



MAGAZINE
SPRING 2017



Convention Issue

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Burnout

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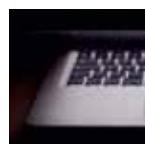
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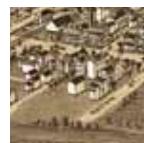
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Convention Season –

Should You Go?



When our eldest was just one, we went to our first homeschool convention—in a picnic shelter (really!) in Modesto, California. It was so exciting to talk to homeschooleders and to look through all the books. We knew we wanted to homeschool and this little taste of it just whet our appetites. We've only missed going to a homeschool convention once in the twenty-five years since then!

It's true the Internet has changed things. It's easier to get information and easier to "talk" to other homeschooleders than ever before. You can even download workshop sessions from your favorite speakers whenever you like.

So why should you go to a live homeschool convention? It's different when you are actually there. We love the time after our workshops when we get to talk to moms and dads face to face and pray with them. You can really get to know the speakers you enjoy—and they can get to know you.

Often the people who wrote the curriculum you are interested in are right there in the book fair. Even if they're not, there will be knowledgeable folks running each booth, usually people who've used those books themselves. You can talk to other parents there and gain from their experience, and take a look at new things you've never even heard of before.

It's good to be away from home, too. It's hard to focus on your own learning when the children are running in and out and the laundry is calling. It's so relaxing to sit back next to your mate, listen and learn, then head to lunch together talking about where the Lord is leading your family. It's good for you and good for your marriage and children, as well.

The best reasons, though, are the divine appointments. Cool things happen when you put a few thousand homeschooleders in a building together. It happens all the time. We see two dads bouncing cranky toddlers in the hall and the dad who's worried about high school talks about the teens he's met there. Teens who are restless at home gain a new perspective and a bunch of new friends in the teen sessions. A group of moms chatters up a storm waiting for a session to start, then settles back happy with some new ideas. Old friends call delighted greetings over stacks of books. The energy and joy is amazing!

*Hal and Melanie Young are the homeschooling parents of eight and authors of the award-winning books *Raising Real Men* and *My Beloved and My Friend*. They are bloggers, podcasters, and popular conference speakers internationally, known for their Christ-centered focus and practical, real-life stories. They live in noisy, messy happiness in North Carolina.*

WELCOME

CHAP welcomes leadership team volunteers Paul and Beth Bucher, who officially started in January 2017 as members of the Advisory Board.

As their oldest child approached school age, the Buchers started rethinking their educational plans. Working with the youth at their church, they observed the importance of parents being in the lives of their children. In 2003, with this in mind, they began their homeschooling journey to train their children academically and to disciple them to be followers of Christ.

Paul and Beth have seven children ranging from college age to preschool. Beth has an elementary education degree and has served in children and youth ministries. Paul has a computer science degree and works as a software architect. Continuing their homeschooling journey, they look forward to the challenges and rewards that the Lord has planned. We are immensely grateful to Paul and Beth for their willingness to serve sacrificially of their time and talents.

The members of the CHAP Board, as well as our individual families, look forward to serving at the 2017 CHAP Convention. Seek us out; we will be wearing the CHAP logo gear at the CHAP table, at the mentor booth, and anywhere at the convention. We are available to provide information, guidance, and prayer. We would like to encourage other families to press on in home education and discipleship.

What does God truly call us to do? We are to bring our children up in the fear and admonition of the Lord; the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. God does not call you to make your child a prodigy, nor does He measure you by how your child turns out. God alone will provide you with the faith and the means to accomplish



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the task. Strength for this journey is often found in community.

CHAP's purpose gives all of us a compass by which we can serve each other. The member families of CHAP literally support fellow homeschoolers, connecting all of us.

CHAP is a community of families who have responded to God's calling to provide privately-funded, home-based discipleship and education of their children. Please join CHAP! From the free Primary level and through Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels, there are many ways to show your individual family support and be a part of what God is doing in and through our organization.

As an organization and ministry, CHAP advocates for Christ-centered home education. We stand unapologetically on God's Word, and we pray that the 2017 CHAP Convention will provide you with resources and encouragement on this journey.

Come and check out our new beautiful location—the Lancaster County Convention Center—on June 2-3, 2017. There are going to be new and exciting activities for everyone in the family. The board is grateful for the dedicated people who have been diligent in making this event at a new venue a reality.

by Secretary Maria Pietrak, on behalf of the entire CHAP Board

The Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP) is predominantly a volunteer-run organization made up of many folks with many teams and individuals working year round. CHAP wants to be sure that Pennsylvanians have the freedom to choose Christ-centered, parent-directed, privately-funded homeschooling. CHAP works toward this by lobbying the legislature to maintain and increase homeschool freedoms, publishing helpful information for new and seasoned homeschoolers, teaching parents about homeschooling, and encouraging homeschool parents and support groups around the state. CHAP doesn't just run a convention and then disappear until the next year. When our convention is over, CHAP's work has only begun!

SIDE BY SIDE HOMESCHOOLING IN PENNSYLVANIA

Parents: Matt & Noelle Carroll

Children: Kaleb, Ethan, Sienna, Joseph, Adeline, James, Elsa, Lydia, and Rebecca

Hometown: Dillsburg, PA

Tell us a little bit about your family dynamics.

The dynamics of a large family (1 graduate, 4 high schoolers, 1 middle schooler, 2 elementary schoolers, and a 3 year old) necessitate intentionality on many fronts; otherwise our life would be filled with lots of disorder! We have been very intentional to strive to create an environment of love and life that will allow our children to “grow up like olive plants all around our table” (Psalm 128:3). Life and love means facilitating rich conversation, active listening, intentional encouragement, praying, singing, and fun!

High schoolers bring layers of complexity with schedules, friends, questions, and emotions. One of Noelle’s favorite sayings is “people are more important than things”. We try to find the balance between daily work and school tasks, amidst the need to maintain and facilitate healthy relationships. Raising children is similar to raising plants – when they are young and tender they need protection and nurturing and as they age, they need to be hardened off – that is they need pushed and challenged and given opportunities to reach outside their little bubble.

How long have you been homeschooled?

14 years

What was one of the main reasons you chose to homeschool?

There are several reasons that we have chosen to homeschool, but if we had to pick one, it would be because we wanted



to keep a Christian worldview in the education of our children. The removal of God from education removes the foundation of all truth and goodness. As we look around in our society, we see the unraveling of truth and goodness all around us. We are so thankful that we have the privilege to educate at home.

In what activities does your family participate?

We have endeavored to let our children participate in activities that they are interested in, but at times because of our family size and a belief in keeping a buffer in our schedule, we have limited or selected group options. Noelle feels strongly that a shared experience provides bonding opportunities and encourages our children to be friends as well as siblings. Amongst our children we have many soccer players in a homeschool league, one that has played for the public school, church choir, piano and guitar lessons, equestrian care and riding, ALERT Cadets (boys) and Keepers of the Faith (girls) at church, and home-school co-ops.

What have been your most helpful resources?

By far our most helpful resources are other homeschoolers! Noelle's mother, with 24 years of homeschool experience, was a huge encourager as we started out. We have also been blessed by those with whom we walk side by side. Within our local homeschool community we often tag team with teaching and resources and share challenges and struggles.

What educational philosophy/curriculum do you follow?

We generally lean away from using one comprehensive curriculum and instead use materials from various sources that we have found to work well for our kids' learning styles and abilities. We maintain a stocked home library of our favorite resources pulled together over the years. Curriculums we have enjoyed are Christian Light Education, Math Without Borders, and Institute for Excellence in Writing.

We gravitate to the educational philosophy of Charlotte Mason with some classical concepts sprinkled in. With the younger children we have found the outline/cycle of Classical Conversations to be very helpful in providing structure and thoroughness, while we add in our literature, writing notebooks, nature study, and handicrafts.

We endeavor to balance academic instruction with intentional play (for the younger years) and "real life" for the older ones by trying to facilitate a balance of academics, service, and work. Character is forged in the balance of these three areas of life by learning to interact with a diversity of materials, information, situations, and personalities.

What has been one of the highlights for you in homeschooling your children?

Probably the greatest highlights are when we see our children embrace the opportunity and joy of learning on their own. We endeavor to impart a love of learning as a mentality and perspective, and when they see learning and education as a tool and opportunity, we are greatly encouraged!

What were your favorite field trips?

Probably our favorite field trips would include the trip to a local taxidermist and the "Young Eagles" trip to the Thomasville Airport and the associated airplane rides for the kids as they had a chance to learn about aviation.

What was one of the funniest things to happen during a homeschool day?

We have had lots of funny things that have happened over the years. From being in the middle of the school day and suddenly realizing that one child is missing (i.e. still in bed), to having ambitious plans and having them shattered by a phone call from the post office that our chicks have arrived or the goats are out! Though not funny at the time, it is fun-

ny to look back at one incident several years ago when all but one of the kids came down with the stomach bug, and Dad came home to find about eight people sprawled out around the house on the floor each clutching their bowl. Wow!

What have you found to be a challenge in homeschooling? Any tips in dealing with that challenge?

One of our greatest challenges has been figuring out the educational paths for the high schoolers. We have sought out tutors and co-op opportunities to assist with some of the more difficult subjects, to provide "third party" accountability, to strengthen their education in areas that their parents are weak in, and to provide social opportunities.

Life is constantly changing, and so are the opportunities. Things available to our older children are not going to be available for our younger children; therefore we have to continue to seek out options for meeting the needs of our educational program. As far as dealing with this challenge, we must be people who pray for wisdom and direction – often the Lord has brought an opportunity, or resource, or idea just at the time we needed it most (Prov. 3:5-6). Also we have found that keeping broad circles through broad interests has often led to new relationships, opportunities, and ideas on many occasions.

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

There are several things that would be helpful to a beginner. First, we highly recommend that you find a circle of families who are on the same journey with whom you can discuss ideas and receive encouragement. Second, be an example of learning. Be eager and excited to keep discovering – you will find that homeschooling is like getting another education! Finally, remember that academics are only part of the equation – as a parent, you are discipling the whole person. We must teach character, work ethic, relational skills, and worship. We

must maintain good relationships with our children.

Parenting is one of God's tools for conforming us into the image of Christ and for forming the next generation of faithful saints.

*Compiled by
Jillian Spittle*

Side by Side //

Who do YOU think we should feature in an upcoming issue of the *CHAP Magazine*? Email your nominations to staff@chaponline.com and include name, phone number, email, and why you think this family should be featured. The family must be committed to CHAP's view of homeschooling: Christ-centered, parent-directed, privately funded, home-based discipleship.

Government Funding of Homeschooling: **A BLESSING OR A CURSE?**

If you're homeschooling, you probably know that you must pay for your child's education twice. You diligently pay taxes that are used to fund local public schools, even though you choose not to use them. Then you pay again for your child's education at home.

The emergence of more robust homeschool curriculum options is great for parent-teachers, but it hasn't made homeschooling any easier on the budget. Maybe you're starting to think Uncle Sam should chip in to help you buy that perfect science curriculum for your 7th grader. If so, you're ready to join the discussion of tax credits and education savings accounts (ESAs).

Tax credits and ESAs are a hot topic in discussions about education policy. School choice advocates support empowering parents and creating healthy competition between schools to improve performance. But programs that purport to empower homeschooling parents by increasing government involvement give cause for concern.

Of course, each legislative proposal has to be analyzed separately. This article is meant to bring you up to speed on some of the different types of programs and proposals across the country, how they work, and how they may impact homeschooling.

What is an ESA?

As the name suggests, an education savings account is an account where money accumulates and grows with tax advantages. Money can only be withdrawn to pay for qualified educational expenses, which typically include tuition, books and other curriculum, tutoring, and sometimes a computer if it is used for educational

purposes. The accounts themselves are pretty uniform and straightforward, but they are being used in varying types of school choice programs.

So how does money get into the ESA? That varies from program to program.

State legislatures are considering proposals that would require the state government to put money into ESAs, which parents could then use to pay for their student's qualified educational expenses. At first this may sound great because the government is attempting to relieve the financial burden on homeschooling parents. But direct government funding always comes with certain strings attached.

It would be irresponsible to simply hand out money (from hard-working taxpayers) without ensuring that it gets used appropriately. If the government starts paying for homeschooling expenses, it will inevitably start to oversee how those funds are spent, leading to increased government regulation.

Over the last 30 to 40 years, homeschooling parents have demonstrated that they can provide a better, more individualized education for their children at home. A growing number of parents are choosing to homeschool because of concerns about the academic and social environment in public schools. They want to select an educational plan to meet their child's unique needs.

Homeschool parents have worked for years to gain the freedom to teach each unique child as they see fit with minimal government inference—so opening the door for more government regulation is a serious concern that



threatens the individuality and autonomy of homeschooling.

There are several alternatives to the voucher-like ESA model.

The Minnesota Tax Credit Model

Minnesota provides a tax credit equal to 75% of qualified educational expenses, up to \$1,000 per qualifying child (\$2,000 per family). This means that parents who spend \$1,000 on homeschool curriculum may receive a credit towards their tax liability of up to \$750.

This credit is not available, however, for parents who make more than \$33,500. For these parents, Minnesota provides a separate tax deduction for education expenses, which allows them to deduct up to \$1,625 per student. A tax deduction simply means that the money spent on qualified educational expenses is not taxable as income; thus, the total income to be taxed is reduced.

For parents who qualify, the tax credit will result in significantly greater financial benefit. But having both options is ideal.

The New Hampshire Model

In 2012, the New Hampshire legislature passed a bill that created an education tax credit program designed to promote more choices in education, and homeschool families are eligible to participate. Here's how it works in a nutshell.

Businesses may receive a tax credit equal to 85% of their contributions to private scholarship granting organizations, which in turn use this money to award scholarships to students for qualified educational expenses. There are limitations on who is eligible for the scholarships, and there is a cap on the maximum amount of the scholarship.

Eligible homeschool students may receive up to \$625 for qualified educational expenses. New Hampshire was the first state to allow scholarship organizations to provide scholarships for homeschool students to help defray the cost of homeschooling. Because the funds come from private organizations, there is little risk of increased government

regulation on homeschooling families who benefit from the scholarship.

A twist on this model is the use of an ESA (instead of scholarship granting organizations) that is funded by private businesses in exchange for a tax credit.

What about Pennsylvania?

Pennsylvania currently offers businesses a 75% tax credit for money they contribute to certain nonprofit organizations, including scholarship granting organizations, which convert these funds to private school scholarships. Home education programs are not eligible to receive funding. Thus, homeschooling parents do not directly benefit from this program.

Tax credits and certain ESA programs provide an opportunity to relieve some of the financial burden placed on homeschooling parents, which can translate to a better education for homeschooling students. These programs must be reviewed carefully, however, to analyze how they may interfere with parental liberty in education.

Homeschoolers have fought too hard to pare back government regulations that hinder effective education. It would be counterproductive and naïve to exchange that liberty and autonomy for money or tax incentives.

We'll be on the lookout for ESA and tax credit legislation during the 2017–2018 legislative session. If a proposal is introduced, we stand prepared to analyze it and inform homeschooling parents how it will affect home education in Pennsylvania.



Daniel T. Beasley serves as HSLDA's contact attorney for Pennsylvania and twelve other states. He regularly corresponds with Pennsylvania school officials and government agencies regarding the legalities and effectiveness of homeschooling. He also analyzes and tracks legislation related to homeschooling. He and his wife Bethany are both homeschool graduates and have begun homeschooling the first of their three young children. You can learn more about Dan and homeschooling in Pennsylvania at www.hslda.org.

A CHALLENGE

for Experienced Homeschool Moms



I recently became a part of an online home-school moms' group. I'm not sure why I requested to join, since I don't normally do these kinds of things. I have a lot of homeschool experience (I've been home educating my children for nearly 23 years), and I am comfortable in the way we homeschool. I guess you could say that I am confident in my choices.

Imagine my great surprise then, when the first day, the first thing I read is: "Here is your chance to post a rant." Wow! There were many comments, and all of them rather ugly. I get that once in a while we need a listening ear to express frustration; however, I am certain that a public forum is not the place for this to happen. Once words leave your mouth, or you hit send on your keyboard, you cannot get them back.

My heart was grieved as I read some of the things these women said about their kids, husbands, in-laws. I know I don't know their situations, or their frustrations, but that is my point. These days, we can all post our "opinions" about every little thing; I was sad to see it playing out on an online homeschool forum. Would I really want my mom to post publicly for the whole world to read that I had been really annoying and a bother to her? I can tell you my answer is "NO!" And I know that my kids would feel the same way.

I began to wonder if these women had any help from friends or extended family in their day-to-day lives. I wondered if anyone had a mentor, someone who had been through the trenches of parenting and home educating. I have a heart for mentoring women, especially homeschooling moms, but I wonder sometimes if many home educators "retire" when they finish with their last child. Do any stick around home educating circles to be that voice of encouragement or that shoulder to cry on?

I will be done home educating my last child in about six years. My plan is to stay involved with homeschool parents, to continue to be a part of a moms' group. I encourage you to do the same. I know we don't know everything, but

our years of experience count, and just wanting to encourage and hearten these younger moms is of great value!

These women in the online group needed someone in their real life to say, "I know. I understand. It will be okay." They need someone to be their cheerleader, to remind them that homeschooling is a hard job, but it is of eternal value because your children are made in the image of God and are of great worth to Him. They need to know there is someone who will listen, and care. Frankly, some moms need to be encouraged that they *will* get through these hard days and *will* see fruit.

My deepest concern for the things I read that day was that these moms are building resentment toward their children. They need to be reminded to seek God for the answers to loving their challenging children. He made them and knows them and knows what they need.

Those moms who are nearing the end of your homeschooling days, I challenge you to look around at young moms just starting or those who have kids getting a bit older, and walk alongside them. They need you, whether they know it or not.

Let's remember to pray for homeschooling moms. Pray that they will follow God in the path He has for them, that they will love their children, that their husbands will encourage them in their work as moms and teachers in the home, and that their children will be a delight to them. Let's also ask God to give us a specific mom to mentor and encourage. It will make all the difference in the success of her homeschool.

Deanna Rabe is married to Tim, and is the mother of six children and grandma to three. They were involved in co-op leadership for many years, served on their county home-school board, and have been long time CHAP Convention volunteers. She has homeschooled her kids for 22 years, and has six years to go. They have graduated four kids, and have two to go! She loves to encourage and mentor young women and homeschool moms.

Savvy Shopping ...or Sadly Skimping?



When I first began attending the CHAP Convention I was amazed at the vendor hall.

My excitement was so palpable that when I would return to the same venue in January for the Pennsylvania Farm Show, there was a quickening pulse; I had to quickly remind myself it was not going to be books, but tractors inside. We all likely appreciate the vendor hall, but do we really appreciate the vendors? Before logic gives you thoughts about how much the vendors are thanked with our checkbooks, let's pause and look.

As we arrive at the convention on Friday morning (armed with five different-colored highlighters and a gridded planning book), do we realize the first vendor booth on our list took HOURS to construct on Thursday evening? Do we regard that the vendor eats and breathes and pay bills as we do? Or that their children have not left the booth for three hours? It's important to not just realize, but connect with, the humanity of the vendor.

As a 12-year convention veteran, I have paled at times in connecting. Have you ever spent some time being patiently (and cheerfully) educated on a certain product, only to excuse yourself so you can hunt the vendor floor seeking a better deal? Let's navigate on a spiritual opportunity cost basis, and see if we are better served by purchasing from the original vendor and investing in their labor. Could the time spent on the hunt have been more profitably used by attending a workshop to gain eternal wisdom?

It is a HUGE blessing to have used curriculum sales, and most homeschool parents love a deal; I personally have bought vastly more used than new. While I acknowledge that we all experience true financial seasons of need, is there a better path to be seeking if the savings is slighting the labor that created the need?

Beyond the bargain hunt fanfare, another consideration (or lack thereof) is disobedience to copyright laws. We are called as Christians to obey the law, period. Often smaller curriculum outfits have very generous copyright laws. One example I read indicated to "direct any friend that couldn't afford the curriculum to us so we can bless them with a free copy, but please do not just copy it for them." Most often vendors allow copying within a family unit. Though financial stress is primarily the vehicle driving us to overlook the law, where in Scripture does it say to "steal if needed?" Can we justify copying a workbook many times over for our family, then selling the item with the description "no writing?"



Granted, obedience must flow with much grace, as legalistic filters are not helpful or good testimony building blocks. Many homeschoilers have years when we must be careful about what we buy, or whether we can buy anything at all. Just traveling to the convention could cause hardship. Families can serve the cause of Christ by respecting and honoring what a beautiful array of choices the Lord has blessed us with by considering the very human element behind the products we buy.

In a conversation on copyright with a popular curricula author's husband, he related how his wife (principal author) occasionally just packs up curricula and hands the products to booth visitors when a real need is disclosed. The vendors are real: real people who care. Let's care right back for them.

Corrine Wolf and her husband Chris have had God's incredible blessing of homeschooling their five children for 13 years in White Haven, PA. Their oldest graduated in 2016, and the youngest two are in first grade. Corrine has been a homeschool support group leader and advocate for homeschooling for many years in northeast Pennsylvania. Corrine and her husband Chris are serving as co-coordinators for this year's Leigh A. Genaserich Memorial Scholarship.



HOW CAN PARENTS INSTILL A HEART OF MINISTRY IN THEIR CHILDREN?

Why are we here? What is our goal in this life? Parents are answering those questions for their children everyday—whether parents realize it or not!

You see, children pick up their parents' priorities. When they see that their parents get most excited about serving the Lord, they pick up that excitement also. An enthusiasm about Jesus and His service is not just "taught," it is also "caught" (Deut. 6:5-7).

When parents seek the Lord passionately, that speaks louder to the children than anything they might teach them. More than that, when parents involve their children in ministry, children get a taste of the excitement of serving God and then they begin to see needs around them also.

My brother, sister, and I are very grateful for the heart for serving Christ that we observed in our parents. They didn't see us kids as a distraction from their ministry work, but as an asset to their work, and from a young age they coached us in doing ministry.

"Alright, here is a stack of tracts for you," Dad would say, as we would stand together at a busy street corner at Christmas-time. "Let's see how many we can hand out!" Afterward, he

would tell us what a great job we did, and the responses he noticed in the people who received them. We were only about four years old when Dad started doing this with us, but it left a big impression. We would realize, "God used ME today!" and that is an important feeling for a child to experience! It also made handing out tracts as an adult much easier.

"Sarah, you take care of the kids so the parents can talk," Mom would say. Afterward she would explain to us that our role—babysitting the younger ones—was just as important as the counseling talk she and Dad had with the parents.

When we were going to an event, my mom would often say, "Remember to be a giver. Remember to look out for any kids who do not have friends and reach out to them." She was helping us to learn that ministry is not just an action—it is a mindset. It is walking into a room and thinking, "Who can I encourage?" instead of simply thinking about what would be the most fun. It is asking, "What can I give?" instead of, "What can I get?"

When we were young, Mom would also remind us of the importance of writing thank you notes or Christmas cards or family newsletters. She would explain to us how much they can mean to people.

Dad would involve us in planning events for our community—such as a Thanksgiving event to help families understand more of the importance of this holiday, or a “Good Science Workshop” teaching creation science, or “Church History Day” to help homeschool families learn about great Christians from the past. We would help with the behind-the-scenes details of the event: making invitations, setting up, cleaning up, preparing food, etc. Looking back, I see this was helping us to develop creativity, initiative, diligence, and various practical skills.

Can little children do public speaking? When equipped in the right way, yes, of course! When my brother, Stephen, was about six, he presented a five-minute talk on the life of John Bunyan. Dad printed some large pictures from a book we had about John Bunyan, and Stephen would point to the pictures using a small pointer, as he gave his presentation. Once we had prepared a particular presentation, it seemed that the Lord would give us many opportunities to share it with others.

Neighborhoods are a smorgasbord of ministry opportunity for children. Our mom would often make bread or treats for the neighbors and use my sister, Grace, as her “delivery girl.” We’d run little Bible clubs, invite our neighbors to church, and project Christian movies for them against the side of our house.

I also remember that when it came to the practical day-by-day decisions of what our schedule was going to look like, my parents made it clear that having time in God’s Word and serving Him were top on our priority list. Lesser things would get cut from the schedule to make time for those more important things. At the time, I didn’t think anything of it. It seemed obvious. But looking back, I see how different this was from many families’ priorities. It was forming our way of thinking, without us even realizing it.

Ministry is difficult and inconvenient for all of us—and it is usually out of our comfort zone. Children will not likely have that many ministry ideas on their own. They also are not going to be quick to do things that are hard, new, or scary for them, but a little bit of encouragement, direction, and coaching from parents will go a long way. We definitely didn’t always feel like doing my parents’ ideas, but with their nudging and encouragement, we began to taste “success,” and one victory leads to another.

When children are involved in serving the Lord, it causes their priorities to conform to His. They realize the unimportance of earthly things when compared with that which has eternal impact. When they have the joy of seeing God at work, seeing answers to prayer, and seeing lives touched, they realize that they don’t want to live for anything less.

THE LORD INTENDS FAMILIES TO BE MINISTRY TEAMS—SERVING THE LORD TOGETHER.

So what is the main reason children should be involved in ministry? Is it so that they gain the right perspective and experience for the future? No! That’s just a good by-product. The main reason is because the ministry of children is extremely important in God’s kingdom right now! Children can touch lives in ways that adults can’t. When children hand out tracts, people are often much more willing to receive them. When children share the Gospel, it makes an impact in ways an adult may not. A well-mannered, friendly child gets people’s attention and softens hearts. Homemade cards by children often bless the recipient far more than an expensive one from Hallmark. Children have a way of making people feel comfortable, of opening doors, and of touching hearts. The list goes on and on.

The Lord intends families to be ministry teams—serving the Lord together. Peter and Andrew, James and John, and Moses, Aaron, and Miriam are examples of family members serving the Lord together. Each family is uniquely gifted and serves an important role in God’s kingdom. Children are an important part of the team.

Recently a lady said to me, “My children and I want to start having ministry together, but we’re just not sure what the Lord is calling us to do. Should we get involved with an outreach or maybe another program at church?” I told her, “Well, ministry doesn’t necessarily need to be joining a program. You and your children could just pray each morning and say, ‘Lord, how can we serve you today? Please give us opportunities, and help us be attentive to the opportunities you bring!’” She had not thought of it quite in this way before, but she seemed to be enthused by that simple idea. Through that short conversation I was reminded of the simplicity of serving the Lord.

Paul said, “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24 KJV).

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Sarah Mally, a homeschool graduate, is the founder of Bright Lights, a discipleship ministry designed to equip young ladies to use the years of their youth fully for Christ. About 700 Bright Lights groups have started internationally. Sarah is the author of Before You Meet Prince Charming, and the coauthor (along with her siblings) of Making Brothers and Sisters Best Friends. The Mally family has been speaking at homeschool conferences since 1998. Sarah Mally will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.

Bringing Home Your Special Needs Child



"For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" (Phil. 4:13 NLT).

Homeschoolers across the spectrum feel inadequate to the task of educating their children. We hear voices of condemnation from all directions, sometimes within our own heads. We wonder if we are doing everything we can to give our children every opportunity to succeed. How much more for the parent of a child with special needs! The voices are that much louder and bolder.

Often well-meaning friends and family feel it is their duty to inform parents of their folly in homeschooling. It can be a fearful place, wondering if homeschooling is the answer and hedging between the voices and your heart. But the Bible says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19 NIV).

I started my homeschool journey before Google and Facebook; Internet searches were a new concept to me. I only

knew that the individualized education plans (IEPs) created by the school for my daughters were ineffective, and my girls were not progressing much in school. Also, my oldest daughter was posing questions that I had never before considered: "If the Bible is true, where are the dinosaurs in the Bible?" and "My teacher says that dinosaurs walked the earth before people, but what about Adam and Eve?"

I had no answer. I only knew that my daughter needed answers to these questions, and if she was unable to get them from me, she would find another resource and one with which I might not agree. This was the genesis to my homeschool journey - afraid and unsure how to proceed, but determined to find and give answers.

My first step was to learn how my children learned. We hear it all the time in the homeschool realm: learning styles. But what if the difficulty was compounded by a learning deficit, and if this deficit caused a developmental delay? I truly understand where you're coming from, but the more pressing question is this: Is your child's foundation solid?

If there are struggles in arithmetic or reading, then the child most likely missed a developmental milestone. The key then is not to forge ahead in the correct learning style, but to retrace steps to find the missing ingredient. This, after all, is why we homeschool. It is the most splendid inclusion! We form a support around our children as they learn. This is called scaffolding and is based on the human development theories of Lev Vygotsky. He described scaffolding as an adult (parent and/or teacher) supporting the child by first demonstrating, then later only assisting in, an endeavor that leads to mastery.

This concept demands investment, which is nothing new to most parents of special needs children; however, it bears repeating again because so often we feel ineffective. We parents of special needs children also have a heightened concern about socialization. Not only that our children will just have friends, but that they will know how to behave in public. Knowing what is appropriate and inappropriate to say in public, indeed, is important, but even knowing who and what the word "public" means can be a challenge.

Depending on the child's need, the parents' exhaustion can be a real concern, yet I encourage you to bring your child home! Why? An article by Dr. Brian Ray of the National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI) concluded that when special needs children are homeschooled, they achieve more. This was certainly true in my circumstances. Upon graduation from high school my one daughter tested



at a fifth-grade reading level. Please understand the tremendous achievement in that statement as this daughter struggles with dyslexia. We made steady but slow progress.

I can affirm that God prepares us as we go. In our addressing foundation issues then finding ways to maximize learning through different styles – visual or audio, kinesthetic or tactile, or maybe a mix of all the above - God gave little snippets of bliss along the way. The dividends were amazing. When I look at my now grown daughters, I am amazed at how God orchestrated His design in their lives. Through the struggles of learning, they have become confident and willing to persevere. It reminds me of this truth, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (II Cor. 12:9 NIV). Bringing home your special needs child will transform both you, as the parent, and your child.

Denise Phillips is a military spouse and mother of three daughters. She began her homeschooling adventure in 2002 when tired of fighting the IEP. Once her children were home, she researched how best to meet their needs, both academically and spiritually. Utilizing I Corinthians 3:19 as a guide, she sought God's guidance and character development before academics. Denise Phillips will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.



Convention Blurbs //

// Parking

The Lancaster County Convention Center (LCCC) is surrounded by several parking garages under the management of the Lancaster Parking Authority. The LCCC has arranged a reduced daily rate for commuters of \$7.00 for day parking. Overnight LCCC Marriott guests will receive "In/Out Privileges" during the day, and have their parking fee of \$10/night included on their bill. See the Lancaster Parking Authority (www.lancaster-parkingauthority.com) for the location and the height clearance for each garage. You may reach them by phone at: (717) 299-0907. Additional valuable downtown transportation information is available via www.redrosetransit.com **Red Rose Transit Authority**, including information on Bus Schedules and Fees, "Free Fares" for seniors 65 and older, Park and Ride options, and Discount Passes.



SCIENCE

Makes Us ~~Sick~~ Tick

The world of science has always captivated me. Even as a small child I pondered what made the world around me work. Nothing enthralled me more than to turn a stone over and see the amazing world of creatures that scurried frantically trying to escape my grasp. I was a born naturalist.

Now, as an adult with children of my own, I still wonder. My journey through medical school and my medical training never seemed to quench my thirst for learning or cheapen the value of life. The more I know, the less I know, or better stated, the more I realize how little I truly know. The order and complexity of life screams out for a creator. When I look at life and what God has created in each of us I can't help but pause in awe.

All kids seem to have this wonderment for the world. They wonder why. Why is a worm slimy? Why is the sun warm? Why does my nose run when it's cold? Questioning and wondering is a way of life. Why does the state of wonder and questioning seem to fade as we enter adulthood?

As travels have taken me across the nation, I find a common thread woven into the fabrics of many homeschool (and traditional classroom teachers) parents' DNA is that science scares them. It's as if some experience a sort of post-traumatic stress when science education is mentioned. Instantly stories and traumas are recounted about their high school science days. If the truth leads you to God, will science really lead you from God? General revelation comes through observation of God's creation. Science and Christianity are not at odds with each other.

Take heart. You don't need to know everything to teach your child. Children delight in discovering the world that lies around

them. As a parent you don't need advanced degrees or need to be a rocket scientist to guide your child on their science learning journey. Far more imperative is to nurture your child's natural wonder and take the time to observe and learn together. Science is happening all around us every day, and you have endless opportunities to invite your child into the wonders of science. Encourage your child to ask questions, make predictions, offer explanations, explore in a safe environment, and together search for the answers. The most precious gift you can give to your child in their education is to teach and model how to learn. You got this! Be encouraged.

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)

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Dr. Lainna Callentine is an author, speaker, pediatrician, homeschool mother, missionary doctor and has taught many levels. Dr. Callentine continues to have wonderment for the beauty of God's creation in the human body. She left formal medicine in the ER to stay home and homeschool her children. She is the author of a new exciting book series and hands-on curriculum for children showcasing the human body called "God's Wondrous Machine". Dr. Callentine is passionate about the biological sciences, children, education, families, and the God who created all things. Dr. Callentine will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.

What Drew Me to a Charlotte Mason Education

How did I get here? I am an incurable planner, so when our oldest child was only four years old, we went to our first homeschool convention. My sister-in-law and her husband were homeschooling their children, and by the time our first one was born we knew we would homeschool our children. We attended our first conference in the St. Louis area with my sister-in-law and her husband. I was so glad to have them with us! Otherwise it would have overwhelmed me.

This was the first time I heard anyone talk about Charlotte Mason. I went to a seminar by the people who publish the Five in a Row Curriculum, and Steve Lambert mentioned that they wanted their curriculum to be gentle, like that of the Charlotte Mason style. Well, I used the Five in a Row Curriculum for the first few years of our homeschool. At the same time, I began to learn more and more about Charlotte Mason's methods and began to apply them.

The more I learned about Miss Mason's method and applied it, the more I loved it! I would read a book with my children, and then we would spend time listening and narrating. I would listen as my children would tell back the story we had just read in their own words. They remembered the stories very well, even for weeks afterward; if someone would bring up something that was in a story they had read, they could tell back the story with amazing details! This was a very gentle way

of learning for my children, and for me, and it was our homeschooling for the first couple of years.

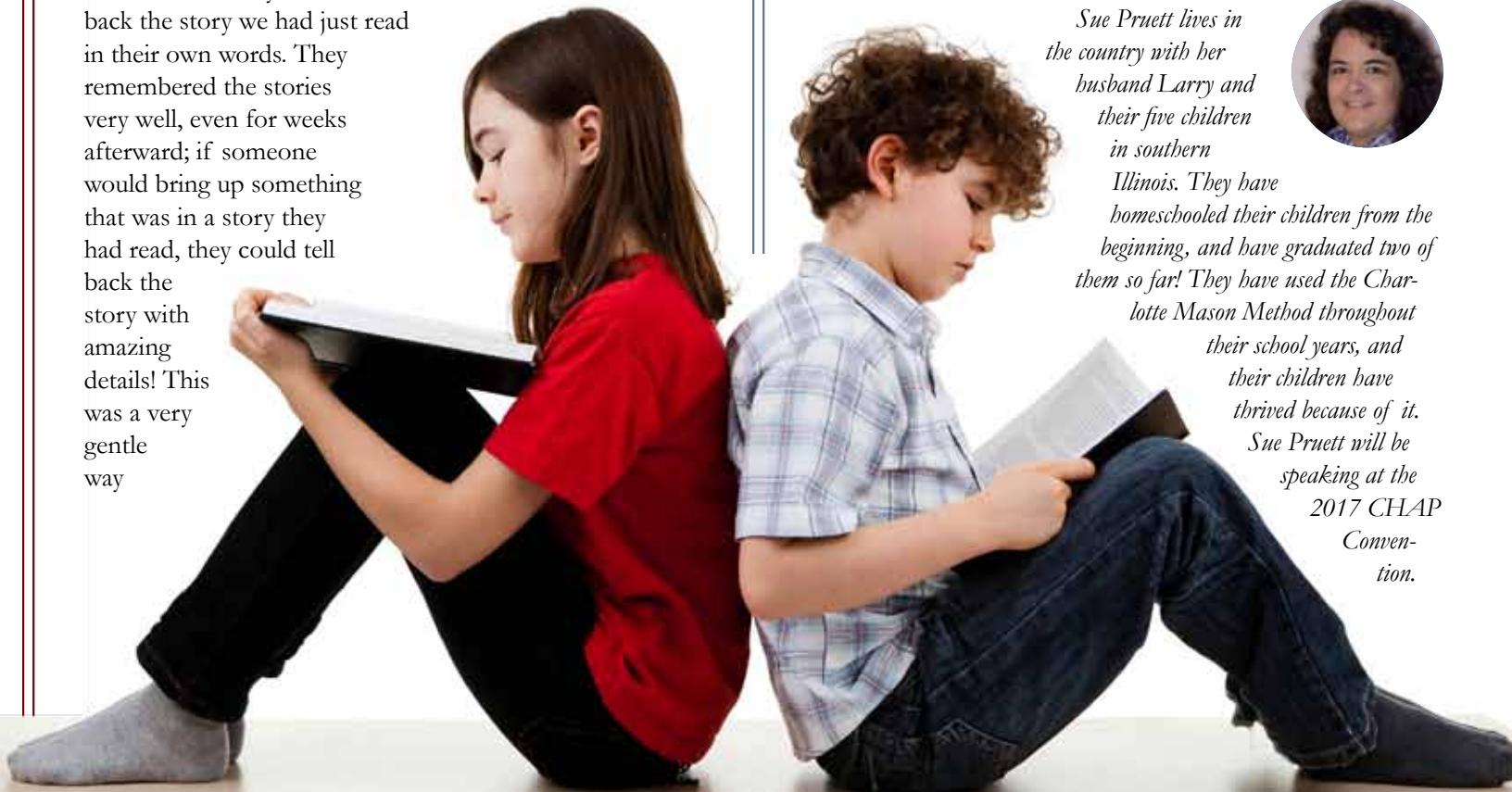
Our state's mandatory attendance starts at age six, and we began schooling when our oldest was five, so I saw those first months as practice and getting into the groove of homeschooling.

These were my first tentative steps in using the methods developed by Charlotte Mason. The more I applied the things I learned of the method, the better I felt about how school was going and the more comfortable I became with answering questions about my homeschooling adventure. The more fruit my children demonstrated in their lives, the more compliments we got about how well behaved and well-educated they were, even at age eight.

Now we have graduated two of our children, and three more are moving through their education in the Charlotte Mason style. I am so happy I found this method and have been able to implement it for my own children. We have all benefited.

Sue Pruett lives in the country with her husband Larry and their five children in southern Illinois. They have homeschooled their children from the beginning, and have graduated two of them so far! They have used the Charlotte Mason Method throughout their school years, and their children have thrived because of it.

Sue Pruett will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.



Avoiding Burnout in



Homeschooling

Has your decision to homeschool your children ever left you feeling tired, overwhelmed, or stressed out? As a student who was homeschooled (my family began homeschooling in 1978), I have learned a few things over the years about how to avoid burnout in your homeschool.

One of the most common reasons for weariness and frustration among homeschooling parents is the weight of self-inflicted deadlines and standards. It is good, of course, to have goals in mind, but we must always ask ourselves: “Am I seeking to do the Lord’s will, or am I merely pursuing my own agenda?”

As Christian families we need to view homeschooling not as a glorious end in and of itself, but rather as a means to an end. The main goal is to raise children who love the Lord and are committed to following Christ. It is not to produce robots that can recite random facts and data at the drop of a hat.

What a child knows is really insignificant compared to what he or she believes. We must move

Getting the right answers on a test is meaningless unless a child knows how to apply those truths to everyday life.

beyond facts to convictions. It is vital that our children know:

- What they believe.
- Why their beliefs are true.
- How to articulate their beliefs.
- How to live their beliefs consistently.

Getting the right answers on a test is meaningless unless a child knows how to apply those truths to everyday life. Non-applicable knowledge is worthless. As parents, we want our children to excel academically, and homeschoolers usually do. Our main motivation for homeschooling, however, should not be academic prowess. Instead, we should “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these (including academic) things will be added to us” (Matt. 6:33).

We should always stay focused on our long-term goals, but we must consistently follow the leading of the Spirit. Why are we homeschooling? Our main objective should be to fulfill our God-given obligation to “train up our children in the way they should go” (Prov. 22:6). Psalm 78, Deuteronomy 6 and 11, and many other

passages stress the importance of teaching God's laws to our children.

What is the purpose of an education? God's primary reasons for commanding you to teach your own children are to:

- Enable God to purify you (the parent), as you allow the fire and pressure of the homeschool setting to make you into pure gold.
- To help your children know and love Him, and become prepared to serve Him.

God desires for us to have close family relationships, and He uses the process of family discipleship to develop godly character in both the children and the parents. God has established and designed parents to be the primary influences in shaping their children's values. Parents can't expect to receive a godly harvest unless they labor during the planting.

We must learn to view home education as a lifestyle decision and not merely an academic alternative. Use every available moment to teach eternal principles. Developing a biblical worldview in children is not something that happens by accident. It is taught by formal instruction and caught by the godly example of the parents.

By keeping in mind that we are homeschooling because we want to raise children who love Jesus, we won't be so frustrated if our child doesn't understand phonics or chemistry. I've seen some mothers become so frustrated by their inability to communicate math facts that they scream at their children and throw books! In trying to teach academics, are we achieving our ultimate goal of developing godly character? Nothing is so important that it overrides our relationships with God and each other.

It is also easy to get caught up in the busyness of activities, running our children here and there, and over-committing ourselves into panic. Are all the programs we are involved in bringing us closer to God and each other, or are they mostly wearing us out? We may need to recalibrate our compass. What does God expect of us? "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). "Here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Ec. 12:13). "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2).



If we focus on teaching eternal principles and developing Christ-like character in our children, we will have academic success as a natural result of our obedience to God. We should not merely teach our children what to believe, but show them why our beliefs are true. They should be able to determine, from the principles in Scripture, what is good and what is evil. They should recognize absolute truths and be able to reason from a biblical worldview.

By keeping obedience to God as our primary reason for homeschooling, we will have the flexibility to change our educational approaches, relax in the face of deadlines, and put family relationships above SAT scores. We can have a joyful, peaceful, loving family and still achieve an academic standard superior to the world, but we must keep Christ as the focus and avoid humanistic expectations.



Israel Wayne is passionate about defending the Christian faith and developing a biblical worldview. He is a popular conference speaker who desires to see God's people learn to think and live biblically. He and his wife Brook are the parents of nine children and the directors of Family Renewal, LLC. www.FamilyRenewal.org. Israel Wayne will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.

Convention Blurs //

// Used Curriculum Sale

The last date you can enter your items to sell in the used curriculum sale is May 25, 2017. Don't miss shopping for used books at the CHAP Used Curriculum Sale. The selection continues to grow each year. **Please note that the Used Curriculum Sale closes at 1:00 PM on Saturday.** Check the website for detailed hours of operation, information on how to sell your used books, and for other important details.

// Follow CHAP on Facebook:

Look us up on Facebook under **CHAP: Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania**. Be sure to "Like" our page to receive information, encouragement, and humor in your daily newsfeed. Speakers and vendors will be invited to post, and you can ask them questions too.



So You Want to Write a Book?

I knew I wanted to write books when I was just four years old. That's when I authored my first story about three very creatively named children (one of them was Jeannette) who found a treasure map, followed it to a huge pile of cash and gold and jewels, and gave it all away to their church.

The narrative came complete with pictures, which my tot-sized self was proud to say she drew all by herself.

Actually, my tot-sized self was proud of the whole thing from start to finish, particularly since it had taken me a mere hour to compose.

Now, I'd love to say I can still write stories that fast these days, but let's face it, the adult world is a lot more intricate – and less instantly impressed – than the one a four-year-old operates in. So, as much as it pains me to admit, there's a little more work involved in the process as a professional operating in a professional sphere.

To sum it up, here's the short and sweet version of the breakdown I always give to my writing students who aim to get published. This is regardless of whether they're working on a novel, an autobiography, or a more traditional non-fiction piece:

- Decide if you need to do research or not.
- Determine what your writing style is.
- Commit to your project, and finish a first draft.

You
take
it
one
step
at a
time

- Revise your first draft.
- Revise your second draft.
- Revise your third draft
- Give it to a friend or family member, and ask for an honest opinion. Then, when you get that opinion, revise your fourth draft accordingly.
- Give it to a professional editor and ask for an honest critique. Then, when you get that critique, revise your fifth draft.
- Start shopping out your manuscript to literary agents and publishing companies, or self-publish it.

If that looks daunting, don't worry. It's genuinely a lot more doable than it looks, even if it does require more than a single hour to complete. You take it one step at a time and, before you know it, you're holding a book that just so happens to have your name on the front!

Honestly, the biggest issue that most first-time writers have these days has nothing to do with designing captivating plots or establishing intriguing characters. It boils down to step #3: Commitment, or lack thereof.

Hundreds of thousands of would-be authors talk about writing a book every year, but that number downright dwindles when it comes to people who actually write a first page. And it keeps shrinking per milestone: first chapter, first 10,000 words, first draft...

Hidden Browsing



What's Missing from Your Internet History and How to Find Out

By the time you take it down to “first published book,” it’s a far cry from what it once was. What it could have been. Maybe even what it should have been.

These days, it’s easy to see why that is, considering how many distractions there are in life. Some of them are completely worthwhile, such as family, friends, and even some personal downtime. (Homeschooling moms, don’t laugh; there really is such a thing.)

Others though? Well, not so much.

So often, we don’t realize how much time we really waste on social media, our phones, or similar pursuits. It’s so easy to get caught up in these things, and far less so to see how little they actually offer. They provide amusing diversions, yes, but what are they diverting us from? Writing that book we’ve talked about for so long?

If that describes you, there is a solution. And no, it’s not going cold turkey and giving up those amusing diversions altogether. All it involves is setting them aside for half an hour a day. If that’s all you ever have for social media in the first place, then make it fifteen minutes a day. Whatever you decide is the allotted amount of time, stick to it.

The end results are bound to be worth it. But you’ll never see them if you don’t commit.



Homeschool graduate Jeannette DiLouie is the author of 10 novels and counting, including the historically eye-opening Founding America books. As Chief Executive Editor of Innovative Editing, she helps other writers across a wide array of fiction and non-fiction genres achieve their publishing goals through one-on-one tutoring sessions, manuscript reviews, and more. Jeannette has her B.A. in English literature and a combined 10+ years' experience in the creative writing and professional editing worlds. Jeannette DiLouie will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.

DIGITAL AGE DISCIPLESHIP

About 80 percent of homeschool parents don't know a common way kids hide what they do in Internet browsers like Chrome and Internet Explorer.

It's nothing fancy; it takes just one click.

I did an informal poll of parents at three sessions at last year’s CHAP Convention, and it matched what I’ve seen at homeschool conferences across the country. Homeschool parents aren’t alone; parents in general are missing it too. According to a Tru Research study, 71 percent of teens hide what they do online from their parents.

Parents often view history in browsers to learn about their kids browsing habits, and they take comfort in seeing there is activity for every date their kids were online. But what if your child simply tells the browser to stop recording history for a short period?

That’s exactly what they do, and I rarely meet a tween or teen who doesn’t know about it. Private Browsing or Incognito mode is one of the most common ways kids trick their parents.

Here’s how it’s done, and again, I’m not giving away secrets. In any browser, click on File and then select New Incognito Window or New Private Window. This will launch a new browsing window and often this first window tells you about all of things that will be hidden, including searches, visited pages, cookies, and temporary files.

The good news is that software like Covenant Eyes Internet Accountability and Filtering monitors pages viewed in the private browsing modes and it will block inappropriate content. Many other programs do not monitor or block content in private browsing mode, so be sure to choose software that does.



Sam Black is an author, speaker, and Internet Safety Consultant for Covenant Eyes Internet Accountability (www.covenanteyes.com). Reach him at sam.black@covenanteyes.com. Sam will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.

ADVENTURES IN PENNSYLVANIA

It's almost convention time! So when you and your children come out for the CHAP Convention, why not take advantage of being in Lancaster County and plan a day for a field trip too? One thing my parents taught me – you can make a field trip out of wherever you are!

The first stop that I recommend is Lititz, which is about 20-25 minutes from the convention center. Plan on spending at least the morning here.

Visit the first commercial bakery in America, the Julius Sturgis Pretzel Factory (www.juliussturgis.com). This bakery dates back to the beginning of the Civil War when founded in 1861 by Julius Sturgis. When you tour this bakery, you can see old tools that were used in pretzel making. You also have the opportunity to make your own "old style" pretzel!

Next, visit the Wilbur Chocolate Store (www.wilburbuds.com). Unfortunately, you can't tour the factory in Lititz anymore, but you'll be able to see the factory building located right across the street. In the store while obtaining a free Wilbur Buds sample, check out some of the old chocolate making equipment, which is pretty cool. Here's a fun tidbit – Wilbur Buds (bite-sized molded chocolate resembling flower buds) were first fashioned in 1894 by Henry Wilbur; however, the chocolate factory, H.O. Wilbur & Sons, had opened ten years earlier in 1884.

Now, take some time and just walk around Lititz. You'll find many cute little coffee shops and other specialty stores. Along the way, you'll find Olio Olive Oils & Balsamics (www.oliooliveoil.com), and for curiosity sake, you'll go in. Inside the store, you'll sample a wide variety of oils and balsamic vinegars (recommended for children ages 10+).

Next, travel to Honey Brook, and visit September Farm Country Market and Sandwich Shop (www.septemberfarmcheese.com). This is about 40 minutes from both Lititz



and the convention center in Lancaster, but it is a great place to have a bite to eat for lunch.

September Farm is owned and operated by the Rotelle family. What started as a small store on their farm grew into a flourishing cheese business. After you've sampled the cheese and ate lunch at their sandwich shop, you can go to the back room where you can watch cheese being made. It is such an interesting process. And if you're new to September Farm, be sure to purchase their freshly made cheese tarts. You won't regret it!

As you travel back to the convention center, a fun place to stop is Emma's Gourmet Popcorn (www.emmaspopcorn.com) in New Holland. This is 15 minutes from the cheese farm but

on your way back to Lancaster. You may think you are merely twisting and turning along some back country roads, but the stop at the end is very much worth it. Emma's Gourmet Popcorn makes many fun flavors of popcorn, ranging from sweet to salty, plain to chocolate. A great snack to be enjoyed by the whole family on the way home.

Finally, if your time allows, visit Kitchen Kettle Village (www.kitchenkettle.com) in Intercourse. This is 10 minutes from Emma's Gourmet Popcorn and only 25 minutes from the Lancaster County Convention Center. There are forty unique shops to visit in this village; some offer some delectable treats for the children. Perhaps you even want to take a horse and carriage ride or an Amish buggy ride for a full Pennsylvania Dutch experience.

Lancaster County offers many attractions and field trip options; find more great things to see and do in and around the area at ([Discover Lancaster.com](http://DiscoverLancaster.com)). I hope that it will become one of your favorite spots like it is mine! See you at the convention!

Homeschool graduate of 2014 who published her first book at age 17, Rachel Rittenhouse is the author of five independently published books including A Student's Guide: 10 Easy Steps to Writing & Publishing. Rachel loves anything that has to do with history and writing. Growing up, her favorite part of being homeschooled was going on field trips with her family and reading in the car.



Programming Apps for Kids for THIS DECADE

Robots of the 21st century are replacing 20th century algorithmic jobs.

So how do you prepare your children to compete with robots? YOU DON'T!

Let's start with a couple of definitions. **Algorithmic work is routine.** A process has been defined, and the work simply involves following the well-defined steps in this process. The worker is taught the process and expected to follow it without error. I am reminded of the work I did at Jeep Corporation while paying my way through college. Most of the jobs I did involved algorithmic work. One way

to look at algorithmic work is that which a computer or robot can automate. There isn't much of a future for humans who do algorithmic work.

Heuristic work requires a person. It's work for which no algorithm exists. It demands creativity and problem solving skills. While computers are excellent at speed and accuracy, humans are excellent at creativity and flexibility, skills required to perform heuristic work.

As parents, one of our jobs is to prepare our children for the job market by helping them discover their gifts and passions and provide a pathway for them to follow these. Having taught college computer science for 30 years, I'm a firm believer in teaching ALL CHILDREN the skill called computational thinking. This does NOT mean to think like a computer; rather it means to learn how to solve problems using computers while applying the creativity and flexibility at which humans excel.

The best place to start—expose your kids to the art of programming computers. This will provide the following direct benefits:

- Help find out if they are gifted in this much-in-demand activity
- Create awareness of how robots work—sort of like knowing enough about how cars work to drive one most effectively
- Teach excellent problem solving and critical thinking skills
- Prepare them ready for heuristic work
- Make them extremely valuable in the job market, which continues to look overseas for programming talent

There are many ways to easily expose your children to programming. Recently, I came across two excellent apps I highly recommend.

LEGO MINDSTORMS' Fix the Factory - Students are incrementally taught how to program a robot to solve basic to more advanced tasks.

- tinyurl.com/jdba36p
- tinyurl.com/z2z3cao

This app is free and very easy to learn. At each level it introduces the student to

additional programming commands. The interface is highly graphical but as a result can be a little slow as you advance to more complex problems. Overall it is an excellent app that I highly recommend. It is a great way to prepare young students (grades 3-6) to programming concepts they can apply to a real robot, the LEGO Mindstorm. This app will be introduced at a STEM (Science+Technology+Engineering+Mathematics) camp at Camp Infinity this summer; go to campinfinity.com/camps/category/kids.

Lightbot: Code Hour - Before they realize it, students are learning to program loops and procedures. It is very addicting. This environment, though less graphically intense, runs faster than *Fix the Factory*.

- tinyurl.com/htqx27
- tinyurl.com/ofk5sa6

Both of these games are well worth setting up for your children to experiment with and will assist you in preparing them for 21st century heuristics work.

Another tool to assist you in this parenting task is to enroll your child in one of our Ci Summer Camps. Part of our mission is to inspire kids in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in a mind-engaging, hands-on week of camp. For details on this summer's schedule, go to campinfinity.com/camps.



Dan Wooster is founder and director of Camp Infinity, a unique STEM and biblical apologetics camp. He was head of the Computer Science Department at Bob Jones University for 30 years, cofounded The Worthwhile Company, a creative software company, and serves on the boards of Answers in Genesis and The Wilds. He is a frequent speaker and robotics workshop presenter at home school conferences. Dan Wooster will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.

Camp Infinity 

Register Now with

CHAP for Your Mobile Robotics Clinic
Convention Add-On Opportunities!
Leave the Convention with credit to put into your portfolio or maybe even with your child's future career interest.

CONVENTION CORNER

Photos courtesy of J & D Studios

* NEW CONVENTION LOCATION: LANCASTER COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER *

As I'm writing this, the temperature is climbing to a balmy 46, melting any remnants of the snow that came this morning, but by the time this Convention Corner reaches your home hopefully most of the snow will be history. Speaking of history, if you follow a more traditional schedule in order to have more unstructured time outside in the warmer weather or just out of habit, your "academic year" may soon be history. Did that statement just strike fear into your mind? I hope not.

Think about this: What accomplishments can you celebrate? Do you think that just perhaps learning *perseverance* could be more important for your way-behind-in-that-certain-subject child rather than just trying to match the transcript of yellow-school-bus Johnny? Most importantly, in what areas of your life or your family's lives have you seen God at work? Oh, you're still praying? I understand that! Maybe God wants you and me both to learn perseverance.

One of the Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania's (CHAP) aims is to provide resources that will inform, encourage, and equip you, and this June 2-3 will be CHAP's 31st year of doing just that. While CHAP supports families throughout the year in many unseen ways, it has also—by God's grace—continued to provide the Northeast with the longest-running homeschool convention of this magnitude. God has been faithful to provide the necessary volunteers to keep CHAP going. Although, as always, we are in need of both one-time and year-round volunteers. If you sense God calling you to this ministry, please contact us through CHAP's website (www.chaponline.com).

If you have never come to the CHAP Convention, or you've not been to a convention in a while, we encourage you to

attend the 2017 convention at the Lancaster County Convention Center. In addition to the convention's main two components—speakers and vendors—this year's event will also provide several hands-on activities for you and your child. Come to the 31st Annual CHAP Convention and leave with not only inspiration to put into your memory bank, but also experiences to place in your portfolio. Here are some convention highlights:

- » Interactive and hands-on activities (some carry an extra cost and some are included in the price of your admission).
 - » Interactive dissection demo of the brain
 - » Soft robotics (virtual experience using iPads)
 - » 2-hour hands-on dissection of the heart (certificate showing lab time included in the cost of this Add-On)
 - » 3-hour Mobile Robotics Clinics (build and run your team's machine)
 - » Meet with a professional author/editor for a complimentary 15-minute writing evaluation (spaces are limited)
 - » Sign up for a short electronics soldering session directly inside the vendor hall
 - » Learn and practice proven techniques to efficiently and effectively memorize God's Word
- » Amazing speakers. Be challenged by Israel Wayne, our keynote speaker, who poses the question to us: "Does God Have an Opinion on Education?" Be inspired by the Mally Family as they present multi-generational ministry sessions. Be informed with Denise Phillips who will bring us valuable information on homeschooling with special needs. Be equipped by learning naturally through everything Charlotte Mason with Sue Pruett, and many more speakers.
- » For mothers, the Moms' Night Out add-on event Friday evening. Linda Crosby will surely make you laugh *and* minister to your heart at the same time. Linda, author of



Laughing in the Midst of Mothering, will encourage us to find humor and God's purpose in the most important calling on earth—motherhood. Linda vividly shares her amusing struggles and triumphs as a busy homeschooling mom. Homeschooling can be a lonely time for moms, but it doesn't need to be. From the baby stage through high school, learn to find the true source of joy and how to choose joy. Following examples from God's Word, Linda prepares mothers to face their daily tasks with peace and joy in their hearts and homes. Join us for a time of laughter and a few surprises along the way.

- » For fathers, the Dads' Breakfast add-on event Saturday morning. Engage with other dads and be strengthened by the testimony of Travis Zimmerman—pastor, husband, homeschooling father, and founder of A Faithful Dad ministries. This former United States Air Force officer shares that one of his greatest challenges was not accomplished while in uniform, but while caring for his own father who had dementia. He will challenge you that your greatest call of duty from God is to your family.

Join us June 2-3, 2017, at the Lancaster County Convention Center. There are lots of benefits to our new location, and having an on-site hotel is just one of them. Remember that those who stay at the Lancaster County Convention Center's

Marriott are eligible for a rebate on the Moms' Night Out and Dads' Breakfast. (Must submit a copy of LCCC Marriott bill to CHAP; spaces are limited.) For those who are commuting—**when coming to the convention Friday, June 2nd, plan to leave early in order to:**

1. Avoid morning rush-hour traffic.
2. Navigate to a parking garage space and walk to the Lancaster County Convention Center.
3. Arrive in the hotel lobby by 7:45 AM to pick up your registration packet.
4. Find a good seat by 8:00 AM in the 3rd floor Heritage Ballroom for the **Friday morning Keynote**—after which the vendor hall will open and various workshops will begin.

For further convention details, please visit www.chaponline.com. Oh, I almost forgot to say, not only will you leave CHAP's 31st Annual Homeschool Convention in Lancaster renewed, recharged, and refreshed, but—thanks again to the vendors who donate prizes—you could also leave with a little something extra just for visiting the vendors listed on the Give-Away Card. One happy person or couple will win a weekend for two at a Christian-owned Bed and Breakfast at the Atlantic Ocean.

Until then, with God's grace to complete the race, press on!
Stephaney Mitchell, Convention Coordinator

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The Lancaster Center for Classical Studies has offered Latin and Greek language courses on-site to students locally, and on-line to students in all parts of the United States, since the year 2000. Our courses reach from an introductory to an advanced level. Our teachers have advanced degrees and share a lifelong dedication to teaching and learning. Our students go on to study in a wide range of disciplines at schools of their choosing – from community colleges to the Ivy League.



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Four Planets, Two Rockets, and a Shooting Star

"He who made the Pleiades and Orion, who turns midnight into dawn and darkens day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land – the LORD is his name" (Amos 5:8).

The night was close, hanging on us like a damp sweater in the mid-July summer swelter of the south Florida Keys. John Pennekamp State Park was abuzz not only with scores of family campers and boy scouts but also with scores of ravenous mosquitoes and “no-see-ums” anxious to feast on

our exposed arms and legs. The zings and stings on our skin were a jarring reminder that it was dinner time for the bugs! Seeking relief, a fellow scoutmaster and I led a group of about a half dozen scouts through the dense forest to a marina less than a quarter mile away. To our delight, the moon-bathed waterfront boasted a gentle sea breeze that afforded us a temporary harbor from the biting insects. As we took in the soothing ebb and flow of the marina water, our eyes moved upward to discover a breathtaking Florida sky filled with stars and a near-full moon.

As a lifelong amateur stargazer, I grasped the opportunity to point out to the scouts some of the more recognizable constellations in the ever-darkening sky: the Big Dipper (Ursa Major), the Little Dipper (Ursa Minor), Draco, Cassiopeia, and Scorpio. With audible murmurs of approbation, the scouts took in the constellations, variously pointing them out to their buddies as they were also able to identify them. Gratifying!

It was time to take my stargazing to the next level. Enter: Sky Guide - www.fifthstarlabs.com/#sky-guide - the coolest app ever!

Clustered near the Scorpio constellation were a couple of very bright “stars” that Sky Guide revealed to be planets: Saturn, glowing white; Mars, hinting red; and to the right of Scorpio, Jupiter gleamed brightly down upon us. A shooting star joined the party, too! And if that wasn’t enough, we noticed two moving “stars” that were too slow to be shooting stars and too fast to be airplanes; Sky Guide alerted us that these were two manmade rockets. The scouts’ wonderment elevated to gasps of bubbling excitement. More gratifying!

“Hey, guys,” I challenged the scouts, “Count with me how many planets we can see right now as we point them out together. One counting Saturn, two counting Mars, three counting Jupiter, and, if you count the planet we’re standing on right now, Earth, we’re at four planets we can see right now – that’s literally half of the planets orbiting our sun!”

The scouts’ excitement now erupted into words and phrases like, “Cool!” and, “That’s amazing!” and, “How awesome is that?!” Even more gratifying!

Now it was the Holy Spirit’s turn to take our stargazing adventure to the next level; He tacitly placed an insight on my heart to share with the boys. So, now it was my turn to ooh-and-ah.

“Guys, isn’t God amazing? He made these stars and constellations we’re looking upon, the planets we’re gasping about, and He made us with an ability to think and reason, even to launch rockets into space. He’s bigger than all of the vast expanse we see here! Isn’t God just super amazing?” Supremely gratifying!

God totally blessed me with an opportunity to share my passion for Him and the universe He created with several young men who may or may not know Him as their Lord and Savior. But the summer sky and all that’s in it – as big as they are – are just a small part of our awesomely infinite, amazingly intimate God! Surely God has also given you much to share with your family. You need only answer the simple question: What am I passionate about?

Are you passionate about fishing? Take your kids and their friends on a fishing trip and teach them how to cast, catch, and clean their fish. In between nibbles on the line, share with them some of the true stories of the disciples whom Jesus called to be fishers of men.

Are you passionate about playing a sport? Put together a pickup game and serve as the referee who minimizes play stoppage and maximizes having fun together. Begin and end the match with prayer.

Does reading fuel your passion? Introduce your kids to the classics you enjoyed reading, and especially to reading and discussing God’s Word together.

God created it all, including us, and we share His passion by sharing Him with others!



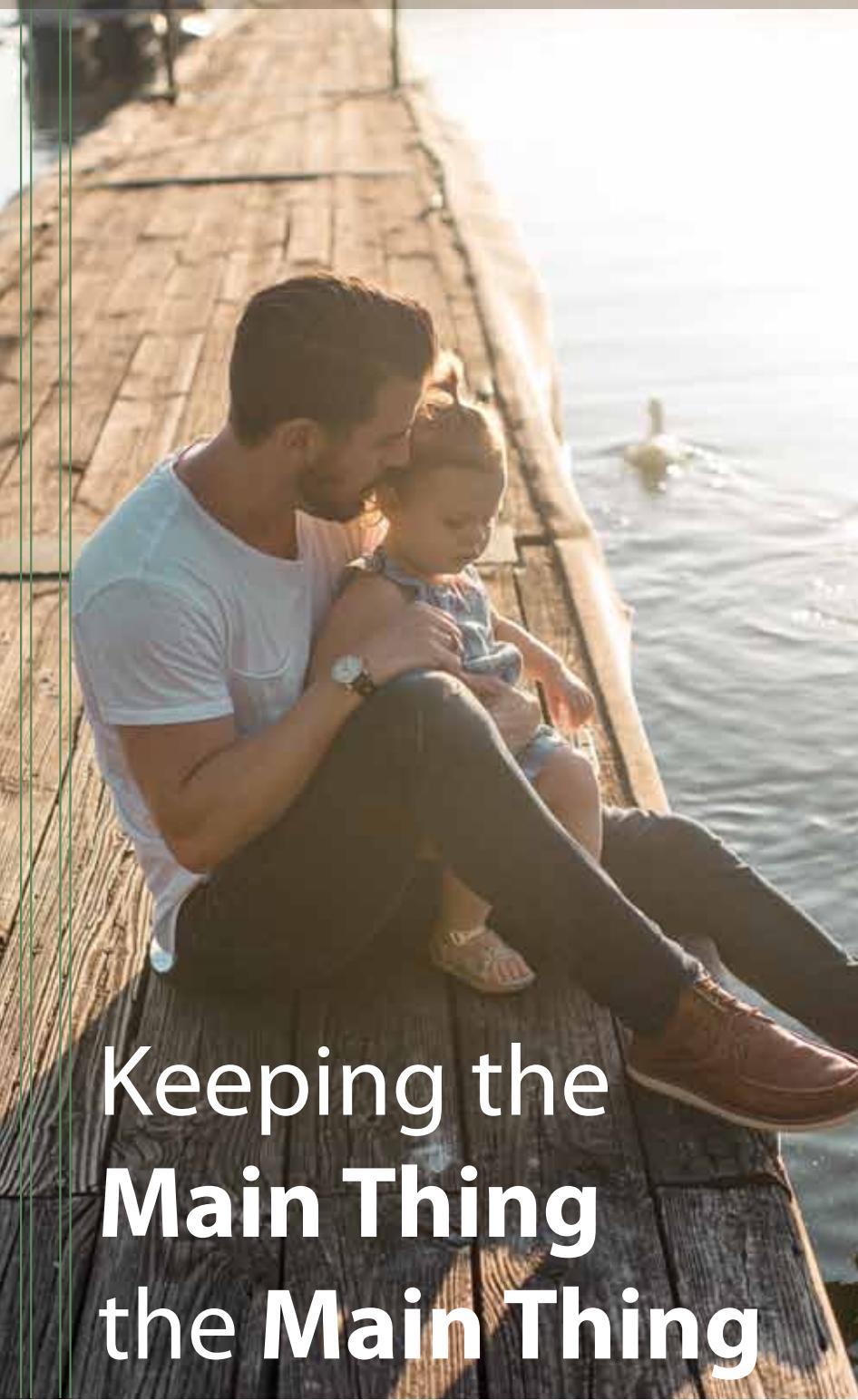
Travis Zimmerman has committed the past 13 years to memorizing God’s Word, relating Scripture to unique analogies and life events. His theme for every message centers on relationships, beginning with Jesus. With God’s help, Travis has overcome unemployment three times, conquered a 16-year addiction, and taken care of his bride Suzanne after a horrible accident. Because Travis has known hard times, he is able to relate to many and point others to the One True Mediator, Jesus. He and Suzanne live in Hershey, PA, where they homeschool their five school-age children. See AFaithfulDad.org for more information. Travis Zimmerman will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.

FREE GIFT for 2017 Convention Attendees

We are pleased to present a free gift to our convention attendees! You will find a variety of free resources and coupons in a virtual gift basket, which has been assembled by our friends at the National Alliance of Christian Home Education Leadership.

The Alliance is a national network of Christian state homeschool organizations.

The Disciple-Making Parent:



Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing

Homeschooling is a tremendous privilege. When my wife and I were starting out 20 years ago, we were excited and overwhelmed by the choices before us. We could learn Latin, start our own family business, or even form a family singing group. And indeed we did many of those things. We are probably the only family that sold earthworm droppings in baggies for fertilizer!

But with all these choices come some temptations for homeschool parents. What exactly are we aiming at? As the years progress and the academic pressures increase, it can be even harder to choose priorities. When times are good, we can run from event to event in the pursuit of educating our children. When times are hard, we can ask ourselves in despair, "Why are we doing this?"

While many can help us with the "What" and "How" of educating our children, we all need a sure answer to the most basic issue: "Why." What are we aiming for?

The North Star

In the night sky one star constantly points the way north. By it slaves traveling on the Underground Railway made their way to freedom, and sailors discovered new lands. The North Star provides direction for those on a journey.

For Christian parents, the Great Commission is our North Star.

When Jesus left this earth to return to heaven, he gave his followers a mission to make disciples of all nations. This Great Commission is a call for followers of Christ to reach out in our world, in our neighborhoods, and in our families.

What better model, teacher, and shepherd does a little one have than his or her own parent?

God's desire for your family is to be a Trinity-displaying, God-glorifying, disciple-making unit. That's the bull's-eye we are aiming at! That's the North Star guiding our decision to homeschool. Ultimately, what will matter most is not whether our children learned Latin or ran a home business, but whether they love and follow Jesus Christ. As Charles Spurgeon said, "If our children lose

the crown of life, it will be small consolation that they have won laurels of literature or art."

All of us face the temptation to become so busy educating our children that we forget to disciple them.

When my wife and I started homeschooling, passing the Gospel to our children was at the top of the priority list. It was our highest aim. And by God's grace, year by year, we continued on that journey amid the normal storms of job changes, illness, and the typical ups and downs of life.

Mid-Course Corrections?

But of course, no journey ever comes without its challenges. I am told that an airplane is off-course 90% of the time, yet it still manages to find its destination.

How? Constant mid-course correction. Sharon and I had more of these adjustments than I can count. Over coffee we would realize we had gotten off the course and what correcting our walk with the Lord would look like.

Does your family also need a mid-year correction? Here are some questions that might help.

1. Are you aiming at disciple-making? Surprisingly the North Star is not the brightest star in the sky. Other stars are more luminous. Similarly it can be easy to be guided by other, noble goals. As it is said, the good is often the enemy of the best. If you have been pulled off course by over commitment or simply less important goals, take some time to recalibrate where your family is heading so that your true aim is disciple-making.

2. Are you walking with the Lord? Homeschooling is hard work. And that hard work can make us irritable with our children. Remember, children learn by example – ours! If they are young, they're absorbing our example. If they are teens, they're evaluating our example. We cannot pass on something we do not have ourselves. It's just like the flight attendants instruct us on airplanes, "Put your own oxygen mask on first, then help others." Make sure you are at-

As
your
family
journeys
together,
make
sure
you are
aiming
at the
right
place

tending to your discipleship with Christ so that your children see a living witness of the Christian walk. Paul could remind Timothy of the faith that lived in Timothy's mother and grandmother (2 Tim 1:5).

3. Are you connecting with their hearts? The most important real estate in your child is his or her heart. While God intended our hearts to be connected, sin in parents and children pulls us apart. Do your teens feel your affection more than your correction? Are you having times of communication where you can listen to their heart concerns? Is forgiveness regularly happening in the family?

4. Are you saturating your home in prayer?

John Bunyan said, "You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed." If God has given you children, he calls you to influence them through prayer. Whether covering our home with intercession or listening to the Lord for his promised wisdom, we do our best parenting through prayer.

Homeschooling is a beautiful calling to disciple your children. As your family journeys together, make sure you are aiming at the right place – helping your children love and follow Jesus Christ. God has not entrusted you with mere children. He has entrusted you with eternal souls.

We will expect storms to push us off course. Even our own hearts can grow weary. But as we seek to disciple our families, we can rest in grace, knowing the Savior forgives our sins and the Spirit empowers what he commands.



*Chap Bettis is the author of *The Disciple-Making Parent: A Comprehensive Guidebook for Raising Your Children to Love and Follow Jesus Christ* and the executive director of *The Apollos Project*, a ministry devoted to helping parents disciple their children. For 25 years, he was lead pastor in a New England church plant. He and his wife Sharon homeschooled their four adult children throughout their entire grade school and high school experience. Chap Bettis will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.*

Convention Blurb //

// Convention Hours | June 2 - 8:00 AM—6:00 PM (with doors open at 7:30 AM) | June 3 - 8:00 AM—5:00 PM
(Please note that the Used Curriculum Sale will not be open during the entire Convention. Please check the Used Curriculum Sale information and schedule posted on the website.)

There is a growing movement to call America's first Convention of States under Article V of the United States Constitution. With that in mind it is critical for engaged citizens, certainly those that claim Christ, to understand some of the background surrounding the creation of what James Madison referred to as the 2nd "mode" of Article V. Today there is a large amount of misinformation surrounding Article

V and its process for a "Convention of States" for the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution. As part of a larger effort to clear up the misinformation and provide historical facts and context, the following article was written by Article V expert Bob Menges in hopes that it would exhort you to become more informed and perhaps get involved in the effort in some way yourself.



The 229 Year Old Message From Col. George Mason

Permit me to share a very important Constitutional history lesson with you. The delegates to the Philadelphia Convention (today referred to as the Constitutional Convention) had been going over every section of every article in the final months of the Convention in 1787. On a Saturday, 229 years ago, just two days before the Convention in Philadelphia completed its work, we find a gem in the notes of James Madison. This item that I refer to as a "gem" is little known and hardly talked about today. On September 15, 1787, George Mason of Virginia (referred to in Madison's notes as Col Mason), was alarmed that in the text of Article V (the provision for making Amendments to the Constitution) Congress would have sole power to propose amendments; Mason insisted, as he did earlier in June, that the states have authority to call for conventions. Mason explained that an oppressive Congress would never agree to propose amendments necessary to restrain itself. Madison's state:

Col. Mason thought the plan of amending the Constitution exceptionable & dangerous. As the proposing of amendments is in both the modes to depend, in the first immediately, in the second, ultimately, on Congress, no amendments of the proper kind would ever be obtained by the people, if the Government should become oppressive, as he verily believed would be the case. (Madison's notes 15 Sep 1787)

To make sense of this, you must understand that earlier in the summer when the issue of even having an amendment process was first brought up as a provision in the Constitution, many of the delegates thought it unnecessary. Madison's notes record the following on June 11:

Col. MASON urged the necessity of such a provision [Amendments]. The plan now to be formed will certainly be defective, as the Confederation has been found on trial to be. Amendments therefore will be necessary, and it will be better to provide for them, in an easy, regular and Constitutional way than to trust to chance and

violence. It would be improper to require the consent of the Natl. Legislature, because they may abuse their power, and refuse their consent on that very account... (Madison's notes 11 July 1787)

Then by the time the convention reached its final days in mid September, the amendment provision had been added as Article V, and the provision had two methods: the national legislature (Congress) could propose amendments and the states could request that Congress propose specific amendments. However, both methods were left in the hands (power) of the national legislature; that's what Mason meant when he referred in the first quote above as "both the modes to depend, in the first immediately, in the second, ultimately, on Congress". Mason had objected to this back in June and now as the convention drew to a close, he rose to his feet to forcefully object with his reasons stated above: "It would be improper to require the consent of the Natl. Legislature, because they may abuse their power, and refuse their consent on that very account". Madison's notes of 15 Sept tell us that Mason's motion was accepted and the language was changed in order to require [mandate] Congress to call a convention upon application of 2/3 of the states.

It is noteworthy to point out that this process does not call for a Constitutional Convention; the language specifies calling a convention for the purpose of "proposing amendments"...to the existing Constitution...it would still require 3/4ths of the states (38) to ratify any amendment proposed in this convention.

We owe George Mason and the other framers a huge debt for this. They had the foresight to understand first of all, that we needed an orderly process in which to amend our Constitution ("regular and Constitutional way than to trust to chance and violence" – Mason 11 June). Secondly we owe them

a huge debt for recognizing and understanding the depravity of man and the extremely intoxicating effects of years of power in the hands of the same people, and that these power intoxicated occupants of the United States Congress would "abuse their power, and refuse their consent" (Mason 11 June) to any amendments that would "injure" themselves and return powers never intended for the national legislature or any of the other branches for that matter. They would never take steps to return that power on their own to the rightful owner, the states/people ("no amendments of the proper kind would ever be obtained by the people, if the Government should become oppressive" – Mason 15 Sep).

The least we can do as citizens of this great nation today is take the time to understand what the framers of this amazing document did for us. When the framers agreed on September 15, 1787 to change the text in Article V, they in effect were telegraphing a message to us in 2017, a message showing us the way back inside the fence of the Constitution, a way back to what Thomas Jefferson called the "chains of the Constitution."



Bob Menges passionately teaches believers about the Christian Worldview and how to "think like a Christian." He is also a constitutional scholar and expert who provides instruction and offers consulting services on the United States Constitution and the principles of limited government and individual liberty. Since 2013 Bob has been working with the Convention of States (COS) Project. This is a nationwide grassroots effort to call for an Article V Convention of States for the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that will limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government. You can learn more about his work at www.towardsarenewedmind.com. Bob Menges will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.

Convention Blurs //

// Volunteers Needed

You are invited to join the CHAP Convention Volunteer Team. Did you know CHAP is run mostly by volunteers and the organization of the yearly CHAP Convention requires over 400 volunteers to make it run smoothly?

You can make a difference by volunteering a few hours of your time during the 2-day convention.

- These volunteer positions take little or no training.
- Orientation letter will be given online before the convention.
- Parents, grandparents, and even teens can be of service.
- Volunteers are rebated the Early Bird registration fee for serving.
- As an added bonus, Friday morning Early-Bird Shopping at the Used Curriculum Sale is open only to volunteers.

You'll find the list of jobs descriptions and volunteer details at: chaponline.site-ym.com/?Volunteers

Determine what area fits you best and sign up early – positions are given out on a first-come, first-served basis. Register for the 31st Annual CHAP Convention and sign up to volunteer.

If you have any questions, email Darra McDowell, CHAP Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@chaponline.com



Lessons Learned in the KITCHEN

(How to *Really* Home Educate)

"Mom, I'll make dinner!" I'm a great cook...honest," exclaimed my exuberant seven-year-old. "Shepherd's Pie is my favorite!"

[Sigh] I really did need consistent help in the kitchen but from a seven-year-old?

Unfortunately, consistent help comes only one way that I can figure. Yep, train them to cook!

[Sigh] So, I said (rather reluctantly) yes. And thus began the transformation of my sparkly organized kitchen (that took me hours to clean) into a dirty, cluttered, greasy...disaster!

First Caleb stirred (or...flung) the burger around the skillet until browned. By the time he finished, burger and chopped carrots coated the stove. He stirred in the gravy...and splashed that all over the stove as well. Next he spooned mashed potatoes over the top of the casserole (and all around the counter), licking up big globs with his fingers. He even double-dipped! Ew! Since the shredded cheese is, to him,

the most important step, he began by eating two handfuls (dribbling cheese all over the floor), then spread a thick layer over the potatoes...and the stove top. Finally, he popped his creation in the oven.

Okay. Well. I surveyed the mess, and I was traumatized, frustrated, and tired.

Too often my tendency is to focus on the mess, to snap at him in frustration and irritation (I could have accomplished the same thing in half the time with a fraction of the mess). But, how I thank my God for His Holy Spirit within me that holds me back and reigns me in. I had to ask myself, "Has Caleb sinned? Does he deserve my ire?"

Of course not! His only "sin" was in inconveniencing me (her royal highness) – which is, of course, no sin at all. It's so easy for me to react to the inconveniences and annoyances before me in impatience. May God help me (He did!) to offer grace with encouragement ("Thank you SO much for your help, Honey!") and admiration ("This is delicious!") to my little mess-makers as

I trained them to a life of service and usefulness. Obviously my kids aren't the only pupils in the kitchen!

Other lessons from the kitchen

The amount of education that can take place in a kitchen is astounding. It's actually *real* education as well. Much of what is learned in the kitchen has eternal implications. I encourage you to focus some of your educational time and resources in your kitchen. Here's a partial list of what we've learned together in the kitchen. I'm sure you could make a similar one.

- We've all grown in patience.
- We've learned to serve cheerfully – for example: cleaning up each other's messes or making meals for shut ins.
- We've grown in creativity and hospitality.
- The kids have learned to research recipes and make substitutions when necessary. Problem Solving 101.
- Kids don't mind tedium as much as I do. Scooping out dozens of cookies, or rolling up dozens of stuffed chicken breasts, or dipping pretzels

in chocolate – to kids, this is fun. I've learned to enjoy these processes more by imitating their delight.

- They're willing to tackle big fancy recipes without regard to how time-consuming or messy it is. This has encouraged me to be bolder and braver as well without always resorting to a no.
- I've had them photo-journal their creations and have encouraged them to build their own recipe books. They're creating a legacy to pass down through generations.
- My boys also have learned to work around the kitchen. They've learned how to grill, dehydrate venison, stir fry, and make hot pepper sauce.
- They've learned that homemade gifts are more satisfying to give than store-bought ones and are often more appreciated. They've researched various projects (homemade jam, cold remedies, bath scrubs, sticky buns) and made them for the purpose of giving them away.
- They've learned to take steps in stewardship and contentment as they've learned to make, rather than buy, food items that interest them. Copycat recipes for nearly every restaurant are abundant online! Packed lunches rather than fast food. Homemade granola bars rather than store-bought ones.
- They've hosted dinners as fundraisers for missions.
- They've made meals for new moms and shut ins.

Education in the kitchen teaches work ethic, service, and practicality. A work ethic, once learned, will cross-apply to many areas of life, including algebra and science. The humility learned in serving others, may cross-apply to serving younger siblings with school. Practicality, once learned, will help a student to prioritize his time and apply himself more thoroughly. Virtues are never learned in a vacuum. If a virtue is truly learned, it becomes part of one's character in every area of life, including academics.

Tips to Creating Effective Lessons in the Kitchen

- Smile a lot at your kids while working together in the kitchen. Smiles encourage the recipient. A smile really is contagious, planting little seeds of joy. A smile strengthens someone to continue in a difficult task. It lightens the load. It alleviates stress. It lessens tension. It's like a medicine (Proverbs 22:17). You see, **you want your kids to associate kitchen work (and school) with your joy, not your disapproval and anger.** Smiles are free, easy, and you have a limitless supply; so give them out liberally.



- Model a servant's spirit yourself. Serve them (and your spouse) as cheerfully as you expect them to serve you. Work side by side. **Never expect your kids to do something that you yourself aren't willing to do.** If you want them to do dishes without complaining about the mess, then you must do the same. As often as possible, work side by side with them cheerfully...the same way you'd like to be helped. A side advantage is that you're building relationship with your kids when you work cheerfully together.
- Allow them to suggest, research, and carry out kitchen projects. Encourage them in their creative endeavors. If it seems too big a task to tackle, **teach them to count the cost.** Lay out what will be involved in the process, includ-

ing the clean-up, and allow them to decide if they're willing to shoulder the responsibility. If they are, then support them fully.

- Put on praise and worship music while you work. Filling your home with praise, especially while you work, will help to create a pleasant atmosphere that uplifts your spirit and theirs.
- Photo journal their progress for their portfolio. For students that are really interested, this can easily turn into a ten-page report. They can write about their projects, recipes, methods, tips, ideas, failures, outreaches, and more. It's a fun and practical way to fulfill one of the typical diploma requirements.
- Do not criticize. **Look for ways to encourage them. Train them gently, not angrily.** When the kitchen is a disaster, show them how to clean it. Offer to help. Smile. Encourage them.

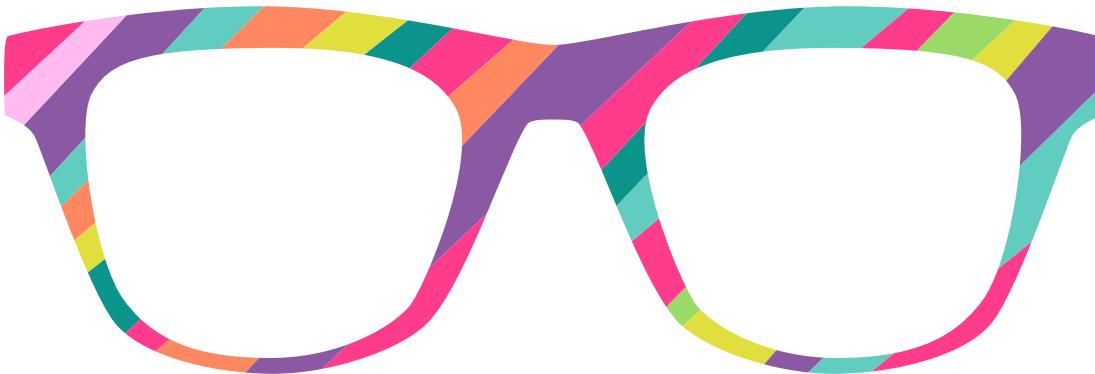
Your entire life should be your school. This is just one example of how to incorporate your entire home-life into your school. School is so much more than just academics. It's about equipping your child for life and eternity. And a kitchen is a wonderful place for some of that to take place.

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Susan Kemmerer is the author of the highly acclaimed book Homeschool Supermom...NOT! She and her husband Dale have nine children, and by God's grace, have been homeschooling since 1989. Seven of their children are graduated and two are still school age. Susan has authored a number of textbooks, including her newest (a Bible study) Fencing Lessons, as well as Apples Daily Spelling Drills and other titles. They run their business Schoolhouse Publishing from their home in Franconia, PA. Susan Kemmerer will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.

HOMESCHOOLING



HINDSIGHT IS NOT EXACTLY 20/20

In 2001 when I asked my husband if I could homeschool our three kids, he asked me to make a list of the activities in which I was currently involved. There were eight items jotted down including, but not limited to: teaching craft classes, choir, a book club, and scrapbooking retreats. When I handed the list to him, much to my astonishment, he didn't even read the words I had diligently handwritten for him. Under his breath he counted the items listed, handed my paper back to me, and then wisely replied, "Cross out five, and we can start homeschooling." Little did I know what I was getting myself into!

Please humor me and peruse my current short-list (after 16 years of homeschooling) of what I did and did not expect while teaching our *now* four kids. I expected to sit on the couch and read

aloud heartwarming stories surrounded by my children who looked at me with adoring eyes.

I didn't expect to have an excessively wiggly child who could not sit still AT ALL and needed to move in order to learn. Enter: the three-man yard swing, finger toys and the patience of Job.

I expected to purchase a highly recommended math curriculum and use it for years with all of my children. I was sure to save hundreds of my husband's hard-earned dollars.

I didn't expect to have four children with four different learning styles, who would take me on a journey through five... yes, FIVE math curricula until we landed on the winner. Sorry, Honey!

I expected to teach each wide-eyed little children to read around the age of five or six because that is when my husband and I learned to read.

I didn't expect to have a brilliant son who was a delayed reader. It hurt my homeschool mom self-esteem when he didn't start reading until he was NINE! (You read that correctly. That's almost ten... double digits!)

I expected to awake each morning full of the love of Jesus, ready and willing to instruct my beautiful children in the ways of righteousness and godliness.

I didn't anticipate that expectation to die a quick and painful death the first week of homeschooling!

I expected to take meaningful, adventurous field trips that corresponded with

our current area of study to expand the horizons of each child of mine.

I didn't expect to count trips to the vet, the orthodontist, and multiple journeys to the ER as field trips, but educational opportunities abound at those establishments too!

I expected my children to learn to read music and take two years of piano lessons – for language brain development, of course! Even my non-musical kid would endure two years of musical training.

I didn't expect a son of mine to have a deep eagerness to play a trombone in a marching band! Where is the homeschool marching band? Thankfully we found an outstanding band program at a local high school that we were a part of for four years.

I expected all of my children to finish four years of high school and then go

off to the college of their choice with scholarships and awards, while my burst buttons of pride scattered all over the floor.

I didn't EVER expect a child of mine to have such a strong desire to start a business, work with homeless people, and have no interest in completing high school whatsoever. (Oh my stars!) We had lively discussions for two-and-a-half years before we realized (too late) that his high school plan should have included courses like: "How to Run a Non-Profit," "Tax Laws for Small Businesses," and "Dealing with Addicts," etc.

I expected my children to have solid friendships that would last a lifetime with other homeschool peeps from co-ops, park days, and classes.

I didn't expect my eldest daughter to be the only girl her age in our homeschool circles all through junior and senior high. It saddened my mama heart, and I prayed for years for close friends for her. My prayers were eventually answered when she found bosom friends in her college years.

I expected all of my children to be typical learners advancing through rigorous studies.

I didn't expect to be blessed with a child with a speech and

language impairment taking us down a road of special needs, individualized education plans (IEPs), and therapies. We encountered scores of families needing extra support and encouragement who we never would have met otherwise.

I expected to be able to homeschool strong, as a determined woman with great ideas and drive, leading my crew of eager learners.

I didn't expect to need God's strength every single day to do what He had called me to do. I'm not sure why I thought I could handle this one on my own. That was one of my silliest expectations that I never voiced ... only acted out, until I realized daily surrender to my Jesus is the ONLY survival method for successful homeschooling.

Learn from my mistakes, people! The doors God opens to you are there for a reason. Your homeschool journey will most likely not go as YOU planned, but God's plans are greater and the journey so much sweeter when you are following His leading.

I expected homeschooling to be rewarding. I didn't expect it to be so much better than I hoped.



Laughter fills the Crosby's Arizona home (most of the time), where Rick and Linda have homeschooled their four children since 2001. Linda is the author of two books, Laughing in the Midst of Mothering and Laughing in the Midst of Marriage, which can be found at LindaCrosby.com. She blogs at MySistersJar.Wordpress.com. Through speaking at women's groups, retreats, and conventions, Linda's passion is to come alongside and encourage others on this crazy journey. Linda Crosby will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.

Convention Blurbs //

// Parents of Preschoolers (POPs)

Parents of Preschoolers investigating homeschooling who have never attended the CHAP Convention as homeschooling parents and whose children are ALL 4 years old and under at the time of the convention will receive a 25% reduction when they enter the promo code "POP" before completing their registration.

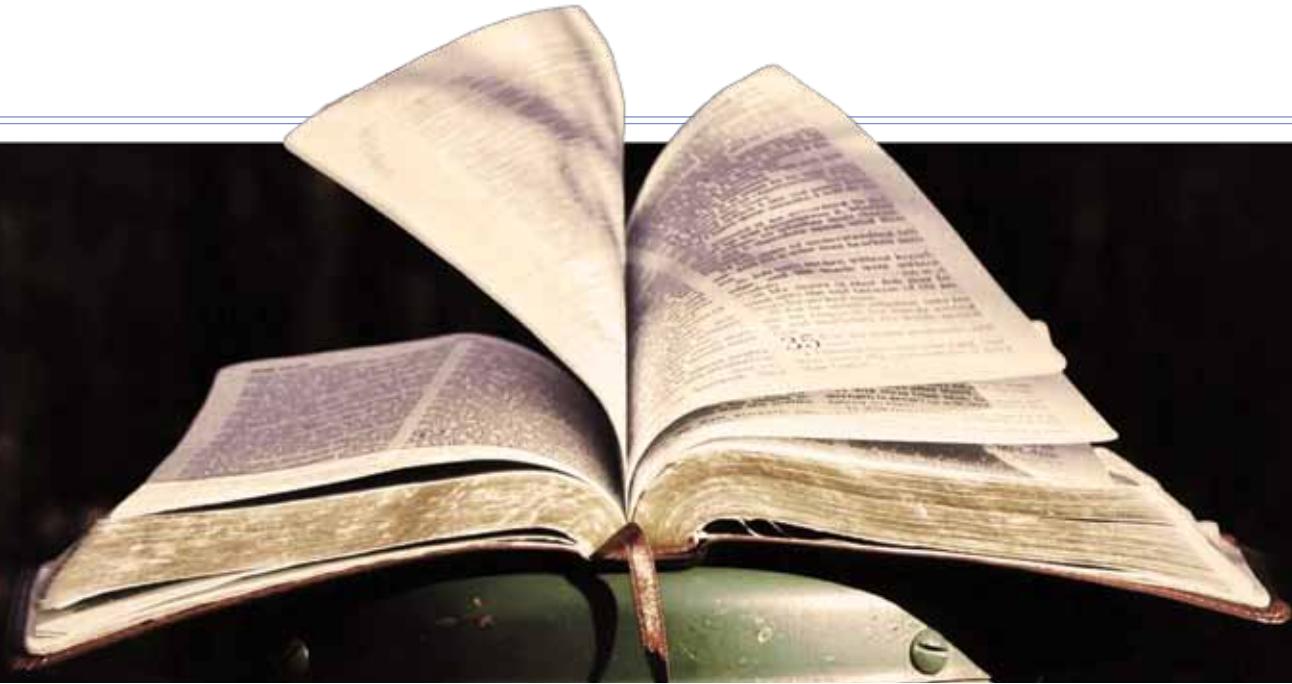
// Registration is Open:

Discounts for Silver, Gold, and Platinum members*
Convention registration is now open! Don't delay!

Online Registration is open until 11:59 PM on May 26, 2017.

Regular prices are: Individual: \$40 Family: \$80
At-the-Door Prices will be: Individual: \$45 Family \$90

*Silver, Gold, and Platinum members receive registration discounts between 10% - 100% off (see website for more information)



WHY MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE?

Bible memory takes effort, time commitment, and consistency. To follow through one needs clear motivation. Guilt or duty or earning “brownie points” from God might motivate you short term but will drain the joy away. Instead, memorize to know Christ more.

Over thousands of years, in myriad ways, God created and preserved His Word to intimately reveal Himself to us. In memorizing Scripture, we learn to treasure Him and delight in His presence, and as we get to know Him more deeply, we fall more in love. Striving to retain every word teaches us the infinite value of our God as revealed in His Word.

Scripture lists many benefits of meditating on God’s Word, including purity, righteousness, gratitude, wisdom, and peace. Equipped with memorized passages, we can meditate often, mulling over passages in many different situations. This makes the comfort, encouragement, and conviction of God’s Word a constant companion. Memorized passages also equip us to fight off sudden temptations.

Armed with Scripture, in awe of our God, we can live out His commands more every day. Memorizing Scripture deepens our ability to love our Savior, so let’s get started!

What to Memorize

You may have memorized scattered verses with Awana or Sunday School; now try tackling an entire chapter, or even a book. This may sound intimidating, but most people can memorize a chapter of the Bible in a month or even a week. With a small time commitment, you gain eternal rewards. And

memorizing large chunks of Scripture keeps verses in context. Over time, a single verse memorized and repeated alone can begin losing its original meaning; learning whole chapters prevents this.

Where to Start

1. *Don’t know what to choose?* Try the Psalm of your age. Chances are you’re not 119, so the Psalm will be a manageable length!
2. *Want something significant to you?* Try your favorite chapter. You’re already familiar with this passage, giving you a head start. Internalizing it will help you treasure precious truths even more. Can’t decide? Try Romans 8 or Philippians 3, two of our favorites.
3. *Need to start small and build momentum?* Take Piercing Word’s 2017 featured challenge: the 3 Verse Challenge. Memorize three consecutive verses and film yourself reciting them, then post the video on social media with #3versechallenge, tagging three friends to do the same. And one last detail—do it all within 24 hours! When you’re done, you’ll have created momentum and challenged friends to join you in memorizing God’s Word. Not only that, you’ll see how quickly you can memorize Scripture.

How to Memorize

You’ve chosen a challenge, and you’re ready to dive in—now build your personal memory plan.

A memory plan saves you from common pitfalls like never moving from pre-memory to memory, or neglecting review.

With a plan tailored to your strengths, you'll learn to memorize faster and retain more.

First, set your goal. Pick a passage and count its verses. Based on your available time and how fast you memorize, decide how many verses to tackle per day. At one verse a day, you can memorize a 30-verse chapter in only a month. When you've set a goal, tell an accountability partner who will check on your progress. Otherwise, it's easy to rationalize and delay. Friendly pressure multiplies your motivation to follow through.

Now it's time for pre-memorization. Understand the point of your passage, whether by consulting a study Bible or simply reading it several times. Several passes through the text will get you familiar with its flow.

Next, choose memory methods that will engage you in visual, auditory, and kinetic ways. Writing the passage while saying it aloud is a very effective method because it engages all three learning styles. Other helpful techniques include hand motions, acting it out, or singing it. Though everyone should use all three, learn your strengths and cater to them. Some fast typists like to type the passage repeatedly while saying it aloud. Many auditory learners like to record themselves reading it and listen to it while doing other things. Learn what works for you and use it.

After preparation, you're ready for the push to memorize. Many people stall at pre-memorization and become frustrated when they don't learn the passage; however, the memorization stage moves beyond familiarizing yourself with the passage to committing it to memory. This stage requires your complete attention, so go somewhere alone and put away distractions. Sit or stand up straight to tell your body—and brain—that this task matters to you. Speak out loud constantly, and alternate between reading the passage and saying it without looking. Whenever you get stuck, immediately check; don't strain trying to remember while you're memorizing or you may internalize mistakes. When you're able to recite the day's passage several times without looking, you've finished memorizing.

Don't stop now! Next comes review. While memorizing requires a private spot, review can be done anywhere. Review a new passage at least once every day for a week, then every few days. Review consists of reciting a passage aloud, combining old and newly learned verses, and then reading it over. Try silly voices or acting it out to keep yourself engaged and interested. Find a partner to read along and mark your mistakes, then recite again correctly. If you neglect review, passages will disappear from your memory. Though this is frustrating, don't despair; you often remember more than you realize,

making re-memorizing much easier than the first time. Ideally, though, you won't lose passages in the first place!

If you create and follow a personal memory plan, you'll memorize faster and more consistently, understand the passages more fully, and retain them longer. Try it, and reap the reward of seeking God through His Word. Then keep it up, conquering even longer passages. You'll never regret time spent meditating on Scripture.



Piercing Word is a full-time, non-profit ministry founded by homeschool graduates Aaron and Emily House. Piercing Word exists to ignite passion for the Word of God in the heart of the church. We believe that Scripture speaks for itself with potent clarity, so we place it center stage—literally! Our team members do this through dramatic and musical theater performances taken entirely from God's Word; the Scripture is our script. Piercing Word challenges everyone to memorize God's Word for themselves by presenting tips to do so successfully. Learn more at www.piercingword.org. Piercing Word will be presenting at the 2017 CHAP Convention.

The poster is titled "JEREMIAH STONES and the RACE FOR THE HIDDEN TREASURES". It features a large brown fedora hat in the center. To the right is a small illustration of a landscape. Below the title are four numbered photographs labeled A, B, C, and D. Photograph A shows a pyramid, B shows a desert landscape, C shows a night scene with columns, and D shows a close-up of a rock formation. To the right of the photographs is the text: "Can you guess where the 'digs' will be by looking at the images? (See upside down answers printed at bottom of poster)." At the bottom, there is a call to action: "JOIN US FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION AT THE CHAP CONVENTION CHILDREN'S PROGRAM!"



Making Grammar Easier to Teach (and Learn)

Many homeschooling parents (I imagine) stifle a groan whenever it comes to teaching English grammar. If you can relate, I can bet you had difficulty learning grammar when you were a kid—and trust me, you’re not alone. I find it hard to teach anything that I had trouble learning as a student. What, then, makes English grammar so hard to learn—and to teach, for that matter?

Surely a major part of the problem is that the terms, rules, and definitions are pulled directly from Latin grammar, a holdover from 18th and 19th century education, when classical subjects (such as Latin) were held in high regard. Since English has Latin roots, the Latin rules work pretty well much of the time. But not always!

Unfortunately, English also has Germanic roots and borrows freely from dozens of other languages—mostly vocabulary, but sometimes also touches of foreign grammar. The result is a mongrel language, richly expressive and func-

Almost
every
principle
of grammar
you teach
will have its
exceptions

tional, but with so many exceptions to its rules that it can be mind-boggling. Pity the poor speaker of another language who attempts to learn English!

Pity, also, the poor teacher who attempts to teach English grammar with a Latin-based lesson plan! Almost every principle of grammar you teach will have its exceptions, and some Latin-based “rules” are just plain wrong. “Never end a sentence with a preposition.” C.S. Lewis, arguably one of the greatest teachers of English in the history of the language, said it was “an arbitrary rule that most great writers took no notice of.” (Note that Lewis’ quote itself ends in a preposition!)

The solution is to teach English grammar guidelines rather than rules. A guideline is a general practice that should be followed most of the time and departed from only for specific reasons and under exceptional circumstances. Take the “ending a sentence with a preposition”

rule. Feel free to do so, as long as you don't do it repetitively. Three sentences in a row, each ending with a preposition, would likely sound rather odd.

To continue the idea of grammar guidelines, rather than rules, let's take a look at sentence construction. A writer should avoid incomplete sentences, and students need to learn what constitutes a complete sentence. And yet, even this "rule" is not absolute. It is perfectly acceptable to include an incomplete sentence in a piece of writing once in a while, usually for dramatic effect. Like this one, for instance.

A sentence fragment used for no apparent reason, however, looks sloppy, and several sentence fragments in a row, are likely to sound ridiculous. Therefore, if you mark an incomplete sentence as wrong, do so because it violates good rhetorical practice—not because of a particular "rule."

In the same way, an exclamation point is a perfectly acceptable punctuation mark. But it should be used sparingly—which is why many people have come to believe another bogus rule: that one should only use an exclamation point in a sentence if it begins with the word *what*, as in "What a wonderful day!" Otherwise, it should never be used, so they say. Nonsense! (See? Right there is an example of the good use of an exclamation point, as well as a sentence fragment.)

Use an exclamation point any time you want the sentence to sound like a shout or an expression of strong emotion—anger, surprise, or joy. It goes without saying, however, that if you shout every other sentence in a piece of writing, it's going to get tiresome to the reader. Save your exclaiming for an extreme situation.

The easiest way to teach (and learn) English grammar is to focus on the eight parts of speech (noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, interjection), but even here

Latin rears its ugly head. The cryptic terminology derived from Latin grammar is hard to remember. What, for example, is a preposition? A word in a position before something?

The solution is to replace the Latin terms with words that actually describe the functions of the parts of speech. Noun and verb are probably easy enough to remember, though nouns are usually described as "a person, place, thing, or idea," and verbs are usually called "action words" by teachers. In that way, the terms are already replaced, at least in the students' minds.

Continuing this idea, adjectives and adverbs can be called "modifiers" (because they modify nouns, verbs and other modifying words). Prepositions can be called "where or when words (or phrases)." Conjunctions can be called "connecting words." And interjections can be called "exclamations"—and that works especially well, because they usually end with an exclamation point.

Terms like these have begun to grow in popularity, because teachers of English have realized how silly it is to make students learn a Latin term and then have to translate it into English. Breaking free of English grammar education's classical Latin roots does not solve all the difficulties of teaching grammar, but it is a healthy start.



David E. Fessenden is a literary agent with Word-Wise Media Services and an independent publishing consultant. Dave has published seven books, written hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles, and edited numerous books. Two of his books, Writing the Christian Nonfiction Book: Concept to Contract and A Christian Writer's Guide to the Book Proposal, are based on his experience in Christian publishing. Dave and his wife Jacque live in south-central Pennsylvania and have two adult sons. Dave Fessenden will be speaking at the 2017 CHAP Convention.

Convention Blurbs //

// Homeschool Mentors

Again this year we are offering a service called Homeschool Mentors at the CHAP Booth. The purpose is to offer one-on-one discussion with a seasoned homeschooled to any newer homeschooled who has some questions or just wants advice or opinions from someone who has been "around the block." The folks at the CHAP Booth will also be happy to answer any questions you may have about homeschooling, CHAP, or the convention. We're happy to serve you!

// Book Check

Why lug your books around the convention all day? Book Check allows you to shop hands free. We'll store your purchases in boxes, deliver them curbside, and even load them into your car! Cost is \$4 for the first box, \$2 for each additional box, and \$1 for each oversized item. Make sure you stop by the CHAP Book Check booth conveniently located right outside the vendor hall and then shop till you drop!

// CHAP Giveaway Card

CHAP is once again excited to offer the CHAP Giveaway Card (one per adult/family registration). Be sure to pick up your card in the Registration area, visit each booth listed on the card, and enter a chance to win some fabulous prizes - some valued at hundreds of dollars! This is a great way to learn about our vendors. Don't miss out on the CHAP Giveaway 2017!

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CONVENTION
JUNE 2-3, 2017

**CHAP is
moving
in 2017 –**

New location and
new date! Lancaster
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