

Summer 2012

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# CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

## Excited About the Future of Homeschooling

CHRISTIAN  
HOMESCHOOLING  
MAGAZINE



*Pennsylvania's trusted advocate for Christ-centered homeschooling*



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## The CHAP Magazine

Published quarterly by the Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania. It is provided as an educational service for homeschoolers in and around the state of Pennsylvania. CHAP is solely responsible for its content.

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Don and Darlene Catlett

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### CHAP MAGAZINE

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\*Expecting moms photo taken by Photos by Deb at the 2012 CHAP Homeschool Convention

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# Homeschool Pioneers Well, not quite...

By Don Catlett, Chairman

As the cover of this issue says, we're excited about the future of homeschooling. The reasons abound but let me take a moment to try to summarize a few of them.

Recently an interviewer referred to Darlene and I as pioneers of the homeschooling movement. We just smiled and thought back to 25 years ago when we were just getting started and didn't have a clue about what homeschooling was and how we were going to accomplish this adventure that lay before us. So many great folks poured their lives into helping couples like us get started. They helped us to stay focused and work toward finishing strong. I remember when an "expert" was a homeschooling mom who had been homeschooling 6 months more than we had. We were constantly asking questions, loosing confidence and needing those words of assurance to stay the course.

When we first made this decision, we didn't know anyone homeschooling and knew only that the Lord had laid on our hearts to begin this journey. There were no laws in our state at that time protecting our rights to homeschool and it was challenging to not only find those who could guide us in our decision, but it seemed we had to constantly explain to family and friends what we were doing. I don't have the space in this short letter to mention how so many folks were concerned about our poor children and their primal need for "SOCIALIZATION."

Since those early days, much water has passed under the bridge and there is so much more to offer families seeking information about homeschooling and finding resources to help begin this challenging, yet fulfilling calling on their lives. Choices of curriculum specific to homeschooling abound; support groups and co-ops are usually within an hour's drive for most of us. The advent of email, the internet and now social media offer the ability to gather information and instruction faster than ever before imagined.

There are many excellent groups meeting around Pennsylvania with the goal of helping homeschool families in their local areas. We have had the opportunity to meet so many great folks in regions like Pittsburgh, Erie, York, Philadelphia, Hershey, Hazelton and Scranton. Be sure to keep up-to-date with events provided by these groups on the CHAP Calendar ([www.CHAPcalendar.com](http://www.CHAPcalendar.com)).

Families in Pennsylvania have the great opportunity to attend the largest Christian homeschool event in the northeast at the CHAP Homeschool Convention, which takes place in Harrisburg each year. The CHAP Convention hosted more vendors this year than ever before, as well as many excellent speakers and workshops. Our huge Used Curriculum Sale was the best ever, and so many folks enjoyed participating in our new Silent Auction, walking away with some amazing savings on many of the items offered. The new CHAP Giveaway Card contest was a big success, with many folks saying they spoke with exhibitors that they never would have met if it hadn't been for the contest.

We are excited about the future of homeschooling. Permit me to encourage you to stay the course in your decision to homeschool. Will it be easy? Probably not, but it will be exciting as the Lord goes before us. Remember "therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,"<sup>1</sup> as we follow His calling on our lives and the hearts of our children.

God bless you as you seek to fulfill this great calling of the Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Hebrews 12:1]



When can we color  
our sentences?

Doesn't that sound a lot  
better than "Do we have  
to do Grammar?"

Grade 2 through High School  
[www.applied-grammar.com](http://www.applied-grammar.com)

Apply your grammar  
Improve your writing!

Join us for a day of encouragement and training.  
Find the tools and understanding you need to navigate the high school years at home. From transcripts to post high school choices to college essays/applications to discipleship, this day promises to be one that you will not want to miss!  
Great speakers, round table discussions, a college fair, ministry opportunities, and lunch are included in this daylong seminar.

August 18, 2012

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Lebanon Area Evangelical  
Free Church  
600 Shepherd St.  
Jonestown, PA 17038

Registration is open

Visit our website for details

First Parent	-	\$20.00
Couple	-	\$30.00
Teen	-	\$8.00

Please no children under 13  
- handheld infants only

Lunch is included in the cost.

# High School at Home Seminar

This conference is sponsored  
by the  
Christian Homeschool  
Association of Pennsylvania

[www.chaponline.com/highschoolseminar](http://www.chaponline.com/highschoolseminar)

# High School at Home Seminar

By Mary Shenk

It seems like just yesterday that your children were babies and toddlers. Today you look up to see your teenager's eyes. No more diapers or feedings in the night with this child. Gone are the days of building pyramids with cereal boxes and memorizing addition facts. In front of you loom the high school years or perhaps somehow you find yourself in the midst of the high school years and wondering how you got here so fast!

How exactly does one navigate the high school years? As a mom with one through school and another in the middle of his high school years, I am well aware of the challenges that come with the territory. Both of my boys have been extremely different in their high school years and I am constantly looking for more sources of information to make these years have a lasting impact both academically and spiritually.

On August 18, CHAP will be sponsoring a daylong seminar on High School at Home. We will be bringing in speakers to deal with such topics as transcripts, developing a 4 year plan, dual credits, service learning, college study skills, preparing students

with disabilities for college, discipleship and more! We are working on a great lineup of speakers for the day. This is a day that you won't want to miss!

Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church in Jonestown, PA (close to Lebanon, PA) will be our meeting location. Our day will begin at 9:00 am and conclude at 4:30 pm. A college fair, ministry opportunities, diploma programs and more will be available for your perusal. Costs for the daylong seminar will include lunch. \$20 for the first parent, \$30 per couple and \$8 per teen. This event is for parents and teens only, with the exception of nursing infants.

Talk with those who have walked the path before you and gain from their experiences. Find the tools and understanding you need to guide your maturing child to success.



Mary is married to her sweetheart and best friend, Duane. Mom to two amazing sons and one great daughter-in-law, she is looking forward to being a Grammy in late June. Mary and Duane have homeschooled for 16 years in the Charlotte Mason style and still have a few years left! Spending time with family and friends, working with kids, being outdoors, traveling and riding motorcycles are some of their favorite pastimes. Mary enjoys helping and mentoring moms on their homeschool journey.



On A Side Note: "Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands." ~ Psalm 119:66

## What is the Difference Between the SAT and the ACT?

By Dr. James Stobaugh

### DIFFERENCES:

#### SAT

- is a math, verbal (language arts), and writing test.
- penalizes test-takers .25 points for guessing.
- is an aptitude, critical thinking test, in the same family as the IQ test.
- measures students' ability to problem-solve.
- ideally requires a commitment of one to three years for preparation.

#### ACT:

- includes math, verbal (language arts), writing, social studies, and science questions.
- does not penalize test-takers for guessing.
- is an achievement, or knowledge-based test, in the same family as a Stanford Achievement Test.
- measures students' knowledge acquisition.
- Scores can be raised with 50 days' preparation.

### SIMILARITIES:

- Both are predominately math and verbal exams.
- The math on the ACT is somewhat more difficult, but it often is presented in math problem format (like the SAT).
- The verbal section is very similar, with a huge emphasis on critical reading and vocabulary.
- The ACT writing section is similar (although students will need to include a counter argument in the ACT to get a high score).
- The greatest similarity is in stress reduction. Stress reduction (through Bible memory verse memorization and Scripture prayers) will immensely increase SAT and ACT scores.

I recommend that students take as many unofficial, old, real (i.e., from the College Board) SAT I tests as they can. The single best preparation event for the SAT and the ACT is active reading of challenging literary works. (See my Recommended College-Prep Reading List at [www.forsuchatimeasthis.com/blog/?cat=31](http://www.forsuchatimeasthis.com/blog/?cat=31).)

Read more at [www.chaponline.com/2012/02/sat-vs-act](http://www.chaponline.com/2012/02/sat-vs-act)

# Student Gallery

## 2012 CHAP HOMESCHOOL CONVENTION



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students and their parents who were a part of the Student Gallery at the 2012 CHAP Convention. The gallery showcased homeschool students in several different areas. There were displays from our different contests – essays and art. The two students chosen for the 2012 CHAP Scholarships were also highlighted, along with the students who participated in the 2012 CHAP Graduation. Here is a small selection from the gallery. I know it will be an encouragement!

Megg Kanoff

### Scholarships Winners:



\$1,000 Luke Covert



\$500 Colleen Rauscher

### Essay

#### Group A (age 10-14)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Isaac Patton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Keirstyn Empfield
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mason Gerber

#### Group B (age 15-18)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jacob Martin
- 1<sup>st</sup> Johanna Martin
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Olivia Cockley
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lindsay Empfield
- Honorable Mention – Tony Gerber

### Art Photo

#### Group A (age 10-14)

- 1<sup>st</sup> David Crizer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> David Crizer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jonathan Rothermel
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Emma Eichelberger

#### Group B (age 15-18)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Abigail Patton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerusha Stanley
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Stuart Leach

### Drawing

#### Group A (age 10-14)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Charlotte Martin
- 1<sup>st</sup> Abigail Martin
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sarah Schaeffer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Marie McGahan

#### Group B (age 15-18)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Alisha Lehigh
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Krila Townsend
- 3<sup>rd</sup> David Truitt



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.

On A Side Note: "Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men." ~ Proverbs 22:29

# First Place Essay Winner

(Age Group 15-18)

## Essay 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.

### One Yard Short

In my opinion, if there is one sport in heaven, it will be football. I love football. There is something satisfying about giving everything you have to reach a goal. Every football player knows the team that wants to win the most is going to get the victory. The team that works the hardest and makes the most sacrifices is going to win. Unfortunately, life isn't like that.

One of the most heartbreaking photographs I have ever seen was from Superbowl XXXIV. It was a picture of Kevin Dyson of the Tennessee Titans being tackled one yard short of the game winning touchdown. Dyson desperately extended the football with one hand as he attempted to get over the goal line while being pulled down from behind. The attempt was futile.

That is what life is like without Christ. Life without Christ is a desperate and hopeless struggle.

When I think of football, I think of a muddy, dirty struggle. Especially after a rain, football is a messy game. When you are down 50-0 at the half, you don't feel like playing anymore. I'm sure Kevin Dyson was exhausted physically and mentally on that last play. Everything was pinned on him. His fans, coaches, and teammates were all expecting him to make it over the line. He couldn't. He couldn't make that last yard. Even though this was a moment he would never have again, he couldn't pull together the energy to make that extra step across the line. The team was able to drive down the field by making a yard here or there, but when they got to the one yard line, they couldn't go any farther. I've had struggles like this before. I try to be a good kid. I might even make a yard here or there, but even if I made it to the one yard line, I would not be able to get on God's good side by myself.

I want to set up a hypothetical situation for you. What if someone had reached out of the end zone and pulled Dyson in? You are probably thinking that even the thought of such a thing is... stupid. Well, that is what Christ did for me. When I think about the message of the cross that 1 Corinthians 1:18 says is the "power of God" to those who are being saved, I think about an immense struggle, an all out physical conflict. And then I imagine someone pulling me up from a tackle, carrying me into the end zone, and declaring me a winner.

What would your reaction have been if someone had pulled Dyson into the end zone? You would have condemned that person as stupid and shouted something like, "You can't do that! You're not playing by the rules." That is exactly the same reaction that people have to the message of the cross. "That's impossible! You just can't do that." But God can do that. When God makes the rules, anything is possible. Everyone seems to be trying to reach that line through their own sweat and blood, as if Christ's sweat and blood wasn't good enough. Yet Christ's sweat and blood is more than good enough. His actions are perfectly legal, and in no way is Christ disobeying the rules of the game.

Without Christ, we would all be desperately reaching out towards the end zone with sin pulling us back from behind. Life is a desperate struggle against sin. It isn't pretty, and you are going to twist some ankles and break a few bones along the way. This is where Christ comes in. When you're lying on the field, unable to make that step into the end zone, He picks you up and carries you across the line. What He is doing is perfectly legal, and there is nothing stupid about it, even if the crowd thinks so. The message of the cross is one of hope in the midst of a great struggle.

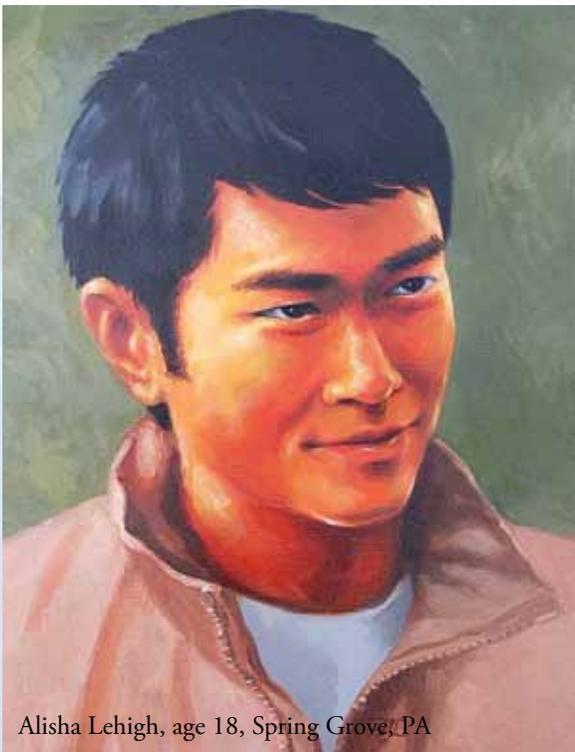
Jacob Martin, age 16, Bellefonte, PA



Emma Eichelberger, age 13, North Huntingdon, PA



Abigail Patton, age 15, Bellwood, PA



Alisha Lehigh, age 18, Spring Grove, PA



Krila Townsend, age 15, Duncansville, PA

## Student Gallery and Awards Highlights



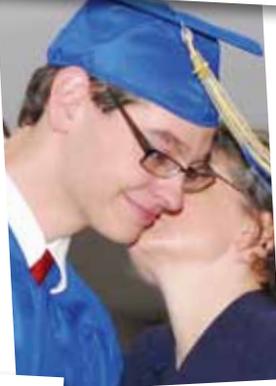
# CHAP Graduates' comments on their favorite homeschool memory:

- *Going to the creek on the hottest day of the summer and calling it a field trip*



- *There was a very difficult literature program I did for ninth grade. The books required for this program were complicated and difficult to understand. So, during nap time each day, my mother would make tea and cookies, and set out her china in the dining room. She and I would sit together and read my books while we ate cookies, and sipped tea from our tea cups!*

- *When asked, "What was the Great Awakening?" I replied, "Oh! That was when Benjamin Franklin rode around town and said, 'The British are coming! The British are coming!'"*



- *Playing football in-between matches at homeschool volleyball tournaments and skiing with family and friends as field trips*



- *Field trip to Washington D.C., specifically visiting the White House*



## 2012 CHAP Giveaway Card Winners

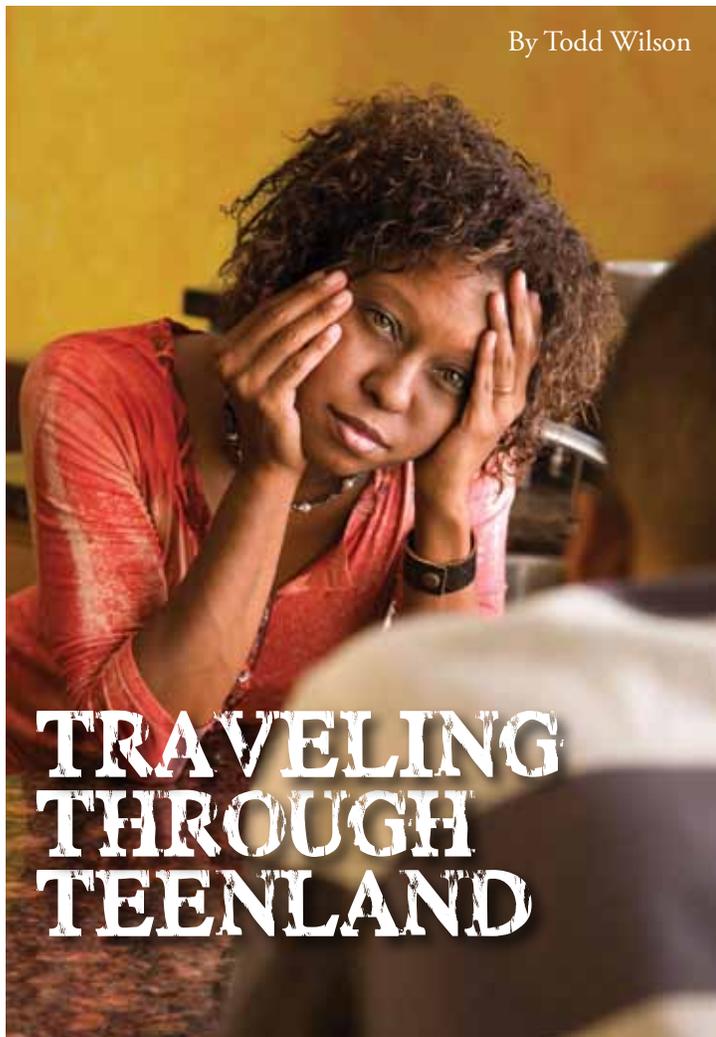
Week of camp for a child/teen at Camp Susque - Michelle Crooker.

Kindle Fire donated by Hal Hammaker of Enders Insurance Associates - Peter Martindell.

1 week of camp for a child/teen at Miracle Mountain Ranch - Gail Owen.



By Todd Wilson



The word ‘teenager’ might be a modern word, but the struggle in training children during those awkward years has been around since the time of Cain and Abel. Adam and Eve were the only ones who got to skip that wonderful time of life.

In fact, I think it was no accident that God skipped the teenage years with His first creation. I bet if He hadn’t, the whole story would have gone differently. It might have sounded something like this:

“I have to name ALL the animals?”

“Yes, ALL the animals.”

“Can I give them all the same name?”

“No, you can’t.”

“OK, I’ll name this half Bob and the other half Tina.”

“Just name the ANIMALS.”

“Why do they even need names? There’s no one else here, and I know I’m never going to care what their names are.”

“Because I said so, that’s why.”

“Are you going to have me name the plants after that?”

“Just go to your ROOM!!”

“What’s a room?”

Let me be the first one to say up front that raising teenagers is no cake walk. I’m not saying that we should expect rebellion or that the world’s perspective on teenagers is accurate. I’m just saying that as kids pass through Teenland they... change.

Personalities that were previously easygoing suddenly burst forth with emotion and outbursts of ugliness. Other children who were gregarious, never shutting up for one moment, become sluggish and quiet.

Gangly, growing boys challenge their parents’ logic and emotional girls accuse moms and dads of not loving them. The challenges and trials that they face as teenagers are much bigger issues than the ones they dealt with as younger children.

Oh, yes, Virginia, there is a Teenland.

But here’s the thing. It’s not a bad place; it’s a good place. But it is a place where children need their parents more than ever. It’s also the place where we parents (read – this parent) tend to blow it and push our children away.

As our children pass through those teen years on the way to adulthood, what WE think they need most is our guidance and godly teaching. While it is true that they need both of those things, what THEY need most is our love and understanding.

Have you forgotten what it was like to go through Teenland? Don’t you remember wanting to fit in? You didn’t feather your hair, keep a big comb in your back pocket, or wear parachute pants because you wanted to rebel against your parents... or even because you wanted to be cool. You just didn’t want to stand out.

Your teens just feel what you felt, but you’ve forgotten that.

You’ve forgotten that their tastes in music, styles, and what matters, are different... just like yours were.

“Uuuuuuh... Uuuuuuh!!!”

“No, you can’t have the red cup. You get the blue cup.”

“Wed cup!!!”

“You can’t have the red cup. You get the blue cup or you can go without a cup.”

“Waaaaa!!!”

“Stop right now, or we’ll make a trip into the bathroom.”

Silence.

Ahhh, those were the days... looking into the face of my toddler squirming in his high chair, obviously not happy with life or me because he got the blue cup.

Those days were exhausting... and sometimes we thought those toddlers would never grow up... but you know what? They did. And on the way to adulthood they pass through... Teenland: a wild and exciting time of life where everything changes daily. One day the world is smiling, and the next day the world is dark and brooding.

I’ve heard some folks piously say that Teenland is a new phenomenon and that in the old days children passed effortlessly from childhood to adulthood without passing through the teenage years.

My response to that – Baloney!!!!

Actually I was thinking about the song from the musical “Bye Bye Birdie.” The song talks about teenagers’ music, styles, and ways, and then the refrain says, “Why can’t they be like we were, perfect in every way? What’s the matter with kids today?”

Again, Mom and Dad, I’m not saying that all teen behavior is acceptable or that it should be overlooked, I’m just saying, “REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE!”

Instead of freaking out when they become an emotional mess and lecturing them about the evils of lack of self-control, patiently guide them through those turbulent waters, and CUT THEM SOME SLACK, and love them... no matter what.

Yes, they might make some choices that you don’t prefer and do things you may not understand, but in areas of preference that aren’t a matter of sin, instead of criticizing or giving them that look of disapproval, be interested, smile, and wave.

That’s right! Smile and wave. I had forgotten the power of that combination until I visited the Mall of America in St. Paul, MN, recently with my family. I guess it’s so cold most of the time in Minnesota that they needed to make an amusement park right inside the mall. I was reminded as my youngest sons Cal and Jed drove around a little track.

Every time they passed by, I waved and smiled. They went around again and again, and each time, I waved and smiled... and they basked in my pleasure. And then I did it again when my daughter Maggie rode the Ferris Wheel, when Jed rode the Carousel... when Ben and Sam rode the Brain Freeze... and when Ike stood on a gangplank four stories above the floor.

I waved and smiled as only a dad can do... with gusto. I know they all liked seeing the pleasure in my face as I watched them and waved. Then it hit me; that’s what I’m supposed to do—what you’re supposed to do... especially with teenagers.

When they talk about their new shoes, smile. When they play in a band (that you may not like), wave and smile. When they make different choices and talk about unimportant things, listen and smile.

That’s what your teenagers crave from you... especially at this time in their life. They need you to remember what it was like to be in that awkward time of life, and they need your unconditional love and encouragement as they pass through Teenland.

In the same way that they needed you during the terrific twos, they need you even more during the terrific teens.

Traveling through Teenland isn’t as easy as the red cup/blue cup dilemma... but you can do it.



Todd Wilson, author of *Lies Homeschooling Moms Believe, Help! I’m Married to a Homeschooling Mom* and *The Official Book of Homeschooling Cartoons*, is a dad, writer, conference speaker, and former pastor. As founder of Familyman Ministries, his passion and mission are to remind dads and moms of what’s most important through *The Familyman Weekly* (a weekly e-mail sent to thousands of dads), seminars, and books that encourage parents. [www.familymanweb.com](http://www.familymanweb.com)

The Homeschool EXPERIMENT  
~ a novel ~

...the perfect summer read

[www.familymanweb.com](http://www.familymanweb.com)  
Also available on and

**Familyman** ministries  
"Reminding dads of what's most important"

# RENEW Conference 2012

*A retreat for past, present, and future leaders of  
homeschool co-ops and support groups*

**J**oin us for a weekend of renewal, refreshment and inspiration.

Beginning Friday at 6:00 pm and ending Saturday at 4:00 pm, our time will be filled with laughter, speakers, fellowship and more. Lodging, meals and conference costs are all included.

**Our guest speaker** will be Doug Bartsch of His Place Family Church in Spring, TX. A life long learner with a passion for helping other leaders, Doug will share practical insights that can transform your life and ministry!

**Breakout sessions** - The 4 Personality Types, So You Think You're a Leader, Keeping Things Simple and Focused, Volunteerism, Resources for Leaders, and more!

**Breakout speakers** - Mary Sayre, Darlene Catlett, Leigh Genasevich, Mary Shenk and others.

**Accommodations** will be at the Best Western Plus Harrisburg Airport Inn, Middletown, PA

Single occupancy standard room	\$50.00
Double occupancy standard room	\$40.00
Single occupancy junior suite	\$70.00
Double occupancy junior suite	\$60.00

Registration for the retreat begins August 2012.

Visit our website for details:

[www.chaponline.com/renew2012](http://www.chaponline.com/renew2012)



November 2-3, 2012

# A Little TLC Coming Your Way

## Training, Listening and Camaraderie

By Mary Shenk

School is over, evaluations finished, portfolios submitted—it's time to relax and enjoy the summer. Oh wait, as a homeschool co-op or support group leader your work is just beginning. Meetings to prepare for, schedules to create (and then recreate), volunteers to recruit, and the list goes on.

As a leader, it is easy to grow weary and discouraged. Perhaps you are facing difficulties within your group. Lack of organization may be inhibiting you from being all you can be. Disunity among your members, sickness, personal and family issues can distract and impair your leadership/group dynamics.

Perhaps you are in the opposite situation. Your group is going great, lots of wonderful volunteers stepping up and helping out, your group is unified, purposeful and productive.

Conversely, you might be reading this and about to quit, realizing it's not for you because you are no longer a leader or have never been one.

Regardless of what scenario you find yourself in, a weekend of pampering, encouragement, training and networking is planned for November 2-3, 2012. Renew 2012 is a conference for past, present and future leaders of homeschool co-ops and support groups. If this interests you at all – ***you are invited!***

The Renew Conference will have guest speaker Doug Bartsch of His Place Family Church, Spring, Texas. He will speak on being

positioned for leadership and structuring your ministry to fulfill God's plan, surrounding yourself with a team, team leadership, hearing God and planning your year.

In addition to our main sessions with Doug, we will also have smaller breakout sessions with other speakers. Personality Types, Leading and Mentoring Through Storms, So You Think You're a Leader: Tips on Becoming the Leader God Intends, Keeping Things Simple, Resources for Leaders, Volunteerism and more. Our speakers will include Leigh Genasevich, Darlene Catlett, Mary Sayre, myself and others.

Starting on Friday night, we will enjoy times of fellowship and worship, networking, learning and encouragement. We will meet at the Best Western Plus Harrisburg Airport Inn, Middletown, PA. Rooms, meals and conference fees are included in the package price. Rates starting at \$40.00 make this an affordable weekend. All registrations will take place through the CHAP registration page. Registration will open in early August. Make sure you're checking back often at [www.chaponline.com/renew2012](http://www.chaponline.com/renew2012).

We are praying that you will come away from this weekend refreshed, energized, inspired and ready to serve the group or situation that God has place you in, and that He will shine brightly though you and cause you to be the best that you can be for His glory.



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 since 2008 and absolutely loves serving the homeschool community.



## CHAP Calendar Events

These events and many others can be found at [www.CHAPcalendar.com](http://www.CHAPcalendar.com).

### **LAST DAY TO SUBMIT YOUR PORTFOLIO**

(if you filed an affidavit last year)

Friday, June 29

Watch short how-to videos about evaluators and logs at

[www.chaponline.com/media/how-to-videos](http://www.chaponline.com/media/how-to-videos)

### **LAST DAY TO FILE YOUR AFFIDAVIT**

(if you filed one last year)

Wednesday, August 1

Watch a short how-to video about affidavits at

[www.chaponline.com/media/how-to-videos](http://www.chaponline.com/media/how-to-videos)

### **PARK DAY**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 10:30 a.m.

Lazy Brook Park, 1300 SR 6 E, Tunkhannock, PA

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, 10:30 a.m.

South Abington Park, 640 Northern Blvd., Chinchilla, PA

Info: Susan Paone [suepaone@gmail.com](mailto:suepaone@gmail.com)

### **PARK DAY & BOOK EXCHANGE**

Sponsored by Christina Home Educator Support Services

Friday, August 10, 10:00 a.m.

Littlestown Community Park, Littlestown, PA

Info: Parti Hunt [homeschoolmarm@yahoo.com](mailto:homeschoolmarm@yahoo.com) 717 465-9838

### **CAREER AND COLLEGE FAIR**

Saturday, October 6, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Lincroft Bible Church, 790 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, NJ

info: Tim Eshelman 732-706-1510 [CCFCoordinator@enochnj.org](mailto:CCFCoordinator@enochnj.org)

[www.enochnj.org](http://www.enochnj.org)

### **HIGH SCHOOL AT HOME: THE BASICS**

Friday, October 12, 8:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Patrick Henry College, Purcellville, VA

[www.hslsda.org/highschool/TeachTrain](http://www.hslsda.org/highschool/TeachTrain)

### **PSAT**

October 17 or 20

Register early, beginning mid-April

[www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html)

On A Side Note: "... let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—" ~ Proverbs 1:5

Homeschooling is all about a lifetime and lifestyle of learning. It's not confined from 8am to 3:30pm or from Monday to Friday or Fall to Spring. Summers can be a great for lifetime learning, too!

**Here are some of the things I learned in "Summer School":**

- how to fish for trout
- how to play kick-the-can
- how to care for a puppy
- how to skateboard (and how to break an arm)
- how to swim with a cast
- how to build a swimming hole by damming up a creek (and how to flood a farmer's field and get out of trouble with the local authorities)
- how to build a camp fire and make s'mores carefully
- how to tear down a garage
- how to play Monopoly in a 3-day marathon
- how to bake Tony's Pizzas
- how to share the gospel with children through Child Evangelism Fellowship
- how to lead a backyard children's Bible Study
- how to change the oil in a car
- how to change the engine in a VW bug
- how to have a personal devotion time with God
- how God answers prayer for the lost of France
- how to set up a circus tent
- how to learn a foreign language by immersion
- how to work with a team
- how to study for a 2-week college crash course in the Pauline Epistles
- how to live on \$20 for 2 weeks
- how to keep a record of daily thoughts and events (journaling)
- how to clear and build a jungle airstrip in Papua, New Guinea
- jungle trekking
- how to build a bush house
- how to make fiberglass airstrip cones
- how to remove leeches
- the process a missionary goes through to translate the Bible in an unwritten language
- how to teach water skiing at camp
- how the prophet Isaiah foretold Christ hundreds of years before His birth
- how God plans to reach a lost world through us in the Perspectives course
- how to grease wheel bearings
- how to make "hot pockets" over an open fire
- how to go whitewater rafting
- how to shingle a roof
- how to build a dormer
- how the battle at Gettysburg was fought, won and lost

So what are you learning this summer?

There is a big world out there to explore and discover, and the Lord has some big lessons for you to learn in the process.

**Here's one more lesson I learned from Summer School:**

"Sometimes the only call of God you will get is an opportunity laid before you."

Take the opportunity and see what God does!



# SUMMER SCHOOL



by Tim Moore

On A Side Note: "He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son..." ~ Proverbs 10:5a



Tim Moore is the father of five homeschooling children, two of which have graduated from Moore Homeschool High. Tim and his wife Valerie make their home in South Central PA. At the CHAP Homeschool Convention you may have seen Tim and Valerie hosting the CHAP Booth where they encourage and educate fellow homeschoolers with recommendation such as the *Keys to Homeschooling in the Keystone State*.

***Keys to Homeschooling in the Keystone State***

An electronic version of "Keys" can be purchased at [www.chaponline.com/keys](http://www.chaponline.com/keys).

There are also a number of other resources on the CHAP website, including a series of short "How To" videos at [www.chaponline.com/media/how-to-videos](http://www.chaponline.com/media/how-to-videos).



# Pray for Your Enemies

by Valerie Moore

“How do we honor such a king?” asked Angus.

“I donnae ken, lads,” said their father. “But we must fear God and do our best to honor the king. How, in times like these, I donnae pretend to ken. But we begin by praying for him, praying that he lives up to his name, Defender of the faith.”

“But *pray* for him, Father?” said Duncan. “I ken I shouldnae say it. But I’d rather see him burn in hell.”

(*King’s Arrow*, p. 129, Douglas Bond)

In my interactions with people from all over the world and from various religious backgrounds, I have come to realize that one of the unique aspects of Christianity is Jesus’ call to love our enemies. While we may not have physical enemies, such as a king who persecutes us for our faith, we all have, to some degree or other, those who appear to be our enemies. Maybe for you it’s the neighbor with the dog that barks all night long, or the spouse who ignores you, or the child who will not obey, or the parents or in-laws who criticize your decision to homeschool.... How do you treat them or think about them? And what *should* you do if you are a Christian?

In Matthew 5, starting in verse 38, Jesus says, “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you,

what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Wow! What a challenge! This is humanly impossible, right? Right!! That is exactly the point. Without Jesus, we can do nothing, especially those things that run contrary to our sin nature. And that is exactly where God wants us. He wants us to completely depend on Him. He wants the glory to be deflected to Himself, because He is the only one who deserves it.

So what does it actually mean to pray for your enemy? What do you pray for? Should we be like those in “Fiddler on the Roof” who pray, “God bless the Czar and keep him far from us”!? Somehow, I don’t think that is what Jesus had in mind.

One place to start could be in praying for the areas of pain in that person’s life. Often, when people lash out at others, it is because they themselves are hurting. Maybe they are about to lose their job, maybe they have a serious health issue for themselves or someone in their family, maybe they have been hurt by others.... Pray for God’s mercy in the midst of their pain.

You can also pray for their salvation or their walk with the Lord. Pray that they would have eyes open to see what God is trying to teach them. Pray for them to know the wonderful love of Jesus. Pray for them to know the love of other Christians.

God’s call to live radically differently from the world is not easy, but it is best. Praying for our enemies helps to prevent bitterness from taking root in our lives, which harms us and prevents the gospel from going forth. May God grant each of us His grace to obey this command, thus letting “our light so shine before men that they see {our} good works and glorify {our} Father in heaven.” Amen.



Valerie Moore lives in south-central PA with her husband Tim and their children, and has, by the daily grace of God, homeschooled their children since 1997. They have served on the CHAP Board since 2005.



# Homeschooling: A Lifestyle, Not a Life Sentence

By Kathy Kuhl

Feeling weighed down by your responsibilities teaching your children? Is homeschooling starting to consume all your waking thoughts? Perhaps you are taking this important work too seriously.

Don't homeschool 24/7. Raising my children may be the most important work I ever do, but making my children the focus of my life is not good for me—or for the children. Though the biblical language for this is idolatry (that is, making something other than God the center of my life), you don't have to believe in God to see that it isn't healthy. It's common sense that if you center your life around someone or something—even your children or their education—your life can get out of balance, one-sided, boring.

Are you aiming above all to raise children who are a credit to you? That is a kind of selfishness. We can tell ourselves we are working for our children's sake, when we are really aiming to enhance our reputation. A good test is how we react when things don't go as we wish. The next time your child falls short publicly, think about your attitude. Are you taking it too personally? In his article, "Solving the Crisis in Homeschooling," Reb Bradley discusses how we may be more concerned that our dreams for our children are fulfilled than we are with the children themselves.

Down in our hearts, we can become like toddlers, throwing a fit because we aren't getting what we want. But our children are not clay for us to mold as we wish, or make in our image. We can shape them, but they are their own persons with distinctive personalities and talents. We don't own them or their future.

How do we keep ourselves from spending all our waking hours working on or thinking about our homeschooling? Different kinds of people need different kinds of breaks:

- Talking to friends can refresh us.
- Fresh air and short walks can revive us.
- Exercise helps us get in shape and sleep better. It can give us a mental break, too.
- Maybe we need to take a few minutes in the afternoons to make a cup of tea, put our feet up, and read.

But some of you may be wondering how to get a break. Hire a sitter if your oldest is not old enough to keep an eye on the younger

kids. Or swap babysitting with a friend weekly so you each get a free break. Perhaps a relative or friend with grown children can come regularly to give you an hour or two off. Plan a regular trip to the playground or a play date, whatever allows your children to be fairly independent so you can have more adult interaction.

Even a short daily break at home can help. In our homeschool, we had daily "recess." My son played with his Legos® for thirty minutes downstairs, while I read upstairs. A mother with a teen with multiple disabilities will tell him when she needs to rest. He plays an educational game while she reads.

If you are a single parent homeschooling, or if your spouse is deployed or traveling extensively, it is especially important to take care of yourself by making breaks.

## Six on, one off

Taking off one day a week is a new idea—and a very old one. Advertising, shopping, and buying are an important part of our culture, and encourage us to think more and more about acquiring stuff. Since the old "blue laws" that kept stores closed on Sundays have been repealed, we have lost that weekly break from commerce. But the ancient Jewish practice was to take one day in seven, not to do your business, but as a day holy to God. So our need to get away from business is not a new need, driven by modern forces.

Once we decide we will not work or shop, the whole pace of the day changes. What will we do? There is time for worship, rest, recreation, and family. There is time to reflect on the week just ending and on the week ahead. One mother I interviewed said her family found it very helpful to keep a weekly Sabbath. They worshipped and then went swimming or hiking together. My family also has found that having one day with time for worship, meals with friends, reading, talking, walks, and naps, has rested us for the week to come.

Though it takes planning to be sure that we will actually be able to rest on Sunday, it is worth the effort. On Saturday, I plan meals and check that we have all the groceries needed to get through Monday

breakfast. Then we take Sunday off from chores. Unless it cannot wait, we don't do housework on Sundays. I have always found it refreshing, though not always easy to stick to.

This day away from work has another benefit. Sometimes the break has given my husband and me new ideas for our work. Minds and bodies both benefit from rest.

## Other pursuits

As we homeschool, we need to keep up other interests, as our circumstances permit. Our children will not thank us if they have become our obsessions. Find some other projects or hobbies. Remember, grading papers is not a hobby. Find something creative and enjoyable.

For those with small children, you may have little time, so start small. When my children were young, I enjoyed cross-stitching, but I had no time for it. So I took tiny projects when I went on vacation. Then, when the children were in bed, I could create a little hostess gift for my relatives while we sat talking. Sometimes small hobbies grow into second careers later. I did a little writing while my children were young, and when the youngest graduated, I started writing my first book.

If you aren't tending babies or others who need constant attention, there are more opportunities. Helping the family business or starting a small business of your own can help you be a better teacher by reminding you of the working world you are equipping your children for. Visiting the elderly, helping at a food pantry or homeless shelter, or any way of serving your community sets a great example for your children and will broaden your mind.

If your circumstances do not permit you to take time for hobbies or service outside the home, be patient. Maybe all you can manage is reading a few pages of a magazine occasionally. Life has its seasons. This season may feel like what my husband calls "life in the slow lane," but it will go by fast.

## Longer getaways

Occasional overnight breaks can give you perspective, restore

your patience, and let you sleep. Can a relative keep your children overnight so you and your spouse can get away? When a couple with six children took their first weekend alone together since becoming parents, you could tell afterward by the look on their faces how well the trip had refreshed them. The wife loves homeschooling their children, and is a conscientious, well-organized mother, but when she got back, she was glowing. "I had no idea!" she said. "We have to do this again."

More commonly, one parent will get away at a time. Perhaps Mom will take off for a homeschool conference to get perspective, insight, and a break. Being with other homeschoolers and hearing wise and humorous speakers can help you keep going, and it's also fun to shop when you can handle the merchandise, and maybe find little gifts or games for your children. Some moms go away for a weekend with friends. One mother of two teens, one with Aspergers, said she and her husband have "sanity weekends," where one of them gets away overnight. She checks into a hotel up the road, where she can read and relax, without laundry and lesson plans to nag at her. On her husband's "sanity weekends," he prefers camping, enjoying the solitude of the woods.

Know when you need an emergency break. One mother of a very hyperactive girl told me she occasionally sends her daughter off to her room to play quietly, saying, "Mom needs a break now." As an Iowa mother told me, "Sometimes Mom is the one who needs the time out."

Take care of yourself so you can take care of your family.



Veteran homeschooler, author and speaker Kathy Kuhl lives in Herndon, Virginia. To stay sane, she enjoys walks with her husband, reading, and exercising with friends. This article is adapted from Chapter 10 of her newest booklet, *Staying Sane as You Homeschool: Balancing Your Priorities*, ©2011, available on Amazon. Visit [LearnDifferently.com](http://LearnDifferently.com) or email [Kathy@LearnDifferently.com](mailto:Kathy@LearnDifferently.com)



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# Serving with Responsibility

By Marilyn Boyer

Jesus said in Mark 9:35, “If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.” We must build a heart of service in each of our children. We can start right from the beginning. The family provides a training ground for service. We taught our toddlers to get diapers for baby sister, wash baseboards, throw away trash, etc. As I run my many errands, I take a different child with me and teach them how to shop and meet the needs of their family, how to put away groceries, weed the garden, keep the yard and house picked up.

Each family member needs spheres of responsibility. The family needs each member and each must contribute just as soon as they are able. It’s healthy and normal, and children need to know they are needed and valuable to the family unit. Let older children help to train the younger ones in chores, projects, tasks, etc. I remember when cleaning the bathroom was Nate and Josh’s job. I told them when they trained Matt and Emmy to clean the bathroom thoroughly, then it wouldn’t be their job anymore. Talk about motivation! Nate and Josh got to learn parenting skills by accurately training their younger siblings to do the job.

Train your kids with responsibility. We have a daily and weekly schedule for chores. Be flexible, but have a schedule so everyone knows what is expected of them. A schedule builds security.

Certain chores are done on certain days of the week. If it’s Monday morning, everyone does their Monday chores. Try to gear the chores according to a child’s skill level. Each summer, I reassign chores so everyone will learn all the different chores eventually. Train each child thoroughly in how to do their job. Don’t just expect them to know. Do it with them until they become proficient in it, and then afterwards occasionally help them just for motivation.

Make your instructions clear and easy to follow. Some children need more direction than others. For instance, I have one daughter who sees what needs to be done before I do. I have another daughter, however, who is very creative. She just doesn’t see the mess! I would walk in her room and she’d be sprawled on her bed, writing a story. I’d ask her why she didn’t pick up the mess before she wrote stories, and she’d say, “What mess?” She just didn’t see it. When dusting was her job, I’d keep finding things that weren’t getting dusted. I finally realized she needed help in knowing what to dust. So, for handwriting that week, I had her go from room to room and list everything in each room that needed

to be dusted. She could then use her list to check things off and make sure she hadn’t forgotten anything.

Check up on them. If you don’t, they’ll try to get away with whatever they can. Call them back if the job is not done thoroughly, even if they’re already in bed at night when you discover it! Call them back as many times as it takes, and eventually they’ll realize they might as well just do it right the first time instead of being interrupted to come and complete jobs.

For spring and fall cleaning, I let up on school work a bit for a week and assign each child extra jobs for each day of the week.

It’s different from our normal schedule and normally it’s kind of fun! We don’t pay the kids for doing normal chores. It’s just part of belonging to the family. We do, however, pay for extra chores, like cleaning out the shed, washing and cleaning the car, etc. That gives the kids a way to earn extra money. If they need money for something, they’ll ask for extra jobs.

We’ve always encouraged our children to make homemade gifts for friends, neighbors, brothers and sisters. To think of appropriate gifts and spend time and energy in making a surprise for someone is developing a servant’s heart. Rick and I still have plaster of Paris handprints hanging on our walls that the kids made us for Mother’s and Father’s Day. I had the kids make their dad a t-shirt one year with their hand and footprints all over it, and I wrote Psalm 127:3 on it.

I have kept a sampling over the years of papers, cards, and gifts the kids have made us, and I made two huge scrapbooks of some of the extra special ones. They are still very special to me. It almost takes you back to the day you received them to sit and flip through the scrapbook and to appreciate each one.

We were put on this earth to serve. Let us remember to communicate that to our children. We’re not here to entertain ourselves, as the world would have us believe. It’s only when we empty ourselves into the lives of others that we truly find what life is all about!



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. 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](http://www.thelearningparent.com)



All children need to be trained to do their chores. Five key steps are involved when training children.

### Step One: Demonstrate

Allow your child to observe you several times doing the task. Toddlers and preschoolers do this naturally (notice how their play imitates what they see in real life). For instance, if you want your child to make his bed, let him observe you doing it several times. Talk to him about the steps involved in making his bed as he watches. Many special needs children also require a verbal commentary on what you are doing.

### Step Two: Participate

Let your child help you make his bed. While your child is making the bed with you, take note of his weak points in making the bed and re-teach any needed skills or areas he is struggling in. When instructing special needs children, keep your instructions very basic. ADD children are prone to lose focus if you discuss too many things. Give your child lots of verbal and tactile (pat on the back) praise. Do not do hand-over-hand instruction with the child unless the child specifically requests you do so, because many children consider it punitive.

### Step Three: Supervise

Watch your child make his bed. If he still has difficulty, go back to step one and then proceed to step two and step three again as your child masters making the bed. You should be able to literally stand and say nothing except praise your child when he has completed making the bed.

### Step Four: Delegate

Once your child has mastered bed-making, delegate the task to your child. You will still need to provide some reinforcement or follow-up for your special needs child, like a chart you place a sticker on after the child completes making the bed. You might also have the child bring an index card to you when he has completed making the bed so you can praise the child for completing the task. Index cards with chores posted on them (with a pictorial cue) work best

# Training Children to do Chores



By Cheryl Carter

for ADD/ADHD children who are easily distracted. The card keeps them on track and the picture (which can be clip art or from an old magazine) reminds them what they should be doing.

### Step Five: Inspect

Occasionally inspect your child's bed. Be certain to give plenty of praise and affirmation for learning a new skill.



Cheryl R. Carter is the author of *Clean Your Room So I Can At Least See the Floor* and *Organize Your ADD/ADHD Child*. She is active in the homeschool community. Visit [www.familysuccess.org](http://www.familysuccess.org) for further information.



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# The Cost to Home Educate

By Kevin Kanoff

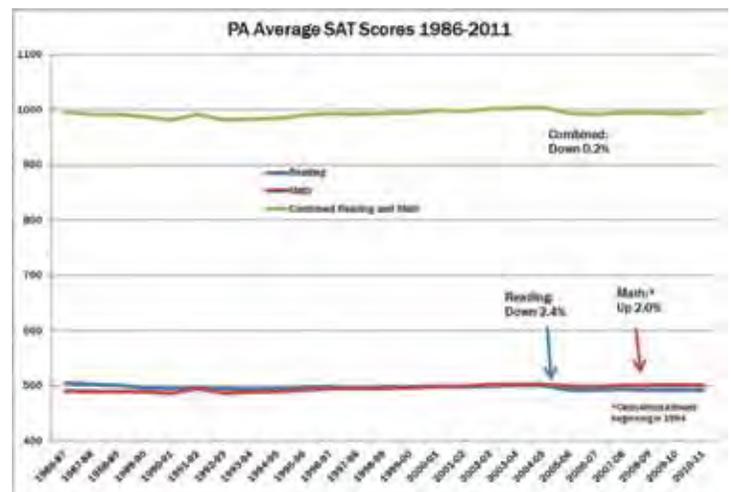
*The parents are the real architects of their children's destiny, and the state cannot help it.*

*-Dr. R.L. Dabney*



The United States of America is on a path to financial ruin. Most governments are spending more money than they collect in revenues. From my perspective each level of government – Federal, State, and Local – has taken on tasks that are beyond their scope as defined by their founding documents. One such area is public education. Regular readers of this column have considered, with me, the core principles of parental rights and governmental control of education. Let's look at some current statistics concerning state spending on education (K-12).

The Pennsylvania state government is currently spending \$26 billion a year on education for K-12 schools. In 1995 the state sent \$13 billion to the school districts in the state. So state funding of local school districts has increased by \$13 billion per year over the last 17 years. During this time period the number of public school students has decreased by 35,510. The average public school district in Pennsylvania spends \$14,000 a year per student. Some districts spend as much as \$25,000 per student. Surely the students have improved academically over this time period! During the period from 1986 to 2011, combined Reading and Math SAT scores in Pennsylvania are down 0.2%. Let's contrast these statistics with those of Home Education.



Common Wealth Foundation

The following are some facts from the National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI; [www.nheri.org](http://www.nheri.org)).

- The home-educated typically score 15 to 30 percentile points above public-school students on standardized academic achievement tests. (The public school average is the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile; scores range from 1 to 99, so home-educated students average between the 65<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> percentile.)
- Homeschool students score above average on achievement tests regardless of their parents' level of formal education or their family's household income.
- Whether homeschool parents were ever certified teachers is not related to academic achievement.
- Degree of state control and regulation of homeschooling is not related to academic achievement.

- Home-educated students typically score above average on the SAT and ACT tests that colleges consider for admissions.
- Homeschool students are increasingly being actively recruited by colleges.

Dr. Brian Ray of NHERI states that *“Families engaged in home-based education are not dependent on public, tax-funded resources for their children’s education. The finances associated with their homeschooling likely represent over \$16 billion across the United States that tax payers do not have to spend since these children are not in public schools.”*

A tremendous amount of wealth has been poured into public education with little impact on the academic performance of the students. Research has shown that home-education has a very positive impact on the academic achievement of the students being educated by their parents. The higher standardized test scores of home-educated children are spread evenly across financial and social demographics.

I will not discuss, at this time, the spiritual and disciplinary differences between the students in public schools and homeschools or ability of the students to become productive members of society. Research shows very similar results in these areas as in the area of academics.

The information above shows that the parents of children are more successful at teaching their children than the school system that the government has been able to establish, and at a much lower financial cost. I would like to close with a voice from the past.

*The children’s characters are usually as much the progeny of the parents as their bodies. Again: the aspiration, virtuous desire, and the energy of the parents are absolutely essential to supply the impulse, which the child’s mind requires to overrule its youthful heedlessness, and to impel it to employ and assimilate its otherwise useless acquisitions. And once more: The home education is so much more potential than that of the school, that the little modicum of training which a “common-school” system can give to the average masses is utterly trivial and impotent as a means of reversing the child’s tendency.*

-Dr. R.L. Dabney April 18, 1876

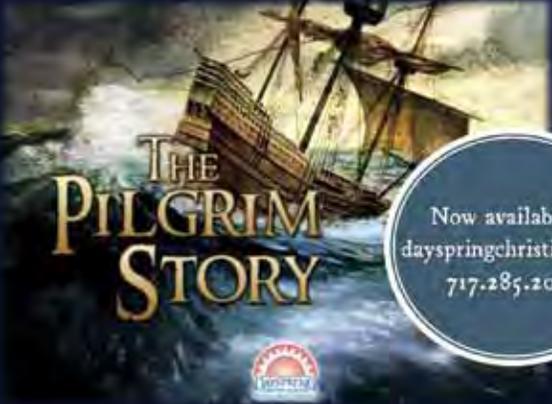
**Sources:**

Senator Mike Folmer, Chair of the PA Senate Education Committee

[www.commonwealthfoundation.org/research/detail/education-spending-the-rest-of-the-story](http://www.commonwealthfoundation.org/research/detail/education-spending-the-rest-of-the-story)



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.



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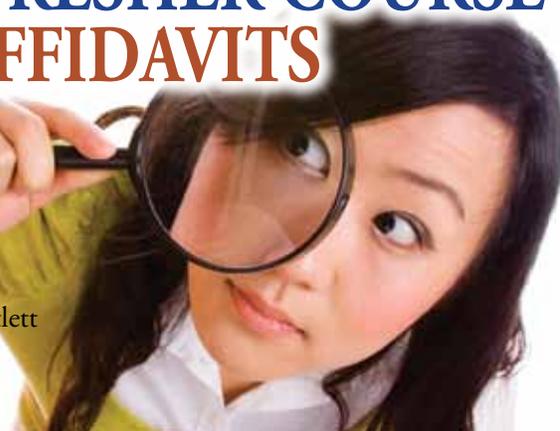


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# A REFRESHER COURSE ON AFFIDAVITS

On A Side Note: "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes." ~ Proverbs 21:1

by Darlene Catlett



## WHAT is an affidavit?

- a written declaration which you sign before a notary public and submit to your school district.

## WHAT is included on the affidavit?

- the name of the supervisor
- a statement that the supervisor has a high school diploma or its equivalent
- the name and age (not the birth date) of each child in the home education program
- the address and telephone number of the home education program site
- a statement that subjects required by law are offered in the English language
- a statement that the child has received the required health and medical services
- a statement that no one in the house has been convicted of felonies as outlined in the law

In addition, these items should accompany your affidavit:

- an outline of proposed education objectives by subject area
- evidence that the child has been immunized

If your child has been identified to the school district as needing special education services, you must also include a statement from a properly qualified person that the education plan is appropriate to the disability of the child (see Act 169, Section 2d).

School districts commonly ask for more than is required by Act 169. If you are a member of HSLDA, you can go to them for help if your district continues to insist on things that are not required by Act 169. If you're not a member, this would be a good time to join. [www.hsllda.org](http://www.hsllda.org)

Public health laws require evidence of immunizations or a religious exemption. A record of immunization may be a copy of a baby book, physician record, or similar document. A sample religious exemption can be found at <http://chaplains.com/medical-exempt>.

You are not required to use your school district's affidavit form. Type up your own, or use CHAP's sample affidavit, found in *CHAP's Homeschooling Briefs* at <http://chaplains.com/hsbrief>.

## WHEN should I file an affidavit?

Act 169 requires homeschoolers to file an affidavit for each child between the ages of 8 and 17. (You can include all your children on one affidavit.) If your child turns eight before or during the first two weeks of this next school year, you'll need to file an affidavit no later than his 8th birthday. After that, the law requires that you file it by August 1. (Tip: If you submit your affidavit on or before July 1, you can begin counting days or hours on July 1.)

Before you submit your affidavit, have it notarized. Make a copy of it and keep it on file. Then mail the original to the superintendent of your school district by certified mail, with a return receipt request. Some homeschoolers hand-deliver their affidavits – if you choose to do this, be sure to get a receipt.

## READ THE LAW

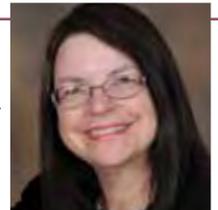
You didn't learn the alphabet by listening to your mother say it once, and you're not going to learn Act 169 by listening to someone tell you about it once or by reading it through one time. (Tip: There are five sections in ACT 169: the first section is not about homeschooling, so you can skip it! Start reading at Section 2d, which begins with "Instruction to children of compulsory school age...") A copy of Act 169 can be found at <http://chaplains.com/know-act169>.

For more information:

- <http://chaplains.com/affidavit-form>
- <http://chaplains.com/affidavits-refresher>



Darlene Catlett and her husband Don began homeschooling their four children in 1988. They enjoy sharing a vision for homeschooling free of all unnecessary paperwork and requirements, but until that day comes, Darlene works with other homeschool families as they make their way through the various challenges of filing paperwork. Contact her at [darlene@chapmedia.com](mailto:darlene@chapmedia.com).



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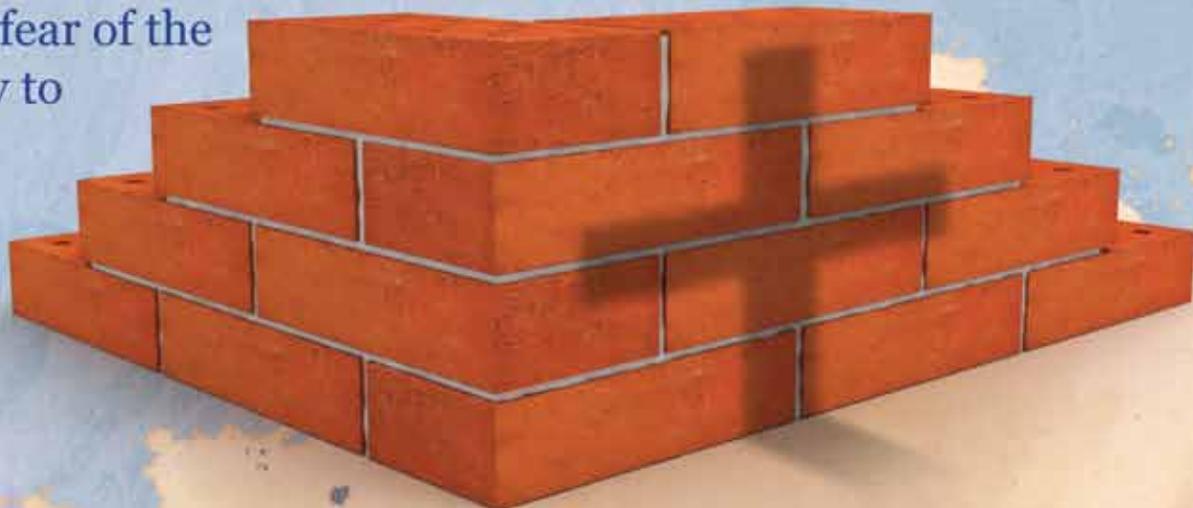
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Isaiah 33:6 (NIV)



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