struggled to remember the "gh" in right or fight, he practiced it and then boxed in the "gh" with a bright green marker. This additional step, plus the bold reminder in green, made it easier to remember the otherwise forgotten silent letters.
- If he often added when he should have subtracted, I had him start by boxing in all plus signs with a bright blue color and circling all subtraction signs with a yellow marker. This extra step helped his eye to catch the symbol's required action before he plunged ahead.
- I kept a red pen nearby, and whenever I gave him an assignment, I had him write it in red. It always called out to him as something with some urgency attached to it.

Additionally, I learned that each new success was cross-useful. In other words, once I found a method that worked well in teaching him spelling, I soon tried it in geography. If a new idea worked well in math, we found it worth a try in history. Successes were crossing over at a rapid rate.

So now I'm always on the lookout for new ideas to teach an otherwise struggling learner. In fact, I've come to find myself at odds with the word choice of *struggling learner*. If he isn't learning because I've been teaching him with methods that don't sync

up with his learning style, then he's not a struggling learner, I'm a struggling teacher. I'm not doing the job of finding what he needs to unlock his understanding of a particular concept. It would be easy to see this as a burden. But I've come to find the fun in this part of my job; the joy of the hunt. I now have my radar out all the time, looking for something different to try. So what was the oddest learning activity we ever did? My children might pick some of the history recreations we've done. Then there was the time we practiced spelling on the bathroom wall by writing through smeared shaving cream. But I still place my vote on the crawl through digestive tract my son created. We just need to open our minds to all the different ways there are that material could be presented, find the oddest, strangest, most unlikely of possible methods of teaching and then—give it a whirl. It's in such whirls that learning takes flight.

Carol Barnier is the author of three books about working with non-traditional minds (including her own), the latest entitled *The Big WHAT NOW Book of Learning Styles*. See <www.CarolBarnier.com> or <www.SizzleBop.com>. She will be a speaker at the 2012 NCHE Annual Conference.

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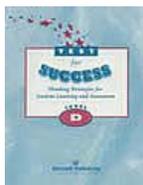
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Scavenging the Sites *by Lorie Codispoti*



Not everyone has the time to scavenge 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 scavenged for you this month.

Articles of Interest

“Jumping in Just a Little Too Much” by Denise Kanter
<<http://www.crosswalk.com/family/homeschool/jumping-in-just-a-little-too-much-11563399.html>>

“The temptation to get overly involved in outside activities is one that many homeschoolers face, whether they're veterans or newcomers.” (D.K.)

“A Harvest of Fruit” by Belinda Bullard
<<http://heartofthematteronline.com/a-harvest-of-fruit/>>

“I challenge you to pull out those plans, even if they are just muddled thoughts swirling around the old ‘noodle,’ and get excited again. Delay does not mean denial, and assuming that your overall plans did not center around certain calendar, you can still recapture the energy and the excitement with which you began.” (B.B.)

Teacher Feature

Handwriting for Kids
<<http://www.handwritingforkids.com/handwrite/index.htm>>

Here's a different approach to teaching handwriting. Try progressing from the simplest to the most complex characters. The animated uppercase alphabet will be a helpful tool for both teacher and student. Many writing exercises and worksheets are also available on this website.

Homeschool Math
<<http://www.homeschoolmath.net/>>

This is a comprehensive math resource site filled with all kinds of resources that emphasize the understanding of concepts rather than mechanical memorization of rules.

It's Elementary

Tour America through Postcards
<<http://www.postcardsfrom.com/t1/arcin.html>>

This postcard tour of all fifty state capitals is fun and educational. Each interesting postcard includes a personal note, as well as informative facts, artifacts, maps, and travel tips. The stamp link shows you what each state's stamps look like, and some of them include interesting facts about their history.

DLTK's Sites
<<http://www.dltk-kids.com/>>

This crafts-for-kids site features a variety of fun things for your kids to do. It has lots of coloring pages and project pages that can be bookmarked for rainy day activities.

High School and Beyond

Resumes for High School Students
<<http://www.money-zine.com/Career-Development/Resume-Writing/Resumes-for-High-School-Students/>>

How should a resume for a high school student be written? That is the question this article skillfully tackles. Addressed are the proper format and the kind of information that should be included. Examples of good resumes are provided.

Word Spy
<<http://www.wordspy.com/>>

Here's a site your homeschooling teens will enjoy. Word Spy is a guide to some new words and phrases entering our culture's vocabulary. Definitions of words that are “slices of modern life” are listed. The author even includes a citation for how each word was used in print.

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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The Last Note

Top Ten Reasons to Attend the NCHE Conference



by J. Mark Fox

If you are a home educator, or a prospective home educator, I know you don't want to miss the 2012 NCHE Annual Conference and Book Fair. But just in case you might be wavering a little, I want to give you my top ten reasons why every home-school family in North Carolina should be in Winston-Salem May 24-26.

10. *The welcome.* What other conference do you attend where the mayor of the city shows up and thanks you for coming? The staff of the convention center and the hotels are always glad to see us, and I have heard for years that we are the nicest, cleanest convention group they host. It's nice to be appreciated!
9. *The talent.* Homeschoolers Got Talent! Ignore the bad grammar and come to see the Talent Showcase Friday night. You will be amazed and entertained—and the price is right, too.
8. *The NCHE board.* This is a working board, folks—fellow homeschoolers. You will see them up close and personal at the conference, doing what they do best: serving the homeschoolers of North Carolina with a smile. I appreciate these unsung heroes, and at the conference, we get to tell them thanks face to face (and maybe get a little advice from a veteran)!
7. *The book fair.* Whether you are a bibliophile or just enjoy large, friendly crowds, you have to love the sights and sounds of the book fair. Come with a list of books and supplies you need, and you will most

- likely find them all, and at a good price.
6. *The coffee.* Come on, you knew I had to mention there are great coffee establishments within walking distance of the convention center! Speaking of nearby establishments, it was while at the NCHE conference that I first ate at Mellow Mushroom. Need I say more? (If you haven't had this experience, it is waiting for you this year in Winston-Salem!)
5. *The graduates.* Remembering our first couple of NCHE conferences, at Ridgecrest and in Raleigh, where I could count the graduates on two hands, I find it a great experience to attend the yearly graduation ceremony where two auditoriums are filled with graduates and their families and friends.
4. *The special features.* There are so many, I am sure I will miss something, but here are a few: the alumni social, the teen and alumni dance class and games social, the all-star basketball games, the college and camp fair, the children's conference, the preschoolers track, the support group leaders' track, special book fair shopping for volunteers (*we love our volunteers!*), and free rides to the front door from remote parking on Friday!
3. *The speakers and workshops.* These have been a highlight for Cindy and me every year since the mid-80s. We have left the conferences inspired and refreshed, renewed in our vision and challenged in our commitment, primarily because of the excellence and the passion of the speakers. I learned so much about identity-directed homeschooling from Chris Davis. Cindy learned not to be fearful about letting our kids take risks from Debra Bell, and to be relaxed in the el-

- ementary years. Our kids were motivated by Josh Harris, Bill Jack, Jeff Baldwin and John Stonestreet to know what they believe and to dare to stand alone when necessary. They have loved learning history from Jim Weiss. Our whole family witnessed exuberant public speaking with Kevin Swanson. We were so blessed by Paul and Ted Tripp and learned more about parenting the hearts of our children. Michael Farris and Brian Ray made us proud to be homeschoolers. Chris Klicka made us cry. There is something for everyone and you don't have to miss anything! You and your spouse can attend different workshops and purchase CDs of the ones you missed or your favorites. This year's speakers are certain to be added to our list of favorites.
2. *The keynote addresses.* Where else can you be in the room with several thousand people of like mind and kindred spirit, who love their children and see them as gifts from God? To me this experience is a faith-builder. Also, the keynote speakers are leaders in the homeschool movement who have a message that *all of us* need to hear.
1. *The fellowship.* Some of my best memories of the conference are the late night pizza and conversation with family and friends about who we saw that day and what we learned. This weekend in May is a highlight for our family every year.

Now that you have read my list, I know that you understand why you *must* attend the conference!

Mark and Cindy Fox have been homeschooling for twenty-three years. Mark will present three workshops at this year's conference and hopes he will get a chance to meet you. 🍷