

Winter 2011

CHILD MAGAZINE

CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL
ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Homeschool
How to Raise
Kids of Character
Savor the
Season



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The CHAP Magazine

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God and constitutes His completed and final revelation to man. The Bible, in its original autographs, is without error in whole and in part. God has existed from all eternity in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was God in human flesh being fully God and fully man, except without sin. All men are in violation of God's righteous requirements and His holy character both by nature and act, and are therefore under His wrath and just condemnation. The central purpose of the coming of Jesus Christ was to pay the penalty for man's sin through His substitutionary atoning death on the cross, the successful accomplishment of which was attested to by His subsequent visible, bodily resurrection. Salvation is offered as a gift, free to the sinner. This gift must be responded to by individual faith, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, but in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ alone.

What was the first Bible verse you memorized?

I would venture a guess that it was John 3:16. What an excellent verse to remind us of God's love for us and the sacrifice He made in sending His Son Jesus Christ as the only means to salvation for our lost souls.

How about the most recent Bible verse you memorized?

What's that you say, life has just been too busy, or the children have been very demanding of your time, or you're not very good at memorizing or you don't know where to start.

These reasons and more can definitely keep you from being able to memorize God's Word.

For me, I love it when I can recall a verse from memory, especially when the Holy Spirit provides an opportunity to share with someone about the love of our Lord, His plan of salvation, words of comfort during a difficult time or words to challenge someone to think about their life and the direction it may be going.

Did you notice that I said "when I can recall."

Like many of my friends, I find scripture memorization challenging at times. Many years ago I spent some time studying the techniques of Jerry Lucas, aka Doctor Memory. With his materials I was able to memorize entire chapters from the scriptures as well as the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and more. Thankfully *some* of it stuck. Using Jerry's concepts I occasionally get to help others memorize scripture. Children are the most fun and frankly the easiest to encourage with scripture memorization. I love teaching folks how to memorize the Ten Commandments in 30 minutes, and afterward be able to quote them in and out of order.

Over the years I have heard of many techniques for scripture memorization with varying levels of success. The biggest challenge for most of these is when it comes time to try to recall the portions of scripture an hour, or a day or even a month later.

I was recently encouraged, regarding remembering scripture, by someone I met and the book he wrote when he was just 17 years old. Listening to Arnold Pent, III, son of Dr. and Mrs. Pent and the author of *Ten P's In A Pod*, while he spoke at a gathering of homeschool leaders, as he challenged us by the scripture that flowed from this man's heart. Quoting not just verses, but entire chapters, I was inspired by the messages of the apostle Paul and large portions of the Old Testament as Arnold encouraged all in attendance with the words of God.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, allow me to encourage you with a special gift that Arnold shared with me. The gift of learning God's Word, not only in your head, but in your heart.

In the book, *Ten P's in a Pod*, there is one particular incident that stands out to me and I will try to relate it here.

The Pent children were expected to have their private

devotions every morning before breakfast, at 6 am. From an early age Arnold's 6 year old brother Paul was directed to read 30 minutes for his private devotions before breakfast. Since Paul, a beginning reader, was familiar with the story of Jonah, having had his mother tell him the story using flannel graph and colored pictures, decided he would start there. Soon he discovered that the four chapters took him the required 30 minutes to complete. "Every morning as faithful as the sunrise, Jonah and the fish were swallowed by Paul. One uneventful morning as we were all sitting in the living room for family devotion, Paul came in and leaning against an old living room chair said in a very unassuming manner, "Well, I learned the book of Jonah." ... then Dad asked him how he did it. ... he simply said, "In my private devotions before breakfast I have been reading it every morning and well - I just found out I could say it." Father, immediately turning his Bible over to the book of Jonah said, "We'd like to hear you say it. We'll start morning devotions now and Paul will quote the book of Jonah.""

There is far more to this story contained in this hidden gem of a book, but I'm not trying to sell you a book. I want you to understand what this father did for his family. I didn't hear him say, "You will memorize this verse, or chapter." I didn't read of any games, techniques or curriculum. I read of a father that set the ground rules for personal and corporate family time to read God's Word.

It doesn't appear that anyone in the family set out to "memorize" anything, but what they read *stuck*. Why? Because they READ IT. They read it every day, multiple times a day. They read it together and separately. They were asked to read it in public and at home around the family table.

Arnold's dad taught his family that reading God's Word was not something you *had* to do, it was something you *needed* to do. You need to eat, you need to sleep, you need to read the Words given to us from our Creator.

That's my special gift for you and your family this Christmas season. Allow me to encourage you to make your time in God's Word as important as eating, sleeping and every priority you have in your life. Actually, Arnold's father considered reading God's Word more important than all these things.

One last thing to note is the importance of your family having devotions together. It's a great time for questions, answers and listening to the hearts of your children and your spouse.

God bless you all this Christmas season and may our Lord clearly direct your steps in the coming year as you seek His will for your life. And remember, much of His will for your life is already spelled out for you in His Word.



In 1988, Don convinced his wife that they should homeschool their children. Within four short years, they had both fallen in love with this lifestyle of learning together. Don and Darlene continue to spread the vision to homeschool through high school and have served together since 2008 on the CHAP Board, which Don currently chairs. They are also the editors of the *CHAP Magazine*.

On A Side Note: "Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble." ~ Psalm 119:165

SIDE BY SIDE IN PENNSYLVANIA

by Megg Kanoff

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22

This past Veterans Day, I had the honor of accompanying a World War II veteran to a Veterans' ceremony. What really amazed me was how the veterans interacted with each other. Many of them did not know each other until this event, and had completely different experiences. However, it quickly became apparent that even with their differences, this group of soldiers shared a bond. There truly is a brotherhood among soldiers.

This got me thinking about an even stronger bond. The Bond of Christ's love. This bond can be seen in the homeschooling community. Sometimes homeschoolers are stereotyped as being all the same. Yet all one has to do is attend one of CHAP's Conventions to realize that there is a large diversity among homeschoolers. Nevertheless, it is not the differences that are remarkable, but our unity. Our love of God and desire to raise godly children makes our differences seem of little importance compared to our shared bond. It is through this bond that we can find fellowship and encouragement.

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God—
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod;
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.



Megg Kanoff and her husband Kevin have been homeschooling their four children since 1995. They use a classical approach and have been members of the CHAP Board for the past 4 years. During her free time, Megg enjoys reading, crafts and playing with their two cocker spaniels.

Parents: John and Susan Mattocks

Children: Luke 9; Emily 7; Benjamin 2

Hometown: Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania

Activities: Bike riding, taking nature walks, playing board games, baking, reading books and playing with friends

How long have you been homeschooling, and what was one of the main reasons that you chose to homeschool?

We have been homeschooling since our oldest son, Luke, started Kindergarten 5 years ago. Even though we are still in the elementary years with our children, we can see the blessings that have come from being obedient to Christ. To answer the question what was the main reason we chose to homeschool, we were called by God. At the time we were to enroll our first son into Kindergarten, I thought that the feeling of not wanting to let my son go was a feeling every mom went through. Then when the thought of homeschooling him came across my mind for the first time, it scared me. I started praying that the Lord would make it clear if this was His will for me. I did not know of other homeschoolers at the time and we were in the midst of looking for a different church to attend. I had many prayer requests going on and one by one the Lord made it very clear that it was His will for us to homeschool. He gave me a wonderful peace in my spirit, a church filled with many homeschoolers and other godly children to surround my own with.

What have been your most helpful resources?

I have been truly blessed to be a part of our community's support group, Salt and Light. Every monthly meeting I get the encouragement I need to keep going. Another helpful resource is the CHAP Convention. My husband and I enjoy the time together listening to motivational speakers and visiting different vendors. Just being in the presence of that many homeschoolers is an incentive.

What philosophy/curriculum do you follow?

We mostly use ABeka, which is a Bible-based curriculum. Having a solid foundation in Christ is our main goal for our children. We choose to do part of their school day using ABeka Internet Streaming along with traditional teaching.

What has been one of your highlights in homeschooling?

I would have to say teaching them to read was a wonderful experience to be a part of. The transformation that takes place in a year is amazing. From putting sounds together in the beginning of the year to reading small chapter books by the end of the year.

What was your favorite field trip?

If you asked my son, he would tell you the underground mine tour. The funny thing about this is, I got so excited to take him on his first field trip that I forgot I am claustrophobic! I was thankful for our friends we sat next to going down underground. As my friend, Donna, comforted her son with encouraging words, she didn't know at the time that she was really helping me!

What was one of the funniest things that happened during a homeschool day?

I am sure there have been many funny instances over the years, but the one that comes to mind happened just a few weeks ago. We found our youngest son Benjamin, who is almost 2, eating the Jamestown Fort project we made. It was made out of pretzels and graham crackers. I guess you could say that he found the Fort's weakness!

What have you found to be challenging in homeschooling?

Keeping the house clean and organized is always on the top of my list of biggest challenges. This goes right along with staying focused. If I lose my focus, I notice my children mirror me and lose theirs. It can be very difficult at times to ignore the dishes in the sink, crumbs on the floor and laundry in the basket. In my house it is also phone calls that come in, aging family members to take care of, and a house being remodeled to name a few more distractions. It is important for me to take it to the Lord in prayer and ask for His grace to get me through these certain days.

What advice would you give to someone who has just begun homeschooling?

My advice would be to never lose sight of your intentions. Write a mission statement and pull it out on those days that you might be considering whether you can do this or not. Also, for those that get distracted like me, I find it very crucial to keep a schedule of what time the children's classes will start and end. They know what to expect and so do I.



When Life Broad-sides Your Homeschool

by Vicki Bentley,
HSLDA Toddlers thru Tweens Consultant

You had a wonderful plan this fall for a well-rounded education, envisioning academic excellence and character development in your smiling, well-adjusted offspring. But then... *It* happened (pick one):

- Your husband got transferred and you have now moved cross country, separated from your family or community support system.
- Your husband has been deployed and you pray for his safety while holding down the fort alone.
- The morning sickness has lasted five months, and shows no sign of slowing.
- The house burned down and the rental you finally found, sparsely furnished with blessings from the community, has been “home” for longer than you’d expected.
- The test came back malignant.
- You are now the sole caregiver for an elderly relative.
- The builders have been saying, “Just two more weeks...” for two years.
- Or (fill in the crisis).



Even the “good” stress of joyful events, such as that one tiny bleep on the ultrasound that turned out to be three, or the upcoming wedding or family reunion, can blindsides us. Ah, the best-laid plans....

A homeschool mom who found herself in the midst of great upheaval, with one trauma after another in a short period, recently wrote me:

“We got a good start with school, ever so many months ago, but it has been almost three months since we have been able to study regularly. I feel so far behind that I am completely overwhelmed as to how to go from here. Do I just start at the beginning of all the texts again? Do I review and try to ‘catch up’ to where we are supposed to be? I don’t know. I am completely overwhelmed by the seeming enormity of the task facing me.”

My friend Vanessa, who has struggled valiantly to homeschool the past two years while her husband has been going through cancer surgery and treatments, shares this insightful bit of wisdom: “When life broadsides you, the most important – and difficult – thing to do is **re-establish ‘normal.’** ‘Normal’ provides a framework for healing.”

So, how do you find ‘normal’ again?

Start with a routine. When you feel so incredibly overwhelmed, just start with the basics of normal. What is getting dropped that just can’t? Meals? Bedtimes? Basic housekeeping? Re-visit your routine – I don’t mean the sort of schedule that has you checking the to-do list every eight minutes, or dingling a bell to move from lunch to naptime. I mean covering at least the basics and having some regularity to your day.

Knowing what comes next, without having to make **one more decision**, can be a relief. Children find security in routine, and we moms can find emotional freedom in having a basic structure for the day or week. For example: “I’ll make a great effort to have breakfast by 7:30 and then lunch ready at 1:00 and supper at 6:30, and everyone has to be in their rooms by 9:00 p.m., whether they are in bed or quietly reading or something else safe (depending on ages).”

It helped us to have a morning start-up time of, say, 8:45 to meet in the living room for 15 minutes of family devotions. I would drop all else at 8:45 and call the kids in and put on a praise/worship song (CD) and we’d just close our eyes and sing one or two songs. Then we’d have a quickie devotional or Bible/character lesson for about 8-10 minutes (from a book and the Bible – no major planning or thinking required), then pray together, either one of us or anyone who cared to (or some days, I’d have everyone pray aloud).

This gave me a consistent, prayerful, focused start to my school day, got everyone in one room, and gave us a launching point. That doesn’t mean we didn’t occasionally crash and burn *later*, but at least we started right!



On A Side Note: “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself ... encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.” 2 Thessalonians 1:16-17

Make a short list of what *has* to be done. During times of major stress, such as miscarriages, family deaths, job losses and relocations, unexpected diagnoses, and more, the house stayed up pretty well because we use a practical but simple chore system, which has worked well through fifty kids, the changes of foster kids, moves, job losses, and more. At a minimum, make a list of the basic housekeeping or cleanliness standards that you consider non-negotiable. For example, my crisis list might look like this:

- Do dishes.
- Make the beds. (Critical for me! But simplify bed-making with easy linens.)
- Wash clothes. (Hint: we don’t need fifteen outfits per person.)
- Tidy bathroom daily and clean it weekly.
- Sweep kitchen in the morning and clean up spills as needed.
- Vacuum once a week.
- Clean the fingerprints on the door glass and bathroom mirror (but the windows can wait).
- Feed the pets.
- Feed the family. Oh, my...that means *meals!*

Consistent meals were a major challenge for me when I was overwhelmed by life. I was *much* better about consistent, nutritious, on-time-ish meals when I’d made menus. **If you are having trouble coming up with menus**, remember that your family is probably more impressed with eating nourishing food at a regular time each day than with trying a vast array of new foods each week.

To get into the habit of regular, healthy dinner times, consider something as basic as a weekly rotation of the same basic meals. You can work up to scheduling certain *categories* of meals on the weekdays (for example: meatless meal on Monday, poultry meal on Tuesday, ground beef meal on Wednesday, poultry on Thursday, new recipe on Friday, etc.). Then, as you are more comfortable with menu planning, you could even plan a month at a time, if you have room to store the groceries for that many meals. (I found that when I planned/

shopped for a month at a time, my cost per meal was significantly reduced.) Some moms find it helpful to make a family project of once-a-month cooking, to stock up on meals or pre-cooked components of meals.

What does all that have to do with your homeschooling?

I specified those homemaking items first – meals, routines and bedtimes (including yours!), and basic housekeeping – because if your house isn't functioning, then "school" won't either. If we feel that *something* has to give, it will be the homeschooling that gets the boot.

Make a plan, starting from where you are now. Sit down (with your spouse, preferably) and re-group. Where are you right now? Where do you want to be at the end of the year? Don't look at grade level – look at what is reasonable to expect to accomplish between now and June. The tests will most likely be fine, regardless of where the children are in "The Books."

And speaking of "The Books": This may be a great time to prayerfully evaluate what you are utilizing to meet your academic goals. Are you attempting to re-create school at home,

or are you creating an environment for a learning lifestyle? Maybe you are overwhelmed because you are expecting too much of yourself or your children; there are many ways to multi-level teach, saving wear and tear on your lesson planning, your schedule, your emotions, and your budget.

If you need help feeling accountable and staying on target, a planner or a notebook with calendar pages on which you can jot your plan can be helpful. The lesson plan book we used not only had lesson planning sheets, field trip logs, reading logs, and more, but it included a chart and guidelines to set a few goals for each child, so I could then focus my attention on materials or activities that would help us to achieve those goals.

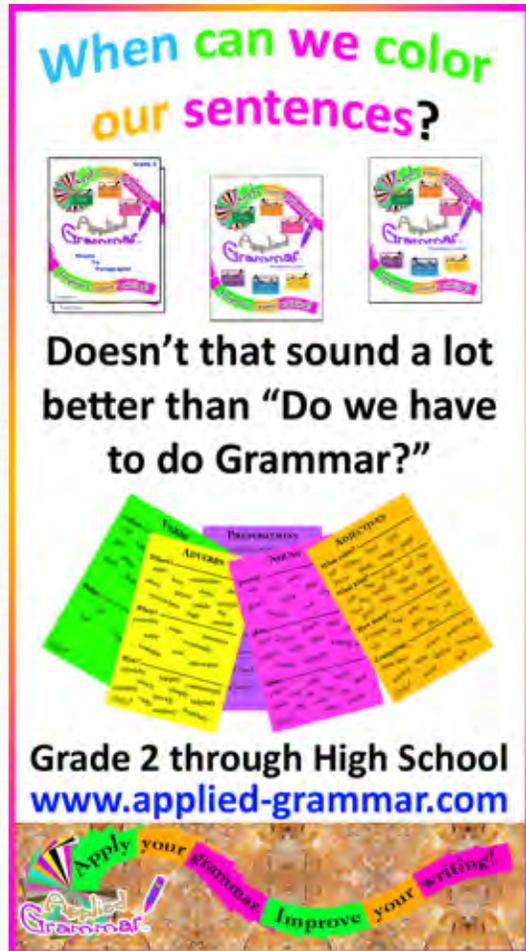
Anything that isn't helping you achieve your goals is *extra* and should be included only if it doesn't impede your forward progress. In most cases, your children have been learning just through the natural processes of life. You may be very surprised at the cognitive progress they have made, even if you're not where you want to be, academically. Children whose parents have had to slow down on the textbook studies because of family crises often do remarkably well on standardized achievement tests. Not only do they usually do acceptably on the tests, they have learned valuable lessons in how to live through crisis, how to serve one another under stress, and how to trust in God for each moment. I am not recommending that you never expect excellence and diligence in formal studies; I am saying don't let a temporary setback make you quit or panic – you can all learn and grow through it.

God is the Author of new beginnings

The following is a very big "if," so please do not allow the enemy to condemn you. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, but there can be *conviction to make new choices*. **If** you happen to be in your academic situation because of a shortcoming on your own part, remember that **the Lord's mercies are new every morning**. I was not always as diligent as I wished I were, or as patient, or as discerning, or

But if they learned nothing else, I wanted my children to see a mother who was humble and repentant and teachable before the Lord and in front of her family. I needed to model a Christ-like attitude. (I often failed miserably!) They needed to see a woman who could admit those failings, humble herself to ask forgiveness, and try her best to rely on God to honor her Lord and her family in the future. I needed to stay on my knees and in the Word. I prayed for my children, just as Jesus did for his disciples (John 17).

You can't change what you have or haven't already done the last year. Just start where you are, ask the Lord to make you a "joyful mother of children," pray for grace and wisdom (and strength and patience), and move forward.



When can we color our sentences?

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Vicki Bentley is happily married to her high school sweetheart Jim and is the blessed mother of eight daughters, foster mom of over fifty since 1985, and grandma to fifteen wonderful grandbabies (so far). She is the author of *Home Education 101: A Mentoring Program for New Homeschoolers*, *My Homeschool Planner*, *The Everyday Family Chore System*, *Everyday Cooking*, and various articles. Vicki has a heart for moms, with strong practical wisdom and encouraging words. Vicki is the coordinator for HSLDA's Toddlers thru Tweens program. This and other helpful articles can be found at www.hslda.org/earlyyears. Visit Vicki's websites: www.everydayhomemaking.com and www.HomeEducation101.com.

Encouraging One Another

by Leigh Genasevich

One support group leader recently realized the true benefit of CHAP's Yahoo email group for support group leaders. Running a support group by herself with no co-leader and feeling overwhelmed, frustrated, and in need of a confidence boost, she wrote to the group asking for help. As support group leaders are true to their title, their hearts went out to her, and they were there to share encouragement, prayer, ideas and biblical advice.

Running a support group is never an easy task, and this leader discovered that with the ever increasing popularity of homeschooling, support groups are not only a ministry but also a mission field, and there is no territory gained without a battle. Sometimes attacks will come from outside the homeschool community and unfortunately, sometimes from within. It's comforting to know that when you are discouraged and want to give up, as this leader did, that other like-minded leaders will come along side of you and lift you up. "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend" (Proverbs 27:17, NLV).

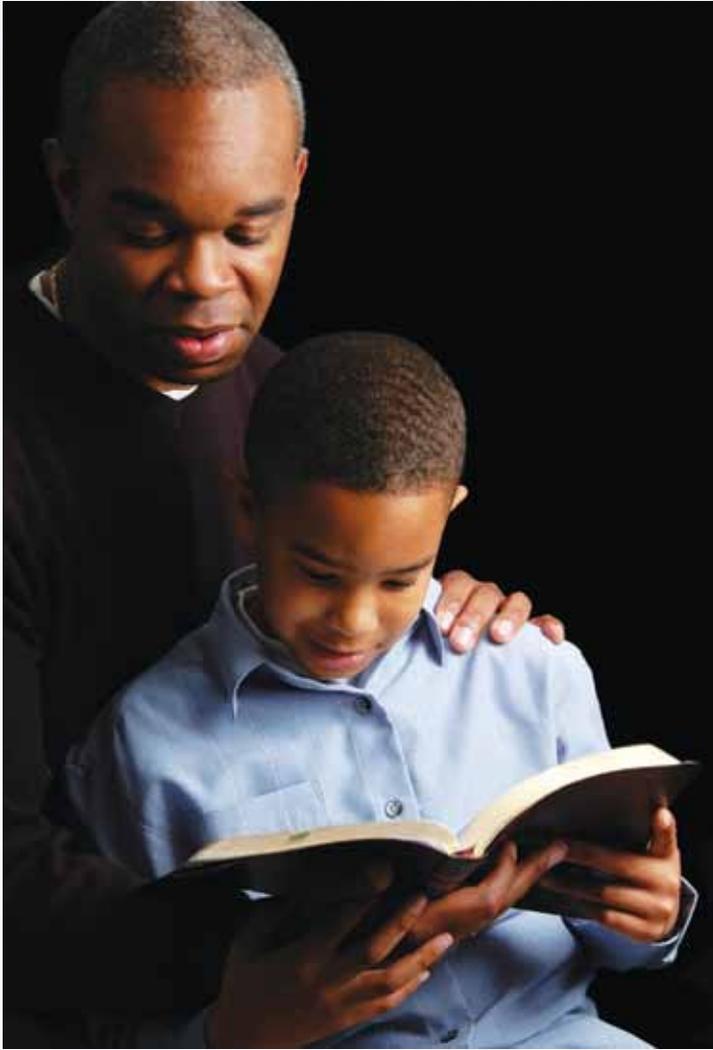
The rewards of helping families succeed in homeschooling are boundless, but the path may appear lonely and filled with obstacles at times. Support group leaders need support too. If you are a support group leader and have not joined the CHAP Yahoo group, please visit www.chaponline.com/sg-leaders for more information on becoming a member.



"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

HOW TO RAISE KIDS OF CHARACTER

by Marilyn Boyer



Character has been said to be doing right, no matter what the cost or consequences, and whether or not anyone is looking. In our world today, becoming a person of character is often a forgotten concept. People strive to entertain themselves with TV, X-Box, or sports – often at the expense of those around us.

If you learn to raise kids whose lives reflect the character of God, they will shine as lights in the dark society in which we live. God will make opportunities for them that others don't have because He honors His principles in the lives of His children, and He even honors His principles when those who aren't Christians live by His truth.

God's way is contrary to our natural desires. If we lose our lives in serving others and teach our children to do so also, God will reward us immensely. We taught our kids a little song we once heard called Do Right.

Do right, do right,
Because it's right to do.
Do right, do right,
For the world is watching you.
It's never right to do wrong to do right
So do what's right to do.
Do right, do right,
The Lord will see you through.

To grow kids of character, you must know what character is and communicate it to your kids. Character is the very attribute God possesses. Our job is to glorify God, to learn to be more like Jesus. We must learn what He is like, then teach it to our kids in a way they can understand, and help them make it a living part of their lives. It doesn't come naturally, so you can't just expect your kids to develop character qualities in their lives without cultivating it in them.

As a very young mom, I attended a Sunday school class that I will forever be thankful for. It was taught by a man named Larry Coy who taught us that the Bible has practical life answers. As I sat there, quite like a sponge, absorbing his wisdom, I then sought to find a way to teach it to my kids.

I recently finished writing a book about the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, *For You They Signed*. My purpose in writing it was to teach my kids and others the sacrifices these men made on our behalf and also what they believed about Jesus Christ. Some gave doctrinal statements in their last wills so their children and posterity would know what they believed. I felt like I was on a treasure hunt. It was fascinating.

I was struck by the overwhelming evidence of character in their lives. It was so well documented and so exemplified in their lives that I couldn't ignore it. God led me to change. Ultimately, my goal was to inspire children to attempt great things for God, and in so doing, impact their culture and become a tool in God's hand to help America return to her godly roots. *For You They Signed* contains a year's worth of study that families can use in devotion time to learn character and Scripture together, as well as history.

These men who founded our country strove to become men of character, and placed an extremely high value on teaching it to their children and those under their charge.

Thomas Jefferson, a signer from Virginia, established the Bible as the primary book for use in Washington City schools when he was president. Even those founders not Christian, like Jefferson, had a high respect for God's ways and principles, were raised by them, and thought it preposterous that anyone would not want his children raised by the teachings of Jesus Christ.

This was the mindset in our country. People were trained to look to the Bible as having answers for every need in life. I believe it still does, and we are responsible to communicate that to our children and guide them in digging out those practical answers to life.

It's not too late. We as home educators have the awesome opportunity and duty to change the tide and raise up a generation of godly leaders who are willing to let God reign in their hearts and lives and be used of God to accomplish His mighty purposes in our land.

Let us heed the warning Noah Webster gave to us, *"The education of youth should be watched with the most scrupulous attention... It is much easier to introduce an effectual system than to correct by penal statutes the ill effects of a bad system. The education of youth lays the foundation on which both law and gospel rest for success."*

There was recently an international survey done which found American elementary students to be ABOVE average, junior high students AT average, and high school students WELL BELOW average. The longer students remain in American schools, the less they seem to know. America now ranks 65 of 200 in literacy. Some third world nations rank higher.

Just a few decades ago, America had one of the highest literacy rates. It's been in my lifetime. The year I entered first grade was the year the Bible was removed from public schools. Studies clearly show a dramatic decline from that time on. Recently, 700,000 American high school graduating seniors couldn't read their own diplomas. (Four Centuries of American Education, Barton)

Pick up a blue-backed speller or New England Primer some time and see what school kids were taught for decades in our country. They learned the Ten Commandments, prayer and praises to God, rhymes about the Bible to learn letters, an acrostic of Bible verses to learn the alphabet, a catechism about Jesus Christ, sin, and the doctrine of salvation.



Okay, so what can we do? I will share with you some of the things we've found helpful in teaching our 14 kids how to internalize the character of our Savior.

- **Teach them the character qualities set forth in the Bible.** 1 Corinthians 10:11 tells us that God wrote about the lives of people in the Bible so that we might learn from their example, positive or negative. Point out admirable qualities in the men and women of the Bible and show how God blessed them because of it, or corrected them, as the case may be. We found *Character Sketches* by IBLP.org to be a very valuable tool in teaching this, although you can do it just from the Bible or even Bible story books.

- **Boys can be taught the character of godly Bible men and girls of godly Bible women – Bible heroes.** Perhaps you may want to incorporate this into their room décor or make a special book about it or a wall hanging.

- **Bible Men Chart** – We used this project to teach our kids about men in the Bible who demonstrated character qualities for the purpose of learning the qualities ourselves.

- **Job 12:7-8, as well as Proverbs 30, tells us that God has also given us animals, which display these same qualities in their lives, as a part of God's wonderful design.** *Character Sketches* was a valuable tool for teach this. Children seem to have an attraction to animals at an early age, so this is a great way to introduce character qualities. Again, all sorts of visual aids can be worked up to make it more interesting. Proverbs 16:21 says, "A wise teacher makes learning a joy."

- **Point out character qualities in other people your child comes in contact with.** For example, "Wasn't Mrs. Smith kind to give you a glass of lemonade?"

- **A character quality chart may be useful.** We had a list of character qualities we were learning and a space to paste stars or stickers at the end of the day. We reviewed their day to see which qualities they had shown forth that day. This is a

great time to talk over the events of the day and help the child be aware that God is working in his life.

- **Character qualities can be mentioned throughout the day as well.** For example, "Johnny is learning to be responsible by putting his clothes in the hamper," or "That was a very orderly thing to do."

- **We often had a character quality of the month.** We would learn the definition (can't learn to demonstrate it if they don't understand it) and a verse to go along with it. We then developed projects to help solidify it in their lives and to put it into practice. For example, Orderliness: room check, drawer check, containers with pictures for toys. Kindness (especially toward a sibling they were in conflict with): Plan a special surprise, cupcake, etc., where treasure is, there their heart will be also. Availability: helping elderly neighbor by raking his leaves, talking to him if lonely. Responsibility: feeding the birds or dog.

Remember, every negative character quality in your life or your child's life is just a positive character quality misused. Your job is to direct and steer your child in the proper direction, using God's Word as your guide.



Marilyn Boyer and her husband Rick are true pioneers of homeschooling. Beginning in 1980, Marilyn has taught all of her 14 children from kindergarten through high school. Her passion for putting Christian character at the top of her educational priorities resulted in the creation of the **Character Concepts** homeschooling curriculum. Marilyn has authored several books including *Parenting from the Heart*, *Hands-On Character Building* and *For You They Signed*. Her combination of compassion, godly wisdom, and rich insight into the hearts of children has made her a cherished resource for homeschooling moms all across America. www.thelearningparent.com



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Building a Heritage of Character

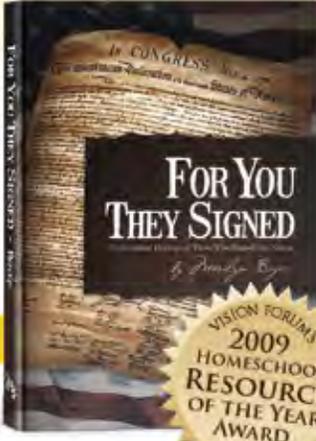


Marilyn Boyer is the descendent of a Revolutionary War soldier, and a daughter of a World War II veteran. She is the wife of an Air Force veteran, mother and home educator of fourteen sons and daughters, and grandmother of six. Deeply patriotic and passionate about America's Christian history, Marilyn has, in *For You They Signed*, brought to life the stories of the 56 noble men who pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to secure our freedom through our nation's Declaration of Independence.

“More than 2,000 years ago, Nehemiah undertook the rebuilding of his nation. As part of the process, he constructed a “House of Heroes” by which those in his generation could learn of the courage and sacrifices made by previous ones. Through *For You They Signed*, Marilyn has created a much-needed inspirational “House of Heroes” for this generation.”

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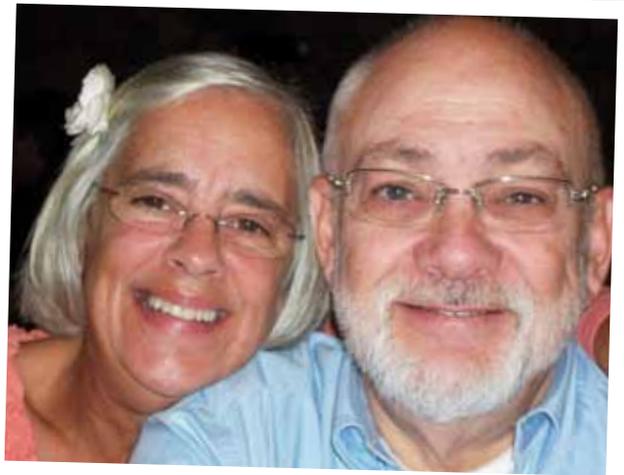
Lifework Forum

Do you know Curt and Sandra Lovelace? In the 1970s they served on the staff of L'Abri fellowship in Switzerland with Francis and Edith Schaeffer. Since then God has put the wealth of education and experience He has granted them to work in an ever-widening arena. In the 1990s He moved Lifework Forum onto the international stage. Curt and Sandra have built relationships with families devastated by Communism and others who are isolated in harsh conditions or living under powerful threats. Lifework Forum is an organization presenting patterns for living to both religious and secular audiences.

In October, Curt retired from full-time pastoral ministry after 30 years in the pulpit. Sandra retired from her role as Coordinator of the Homeschool Umbrella Program at GGIS in Budapest and from that of International Consultant to HSLDA.

Curt and Sandra have been called by God to extend their ministry to homeschool families by settling in the city at the geographic center of Europe: Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. Their main goal is to get settled into a home of their own from which they can serve homeschool families. Their work will be similar to what they've done for the last 30 years or so: to make themselves available to meet the needs of the families they serve.

"We've learned that the sharing of comfort in 2 Corinthians 1 applies to wisdom, encouragement, and every skill or ability we've received by God's grace. It is our intention to visit families in their home countries as well as welcome them into our home to offer whatever meaningful information, encouragement and support the Lord allows."



Their current prayer requests:

1. For the mind of Christ to be developed in and shown forth through us.
2. For strength and discernment for this major transition.
3. For understanding and peace in the hearts of our family, especially our grandchildren.
4. For the Lord's provision of ongoing support and opportunities to serve Him.
5. As a result of our traveling around Bulgaria, we have discovered two needs that we would like to broadcast. One family needs to get a suitcase full of curriculum materials (yes, for this academic year) and the other needs to get a digital piano (a Christmas gift for their children) delivered to Sofia. The families are willing to cover any expenses that a traveler might incur, such as excess baggage fees. They just want to avoid the dramatic shipping costs and questionable delivery realities. If you know anyone who's flying to Sofia, Budapest, or Prague anytime in the near future, please ask them to contact us.

Take the time to get to know more about Curt and Sandra through their website and blogs, and "Like" them on Facebook:

www.LifeworkForum.org
www.anewblogfromprague.blogspot.com
www.viewsfromtheloft.blogspot.com
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SAVOR THE SEASON

by Rick Boyer



If anybody ever invents a time machine, I want the first one off the assembly line. I'll have a thousand things I want to do. I'll explore history and find out what really happened on a number of occasions. I'll return to my childhood and try to make peace with some of the hard things that happened to me, and also revisit the happier times at Granddad's farm with my cousins. But the very first thing I'll do when I get behind the wheel of that time machine is to go back to when my children were little.

Oh, what I'd give to see my grown sons as little boys again! I used to get bored sometimes with pulling them in the wagon or pushing them on the swings, but I'd give a quart of blood to be able to do it one more time. I don't think now I could ever tire of it. To carry them on my shoulders again; to tickle them until they screamed. And ah, the luxury of having nobody in the house who knew that Dad wasn't perfect (that is, except Mom). To be able to hug and kiss my boys without embarrassing them. I appreciated what I had back then. But now I know I should have appreciated it more.

Back in my beloved house painting days, I was working on a big house for a nice old widow named Mrs. Holt. It was the summer of 1979 and I was sweating away in the sun when my wife dropped by the job on her way home from a prenatal visit to the doctor. I climbed down off my ladder to hear the news. Marilyn was due to deliver soon and I wondered what the doctor had said.

"He said I'd better hurry up and get home," she told me. "Said it could come any time."

We were planning our second home birth. Marilyn had been treated so callously at the hospital when Tim was born that I vowed I'd never take her there to give birth again. So third son Nathan was born at home, much to the shock of our neighbor, Sandy, across the street. I'd walked across to tell her the news that the baby had come and she didn't believe it. I wouldn't be that calm, she said. She'd come over in a few minutes and see for herself.

I wish I'd had my camera ready. I'd love to have a shot of Sandy's face when Marilyn first threw the covers back and showed tiny Nate beside her.

When Marilyn had driven away from the job that summer day, she'd agreed to call me immediately if Number Four gave her any strange sensations before my regular time to arrive home. Mrs. Holt stopped to chat with me a few minutes later. When I told her it looked like a new little one would be along soon, she smiled.

"You're a rich man, Mr. Boyer," she said warmly.

And I was. And I am. But it's striking how often I forget and have to be reminded that I really am wealthy. Sometimes, I feel sort of poor. I've long suspected that whoever said that the best things in life are free never paid an obstetrician's bill.

In the early days of our parenthood, it sometimes seemed that life would go on forever as it was going then. We'd never have any money, we'd never have a child old enough to babysit the siblings, we'd never have air conditioning in the house or own a dependable car. I was so tense as a young

man that I made life harder for myself and for those I loved. I let the stresses of life rob me of a lot. Ben Franklin was right when he said that there's "no putting an old man's head on a young man's shoulders." Still, I'm irritated with myself for letting seasons go by without fully tasting the days.

I've heard Marilyn say that life was tougher when she had three children than it was with eight, because when she had only three, there were no big helpers. Two were in diapers, and firstborn Rickey was a little fireball. Now, our youngest is almost a teenager and we have young adults in the house who pretty much run the home operation for us. We are also blessed with some wonderful children-in-law and grandchildren, but the extra needs of the family are felt, too. It takes a tremendous expenditure of time, finances and effort to do what we do.

But by now we know that it won't always be this way. We've had better times and worse times and probably both kinds will visit us again. All we know for sure is that everything that comes to pass, passes.

And a lot has passed. Baby Nate now is a big man with a wife and children of his own. He had a younger brother who was also born in the little yellow house. We named him Josh and we lost him to heaven through leukemia seventeen years later. And today we have fourteen children, four children-in-law and eight wonderful grandchildren. And we've lived long enough to know that everybody's grandchildren are wonderful.

I may be weird, but I sometimes think about the day I'll die. If I'm conscious, I'll have a lot to reflect upon. I think I'll be happy to go, because I want to see Jesus. And I want to see Josh. It will be sweet. But before I go, I'll be thinking about the sweet times I've had down here and giving thanks.

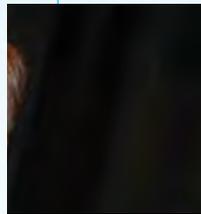
There must be very few people on earth who are as rich as I am. That is, if riches are to be measured by how many people you love and who love you in return. On my

last day on earth, I will be counting my wealth in terms of memories. I will remember sunny days with a propane grill and a back yard full of happy people, all of my own blood. I'll remember watching my children dance around the kitchen to lively Christmas music with their nieces and nephews. I'll remember pushing my kids on the swing and in later years, watching them push their kids. I'll remember tubing down a mountain river with my children and grandchildren around me in a jolly flotilla.

Bill Gates, eat your heart out.

If you're a young parent with young children, your life isn't easy. That's why God gives you those responsibilities while you have the energy of youth with which to handle it all. If you don't mind a friendly word of advice from a guy who has spent the last few decades trading energy for experience, I'd ask you to stop and smell the roses. They're right there in front of you—in your preschooler's cheeks. Beware of the tendency to get wrapped up in getting everything done; it will never be all done. This season of your life, like every season of life, will pass before you know it. Savor it while it's here.

Turn off the vacuum cleaner for a minute and go hug your kids.



Rick Boyer and his wife Marilyn are among the early trailblazers of the homeschooling movement. Building on their experience in training their own 14 children at home since 1980, Rick and Marilyn have written several popular books on homeschooling, Christian parenting and national reformation. The Boyers are also the creators of the **Character Concepts** homeschool curriculum.

Rick's books include *Home Educating with Confidence*, *Take Back the Land*, *The Socialization Trap*, and *The Hands-on Dad*. He is known to thousands of children through his "Uncle Rick" audio recordings. www.thelearningparent.com

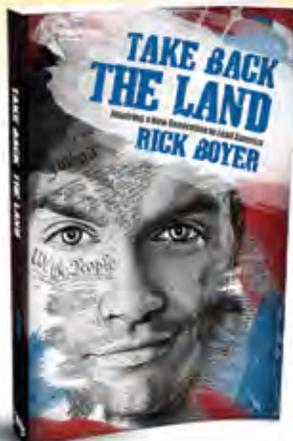


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"Take Back the Land is an important, landmark book for the homeschool movement. Written by homeschooling pioneer Rick Boyer, its message is aimed at the Joshua Generation whose special mission is nothing less than taking America back to its Christian roots. The author explains the meaning of this great mission and why he believes the Joshua Generation has been chosen by the Lord to carry it out."
- Samuel L. Blumenfeld, education author/reformer

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I Can See Clearly Now - The Kids Are Gone

by Becky Whitaker



If it were possible to reflect on and learn from life's trials, temptations, and mistakes BEFORE they occur, then I would probably choose that route. However, we all know life is not like that. And for most weary homeschool moms, we do not have much time or energy for reflecting. I admit it. Many times I was just grateful to make it through the homeschool day, with my marriage and family intact, while clinging to God's promise that I can do all things through Jesus who gives me His strength.

Time for reflection eluded me back then. But ever since the kids crossed the homeschool finish line, there has been more time to reflect on my numerous mistakes which were caused mostly by faulty thinking. Perhaps by sharing a few of those thoughts, you may be spared some regrets.



Faulty Thought Number One – If we send the kids to a good Christian pre-school, our families and friends will approve and we will be off to a wonderful start!

Wrong. Actually, our families did approve, but I have regretted this negative experiment for years. Pre-school outside of home does not give kids a jump-start on college or even on socialization. Imagine my heartstrings aching the first day when my precious three-year-old son said to me in a teary voice (as the teacher blew her loud, scary whistle to herd the kids), "Mommy, will you please pray for me before you go?" Somehow, the assurance from others that he was 'being socialized' did not give me much peace. My kids did not need pre-school. We should have stayed home reading fun books aloud, learning Bible stories, and creating crafts to give away. Such activities bond a mom with her pre-schooler and provide the only necessary environment for building all the self-esteem and socialization he needs at that time.



Faulty Thought Number Two – If we can keep the kids on soccer teams long enough through their homeschool years, maybe they will one day make a college team and qualify for a scholarship! (This would be a huge help since our college fund was empty.) Well, no scholarship came our way, but I do have fond memories of cheering my boys on through nine years of soccer games. Sports are good, but they are not everything. Choose what the kids want to do and what works with your homeschool schedule. And, lower your expectations.



Faulty Thought Number Three – If we are constantly involved with homeschool co-op classes and every other good activity both inside and outside of church, then the colleges will see how well-rounded my kids are and will somehow overlook the low math scores. (I honestly don't know how I concluded this.)

Wrong again. Colleges like high math scores and that's okay. I still prefer my well-rounded kids over test scores. Besides, they made it to college in spite of math.



Faulty Thought Number Four – If I purchase that expensive Chemistry curriculum, it will compensate for my deficient science background!

Nope. Purchase the less expensive one. Unless your child WANTS to become a chemist, the cheaper one will do just fine. Likewise, do you REALLY need that ‘all inclusive’ expensive curriculum for Kindergarten? No. Just teach him to read and count – the rest will follow.



Faulty Thought Number Five – The kids will receive plenty of Bible training at church!

Sadly, very wrong. The church did not provide this for us. Even though I did teach my kids to pray, read the Bible, and have quiet times, I always felt a certain pressure to hit the academic subjects first. If I could do it over again, I would definitely incorporate more Bible study into our curriculum and I would utilize the Scriptures more frequently to teach reading, handwriting, literature, and history. The enemy definitely does NOT want your kids to know biblical truth. Teach the Bible to your kids!! Thankfully, my kids have been spiritually challenged and strengthened at a no-compromise Christian college, but there is really no substitute for what they learn about following Christ at home.

Lest you think my homeschool experience was just a bunch of mistakes, let me assure you that we have never regretted

the day God led us to ‘try it out.’ Our family is tight because of homeschooling. I REALLY miss my kids! I miss being able to ice skate on the local pond with them during the middle of the day. I miss watching them take care of the heifers and pick huge zucchini from the garden. I miss watching their faces as their dad read to them before bed. And I miss listening to their musical talents. They were great kids then, and they are great adults now! God was so good to lead us to homeschooling and I’m grateful to Him for the reflections in our homeschool mirror. He has redeemed my past mistakes. Hopefully, I have learned to trust Him for the next phase of life by reflecting on all the good He has established in my kids (in spite of my errors).

Someone once said, “The days are long, but the years are short.” So true. May your homeschool convictions grow stronger with every tick of the clock, and may you cross the finish line with wonderful memories to reflect upon while giving all praise to God for bringing you confidently to the end.



Becky Whitaker was a homeschooling mom for many years and she enjoys encouraging others to do the same. She currently serves as CHAP’s Administrative Assistant.

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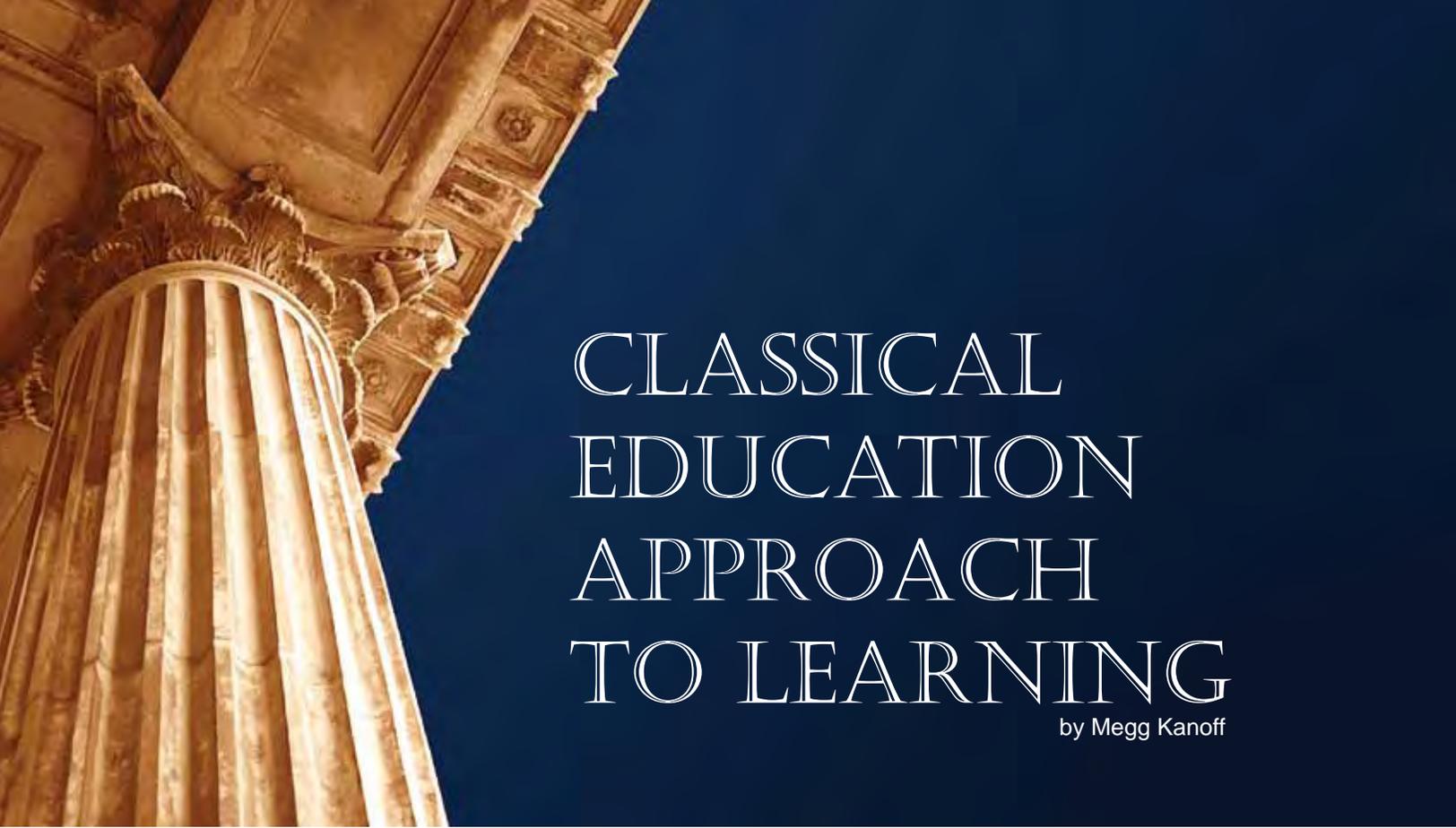
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CLASSICAL EDUCATION APPROACH TO LEARNING

by Megg Kanoff

Regrettably, Classical Education is often viewed as a difficult, lofty educational approach. I have used the Classical approach the entire time I have homeschooled (approximately 15 years) and have found it to be a great fit for teaching my children. The goal of this article is to give an introduction to Classical Education so that homeschoolers can begin to understand the approach and apply all or part of the approach to their homeschooling.

In order to understand Classical Education, one should first look at Dorothy Sayers and her writings concerning education. Sayers observed that the students of her time (1893-1967) were not intellectually equipped upon leaving school. She went on to explain that the best way to give children the tools they need is to use a modified medieval curriculum. It is this curriculum and the goal of providing children with the necessary tools of learning that today's Classical Education is built on.

The first main aspect of this curriculum is the understanding that children have different stages of learning, based on their ages. The classical approach breaks down these stages into three parts, which are called the Trivium. Understanding these stages allows the parent to teach using the children's strengths, and in ways that the children enjoy learning. Here is a simple breakdown of the stages (based on a poster created by Logos Press, with my own revisions):

I. Grammar Stage (approximately ages 4-11) – Goal is to provide children with information/facts that will be the foundation for future learning and love of learning

Children's Characteristics

- Excited about learning new information/facts
- Enjoy active learning such as games, songs, stories
- Enjoy collecting and organizing items

Parents – Teaching

- Use projects that require a lot of active participation
- Use songs, chants, and drills
- Read books filled with interesting facts and repetitiveness

Danger

- Parents may become prideful because their children can recite impressive amounts of information

II. Logic Stage (ages 12-14) – Goal is for children to take facts, and analyze and apply the information

Children's Characteristics

- Often found judging, debating/arguing with others
- Like to show off knowledge and often think they know more than adults

Parents – Teaching

- Reports requiring children to put information into their own words; also persuasive reports
- Work on children evaluating and critiquing information
- Logic and beginning informal debate

Danger

- Parents may become frustrated because children start questioning parents

III. Rhetoric Stage (ages 15-18) – Goal is for children to be able to take information, analyze it, and then be able to present the information

Children's Characteristics

- Concern with appearance
- Desire to express feelings and ideas
- Becoming more responsible and independent

Parents – Teaching

- Presentations, including speeches
- Responsibilities – give children areas that they can own themselves (examples: housework, work, classes)
- More interaction with adults; include children in adult conversations

Danger

Both parents and children might think the child is more mature than they truly are, so the parent doesn't give the supervision and protection that is still needed

Here is one example of how these stages might play out in a subject:

Bible

- Grammar Stage – Bible memorization, hymns, and catechism
- Logic Stage – Emphasis shifts to reading the Bible and understanding Bible verses
- Rhetoric Stage – Start studying concepts/doctrines and how it applies to their spiritual life

Classical Education is not just dealing with the structure of teaching your children. One other aspect that I would like to briefly touch on is that the Classical approach is a language-based approach. It has a strong emphasis on reading because it requires active learning and broadens children's views. By reading more challenging books, such as classics, children are exposed to different styles of writing and thinking. The emphasis of reading classics often makes people leery of this

approach. However, it has been my experience that this is one of the best parts of the Classical approach. Since the classics were not a part of my own education, I have enjoyed reading them with my children. I was right beside my children as they saw Achilles fight Hector in *The Iliad*. I enjoyed discussing the levels of Hell that Dante created in *The Inferno*. These books, along with many others, stretched our minds, increased our creativity, and led us back to discussions on how man sees the world versus how God reveals the world in the Bible.

Although I have only scratched the surface of the Classical approach to education, I would like to encourage you to find out more about this approach and how it could work within your own home. The beauty of homeschooling is that each family's curriculum can be tailored to what works best for their family. For more information on this subject, I would recommend:

The Lost Tools of Learning, by Dorothy Sayers www.gbt.org/text/sayers.html

Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning, by Douglas Wilson (1991, ISBN: 0891075836)

The Well-Trained Mind, by Susan Wise Bauer & Jessie Wise (2009, ISBN: 0393067088)

Logos Press www.logospresonline.com

Veritas Press www.veritaspress.com



Megg Kanoff and her husband Kevin have been homeschooling their four children since 1995. They use a classical approach and have been members of the CHAP Board for the past 4 years. During her free time, Megg enjoys reading, crafts and playing with their two cocker spaniels.

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READY, SET... LAUNCH?

by Mary Shenk



We began our homeschool journey as a fluke... well, at least that's how I viewed it at the time. Growing up, I attended a Christian school for all but one of my school years. My parents scraped and saved and borrowed to put all five of us through school, and I am thankful for their sacrifice and obvious love for us. However, as I approached my high school years, I found the students in our school were involved with everything I would have found in the public school. And these were supposed to be my Christian friends whom I could lean on for support? For good or bad, I decided then that my kids would not be going to Christian school. They would go to public school!

Fast forward a few years: college, marriage, a baby who was now a toddler, our firstborn son Jeremy was getting ready for his big debut at, you guessed it, preschool. The preschool, where everyone who was anyone sent their child. It started well enough, but that quickly changed, as soon I was getting calls from the teacher about Jeremy's inability to adapt to the routine. Daily, there was much crying and begging from my normally happy and very social child that he did not want to go to that place. Two months later, we pulled him out, sure that for the same amount of money that we were spending to make him miserable, I could surely do something with him and reduce the chaos in his young life.

And so we were off on our journey. What began as just preschool, led to kindergarten and then first and second grade. God was working in our hearts. No longer were we homeschooling because it was a solution, but because we were called to it. What a difference it made. Our days were filled with nature hikes, books galore (thank goodness for libraries!), raising chicks, baking (math) and of course many field trips. By this time we had had our younger son Derek, and he added to all the fun.

Not to say that there weren't difficulties, because there were plenty of them. One child just couldn't learn to read for the life of him. I despaired of ever seeing it happen. But finally at 8 years old he discovered the joy and still loves to read. Both boys are very artistic, which produces its own challenges of being very right-brained learners. Those of you who have children that would rather draw than learn math facts or play guitar rather than write, know what I am talking about. Early on, God taught me not to play the comparison game: measuring my children's accomplishments against those of another, "better" homeschooling family. I was responsible to teach them three main things: to love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, to love others and to know how to learn.

Serving in fulltime ministry capacities was both a blessing and a challenge. At times there was so much demanded of me that I was sure God was perhaps requiring more of me than I could possibly give. Once, during a very difficult time, someone asked me how I was doing it all. I paused before answering, and then truthfully answered, "The grace of God." This was revolutionary for me. My boys weren't going to turn out well because of me (more like in spite of me!); they were going to be products of His grace in our lives. God's grace was enabling me to walk in obedience to Him and He was accomplishing His purposes not only in my life, but also my children's.

By this point, our boys were upper elementary and high school. God had done so much in our hearts. I felt confident in the fact that there was no better way to disciple our boys than having them home with us. God is so good to prepare us and stabilize us with His mercy before storms, isn't He? In the space of the last four years we have had a crazy amount of transition, grief and joy flood our lives.

In the fall of 2007, my sweet dad was diagnosed with cancer. We moved my parents in with us to help with his care. He passed away three short months after diagnosis. This prompted a move for us, a job change and a lot of life rearranging for our own family and my mom, who was freshly widowed and living with a young, busy family again. Loss, grief, change... all difficult things for young boys. I am so thankful that they were home with us to go through those times together.

In 2009 my mom had a major hemorrhage, stroke and seizure simultaneously. This spawned a four-month journey of daily hospital visits and eventually becoming primary caregiver for the final two months of her life. During this time she had no ability to speak and very limited ability to understand what we were saying to her. But some of the sweetest memories I have of that time are of my youngest son sitting beside her bed, holding her hand or showing her his new airsoft gun and just being with her. She joined my dad on Valentine's Day 2010. My

oldest son went on to write a sweet song about his grandparents that he was able to perform in front of a large audience while at a music conference in Nashville, TN, in April of that year. Sweet moments captured because they were home and part of my parents' lives – not just in the good times but in the difficult and hard times as well. They learned so much more than a public school could ever have taught them.

In the fall of 2010, we were on the move again, back into camping ministry. We've graduated our oldest son now (he was able to graduate from high school with 27 college credits – again evidence of God's grace). He recently married his sweet wife, whom we love. While these are happy and good changes, they still require adjustment, some which are easier than others. Derek is still home and has a few more short years left before he too will fly from our nest.

I am so thankful that what was started as a "fluke" has really turned out to be God's sovereign plan. My prayer for you is that you will be encouraged to stay the course and finish strong, knowing that He who called you is faithful to accomplish the task.

On A Side Note: "... he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." ~ Philipians 1:6



Mary is happily married to her sweetheart and best friend Duane, and is privileged to be the mom of two great boys, Jeremy and Derek. Mary and her husband Duane have been homeschooling for 15 years in the Charlotte Mason style. They love spending time with family and friends, working with kids, being outdoors and taking long walks together. Mary enjoys helping moms get started on the homeschool journey, and looks for ways to encourage and mentor. She has served as the Vendor Coordinator for the CHAP Convention for the last four years and absolutely loves serving the homeschool community and working alongside the great folks who make CHAP work.



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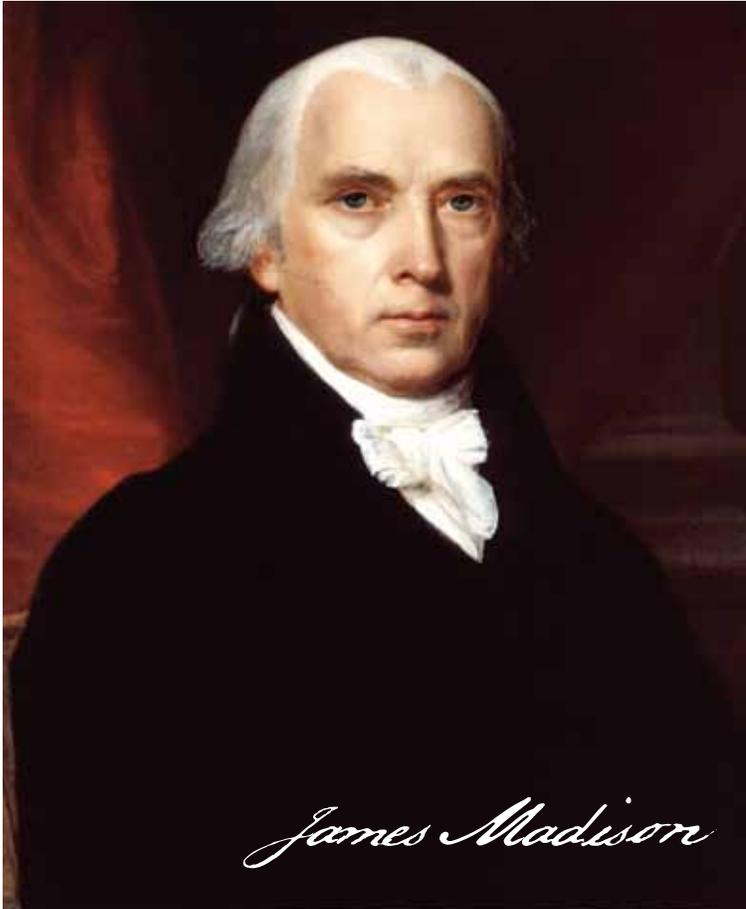


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The Welfare of the State

by Kevin Kanoff



There are two ideas which predominant the general modern public's thinking related to education and governance. Both of these ideas are diametrically opposed to home education. Both ideas are contrary to the ideals on which the nation was founded. Ultimately these two ideas go hand-in-hand to destroy individual liberty.

The two ideas are the following:

1. Education is an activity and responsibility of the State.
2. The Federal Government has the autonomous power to make laws as required to benefit the general welfare of the nation.

Let's look at the first. On February 25, 1926, Dr. J. Gresham Machen stated the following to a joint US Senate and US House committee on education. The hearing was a debate on the establishment of the US Department of Education. He opposed a notion that was to be the basis of the US Department of Education. "It is the notion that education is an affair essentially of the State; that the children of the state must be educated for the benefit of the State; that idiosyncrasies should be avoided, and the State should devise that method of education which will best promote the welfare of the State."

Dr. Machen contrasted this concept with the principle of Liberty on which the United States is based. Ultimately a free society is based on the right of parents to educate their children as they see fit. Dr. Machen said the following: "... I think you will discover that our notion has been that parents have a right to educate children as they please; that idiosyncrasies should not be avoided; that the State should prevent one group from tyrannizing over another, and that education is essentially not a matter of the State at all."

The debate over starting the US Department of Education contrasted Dr. Machen's view with a pragmatic and bureaucratic mentality of distributing Federal tax money to the states for education. A concern was that equitable methods needed to be put in place to give the states money for education. Ultimately, the idea was that a US Department of Education would need to oversee this process. Dr. Machen noted the following: "... money given for education—no matter what people say—always has a string tied to it."

Dr. Machen further stated that the principle of a standardized education directed by the state was not a

new concept by any means. The principle was introduced 2,300 years ago in ancient Greece, in the Republic of Plato. In the early years of our nation, this principle of state-run education was foreign to our Anglo-Saxon representative republic, the United States of America.

The second idea, that the Federal Government has the autonomous power to go beyond the enumerated powers listed in the US Constitution, lays the ground work for the first principle. Or, should I say, the taxation which provided money for the Federal government to distribute to the states. James Madison spoke at length concerning this matter. The following statement was made during the first session of the US Congress:

“If Congress can employ money indefinitely to the general welfare, and are the sole and supreme judges of the general welfare, they may take the care of religion into their own hands; they may appoint teachers in every State, county and parish and pay them out of their public treasury; they may take into their own hands the education of children, establishing in like manner schools throughout the Union; they may assume the provision of the poor; they may undertake the regulation of all roads other than post-roads; in short, every thing, from the highest object of state legislation down to the most minute object of police, would be thrown under the power of Congress.... Were the power of Congress to be established in the latitude contended for, it would subvert the very foundations, and transmute the very nature of the limited Government established by the people of America.”

James Madison, 1789-91

Notice the examples James Madison uses to make his point. Over the years Congress has done all of these things and has subverted the very foundations, and altered the limited government the founders of our nation have established. James Madison again, spoke at length concerning this issue on March 3, 1817, as president of the United States. I encourage you to further research James Madison's views on the actions of congress and the enumerated powers as established in Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution. I recommend that we as citizens urge our elected officials to consider these concepts and act in a way that promotes a limited government like our founders established.

As Christian home educators our guiding principle is Deuteronomy chapter 6 verses 5-7.

⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

⁶ And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. (NKJV)

Moses spoke these words to the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land. This was the commandment that Moses wanted the Israelites to carry into the Promised Land when he was gone. This is what we as members of the New Covenant through Christ Jesus our Lord must obediently follow as well. I believe that our founding fathers, concept of limited government hinged upon the citizens, parents of the United States carrying out this command. Further government should act only as prescribed in the founding/organizational documents of the nation. Clearly government has overreached on many fronts, thus limiting true Liberty.

“With respect to the two words ‘general welfare,’ I have always regarded them as qualified by the detail of powers connected with them. To take them in a literal and unlimited sense would be a metamorphosis of the Constitution into a character which there is a host of proofs was not contemplated by its creators.”

James Madison

Veto of federal public works bill

March 3, 1817

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

Having considered the bill this day presented to me entitled “An act to set apart and pledge certain funds for internal improvements,” and which sets apart and pledges funds “for constructing roads and canals, and improving the navigation of water courses, in order to facilitate, promote, and give security to internal commerce among the several States, and to render more easy and less expensive the means and provisions for the common defense,” I am constrained by the insuperable difficulty I feel in reconciling the bill with the Constitution of the United States to return it with that objection to the House of Representatives, in which it originated.

The legislative powers vested in Congress are specified and enumerated in the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution, and it does not appear that the power proposed to be exercised by the bill is among the enumerated powers, or that it falls by any just interpretation with the power to make laws necessary and proper for carrying into execution those or other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States.

“The power to regulate commerce among the several States” can not include a power to construct roads and canals, and to improve the navigation of water courses in order to facilitate, promote, and secure such commerce without a latitude of construction departing from the ordinary import of the terms strengthened by the known inconveniences which doubtless led to the grant of this remedial power to Congress.

To refer the power in question to the clause "to provide for common defense and general welfare" would be contrary to the established and consistent rules of interpretation, as rendering the special and careful enumeration of powers which follow the clause nugatory and improper. Such a view of the Constitution would have the effect of giving to Congress a general power of legislation instead of the defined and limited one hitherto understood to belong to them, the terms "common defense and general welfare" embracing every object and act within the purview of a legislative trust. It would have the effect of subjecting both the Constitution and laws of the several States in all cases not specifically exempted to be superseded by laws of Congress, it being expressly declared "that the Constitution of the United States and laws made in pursuance thereof shall be the supreme law of the land, and the judges of every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding." Such a view of the Constitution, finally, would have the effect of excluding the judicial authority of the United States from its participation in guarding the boundary between the legislative powers of the General and the State Governments, inasmuch as questions relating to the general welfare, being questions of policy and expediency, are unsusceptible of judicial cognizance and decision.

A restriction of the power "to provide for the common defense and general welfare" to cases which are to be provided for by the expenditure of money would still leave within the legislative power of Congress all the great and most important measures of Government, money being the ordinary and necessary means of carrying them into execution.

If a general power to construct roads and canals, and to improve the navigation of water courses, with the train of powers incident thereto, be not possessed by

Congress, the assent of the States in the mode provided in the bill can not confer the power. The only cases in which the consent and cession of particular States can extend the power of Congress are those specified and provided for in the Constitution.

I am not unaware of the great importance of roads and canals and the improved navigation of water courses, and that a power in the National Legislature to provide for them might be exercised with signal advantage to the general prosperity. But seeing that such a power is not expressly given by the Constitution, and believing that it can not be deduced from any part of it without an inadmissible latitude of construction and reliance on insufficient precedents; believing also that the permanent success of the Constitution depends on a definite partition of powers between the General and the State Governments, and that no adequate landmarks would be left by the constructive extension of the powers of Congress as proposed in the bill, I have no option but to withhold my signature from it, and to cherishing the hope that its beneficial objects may be attained by a resort for the necessary powers to the same wisdom and virtue in the nation which established the Constitution in its actual form and providently marked out in the instrument itself a safe and practicable mode of improving it as experience might suggest.

James Madison,
President of the United States



Kevin Kanoff and his wife Megg have been homeschooling their four children since 1995. Kevin's duties on the CHAP Board include monitoring the state legislature and writing the legislative brief.



CHAP Art & Essay Contests

2012





Beginning
January 1st

CHAP ESSAY CONTEST

This year's essay contest will be based on 1 Corinthians 1:18: For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. Each participant should write on what this verse means and how it applies to the student. The essay should be no more than 1,000 words in length (typewritten and double spaced).

CHAP ART CONTEST

This year's art contest will be divided into two categories:

1. Drawing and Painting Category: This category includes pencil, pen, pastels and paint artwork.
2. Photography: This category includes any photos taken by the student.

For more information, rules, deadlines and entry form, please visit www.chapcontest.com.






www.CHAPcontest.com

“Putting On Airs”

by Paul Heil

Do you ever get around people who “put on airs” around you? They’re trying so hard to be at the “peak of their game.” They want to impress you somehow. And they certainly don’t want to make a mistake. They want you to think of them and remember them the way that they want you to remember them. And that’s usually better, somehow, than they actually are.

In our line of work, we frequently encounter such people. We have learned to realize that they might be nervous for some reason and are simply “trying too hard” to make a good first impression. We try not to hold that against them. We realize that if they actually knew us, none of that would be necessary.

Are you sometimes that way around strangers? Do you “try too hard?” Most likely you are, to some extent. That’s just human nature. We all want to be at our best. We want our clothing just right. We want our hair combed just right. We just want to look our best. We want to say the right things — witty, intelligent, etc.

Compare that with the way you are around your best friends — the people who know you best, people who have known you for years and know what you’re really like. There’s no fooling them. They can “see right through” what you say and do. And you can just “kick back” and get comfortable with them.

“Paul, where are you going with this?”

OK, here’s the point: How do you act when you pray? Do you try to convince God of how good you are? Do you try to “put on airs” before Him? Do you try to pretend you’re really a pretty good person?

The Pharisees did that — trying to impress God and, especially, other people. They made lengthy public prayers so folks would think they were great and holy. Jesus condemned those who “for a pretense make long prayer...” (Matthew 23:14). He said such people have already received their reward from man (Matthew 6:5), which falls far short of what God wants to give those who trust Him.

Or, instead of all that, when you go before God in prayer, do you do so as if you were talking with your best friend? Are you uptight when you pray? Or can you relax in His presence?

Listen — God already knows everything about you. Nothing is hidden from Him. He knows what you like, what you’ve done. He knows your heart. He knows your desires. He knows — well, everything! In fact, if you can imagine this, He knows you better than you know yourself! There’s no point in even trying to impress Him. He can “see right through” any pretense you attempt to exhibit.

I read of someone who, in a vision, was taken to heaven for an audience with God. Nervous and awestruck at what was apparently happening, the individual was immediately told by God to relax: “You can’t prove anything to me, because I already know you.” And when God says “know,” that means totally, thoroughly, one hundred percent, through-and-through. He knows your thoughts. He knows your motivations. He knows everything you might try to hide from Him (whether you like it or not).

Now, if that’s the case (and it is), what’s the point of any

pretense in His presence? He doesn’t want it. And you gain nothing from it. You simply cannot fool God.

When you go to God in prayer, simply and humbly pour out your heart. You’re no stranger to Him. “The Lord knoweth them that are his” (2 Timothy 2:19). He already knows your concerns, but, like any good friend or parent, He wants to hear it in your own words. He loves nothing more than having His children seek His help. Why? Because He loves nothing more than the opportunity to bless them — if they’ll ask.

Why do we have to ask? He’s God, after all. Couldn’t He just give it to us?

God wants us to ask because the act of asking is our humble acknowledgment that He can do what we ask of Him, and is the only One who can. We are weak, He is strong. “And yet the reason you don’t have what you want is that you don’t ask God for it” (James 4:1, LB).

Saint Augustine, the fourth century church father, put it this way: “It was your Lord who put an end to longwindedness, so that you would not pray as if you wanted to teach God by your many words. Piety, not verbosity, is in order when you pray, since He knows your needs. Now someone perhaps will say, ‘But if He knows our needs, why should we state our requests even in a few words? Why should we pray at all? Since He knows, let Him give what He deems necessary for us.’ Even so, He wants you to pray so that He may confer His gifts on one who really desires them and will not regard them lightly.”

When you pray, you are, of course, talking to your Creator. Praise, worship and thankfulness are always in order. You certainly don’t want to be flippant or take anything for granted. Ecclesiastes 5:2 reminds us, “Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few.”

But, in all things, talk to God honestly, candidly, frankly, from your heart — as you would to the “best friend” that He really wants to be in your life. In the words of the old hymn,

*“Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus,
He is a Friend that’s well known.
You’ve no other such a friend or brother,
Tell it to Jesus alone.”**

*“Tell It To Jesus,” by Edmund Lorenz (1876).

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Originally published 10/25/05 and 10/11/11 in *The Gospel Greats Weekly Newsletter*.



Paul Heil is a life-long Pennsylvanian and is recognized as the best-known radio voice in Southern Gospel music today. His program, *The Gospel Greats*, airs on about 200 radio stations through the U.S. and Canada, and is heard around the world on the internet. In recent years, he has come to be known for his *Paul’s Epistles*, thoughtful and compelling devotional messages which are published in his weekly email newsletter. www.thegospelgreats.com/newsletter.htm

CALLING ALL 2012 GRADUATES

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Be recognized for your achievements, hard work, and answered prayers! The Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania has once again decided to offer a graduation ceremony and would like to extend an invitation to all 2012 Pennsylvania graduates to participate to honor your achievements.

This ceremony is being offered to publicly honor the graduate's accomplishments, but is not meant in any way to substantiate the completion of the required course of study, as that is the sole responsibility of the parents, thereby leaving the authority in the hands of the parents to determine if all requirements have been met according to Pennsylvania law.

The date of the CHAP Homeschool Graduation is Friday, May 11, 2012, and it will be held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex. Guests who do not attend the CHAP Convention will be permitted to enter the complex for the **graduation ceremony only** with no fee for entry. Please be aware that a parking fee may be requested from the Farm Show Complex; this is not in our control.

Registration will end February 1, 2012. The cost is \$50.00 per graduate. Due to the necessity of ordering caps and gowns, all registrations **must be submitted by February 1, 2012. NO EXCEPTIONS, as our supplier will not accept any add-on orders.** The price will include cap and gown rental, keepsake tassel, certificate of participation and folder from CHAP, program costs, and incidentals. Payment will be collected by February 1, 2012. Once the graduate is registered, instructions will follow as needed.

Participation will be required by the graduate and their parent(s). The parent(s) will be responsible for escorting the graduate into the ceremony and presenting the certificate of participation. Parents may also present diplomas at this time.

To register for the graduation, please e-mail your graduate's name, parents' names, contact phone number, contact e-mail address, and height and weight of graduate to Dee Peffer at chapgrad@comcast.net.

Please send your fee, made payable to CHAP, along with graduate's name to:

CHAP
231 Chestnut Street
Palmyra, PA 17078

If you have any questions, please e-mail Dee Peffer at chapgrad@comcast.net. We are excited to offer this service to you and your graduate. Please be attentive to deadlines and requests to insure the success of the graduation.

Our first graduation ceremony consisted of seventeen graduates and was a blessing to all who attended. We look forward to honoring this year's graduates and their parents publically for their accomplishments, along with giving the honor and glory to the Lord for all He has accomplished through us by educating our children under His authority. May God continue to give each of you (parents and graduates) the patience, diligence, and endurance to the run the race well!

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CHAP SCHOLARSHIP

CHAP is offering two scholarships for traditionally homeschooled students. The student should have already graduated or be graduating in the spring of 2012. The scholarships are for CHAP Members who are planning on continuing their education.

The award amounts are: **\$1,000 & \$500**

Applications and requirements for the scholarships are available at www.chapcontest.com. Scholarship applications will be accepted through February 28, 2012.

CHAP ESSAY CONTEST

This year's essay contest will be based on 1 Corinthians 1:18: *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

Each participant should write on what this verse means and how it applies to the student. The essay should be no more than 1,000 words in length (typewritten and double spaced).

CHAP ART CONTEST

This year's art contest will be divided into two categories:

- 1. Drawing and Painting Category:** This category includes pencil, pen, pastels and paint artwork.
- 2. Photography:** This category includes any photos taken by the student.

Entries for the Essay and Art Contests must be received between Jan 1 and Feb 28, 2012, with the \$10 registration fee.

Open to all traditionally homeschooled students between the ages of 10 and 18.

Each category is divided into two age divisions:

- Division 1 – students ages 10 through 14
- Division 2 – students ages 15 through 18

Each entry is eligible for:

- Participation Certificate available at the 2012 Convention
- Student gallery display at the Convention
- Monetary prize

CHAP will award the following prizes for each category:

1st – \$250, Certificate | 2nd – \$100, Certificate | 3rd – \$50, Certificate

For more information, rules, deadlines and entry forms, please visit www.chapcontest.com.