



MAGAZINE
SPRING 2019



Convention Issue

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Different Kids

Being a Voice: Tools for
Communicating with Your
Young Man

The Undecided Student

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"It is absurd for the Evolutionist to complain that it is unthinkable for an admittedly unthinkable God to make everything out of nothing, and then pretend that it is more thinkable that nothing should turn itself into everything."

-G.K. Chesterton



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2019 Convention Speakers

by Deanna Rabe

Many years ago, I came to the realization that you don't have to follow the cultural trends in how you live or raise your family. There are many, many things we chose to opt out of, for the sake of family life. We wanted to live with intention, having life goals in mind for our children, and we wanted to have time to build these things into them. Now, our life goals for our children had nothing to do with their life's work, but that our children would be taught about the Lord in our everyday lives. You know, as Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NKJV) says:

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Tim and I both wanted our children to not feel as if God was only someone we talked about on Sundays or at church, but ONE who was involved with every aspect of our lives. This meant we had to be in the Word together, talk together, and point out God's hand in our daily lives so that the children could see it for themselves.

We wanted our kids to love family, and they all do. They are always happy when we are together for some event—grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins—the more the merrier!

We wanted our kids to care about others and to practice hospitality, so we live that out in front of them—imperfectly at best, yet desiring to practice hospitality.

This doesn't mean that because we chose to do it everything goes smoothly. Sometimes we are selfish, and sometimes our expectations of others or their expectations of us don't match up! But our children benefit from seeing us work through challenges with the goal, not of "being right," but of wanting God to be glorified by our choices and behaviors.

The challenge in this is that it requires time and intention. If we intend to practice hospitality, that means that we forgo afternoon naps on Sundays and make dozens of pancakes for dinner. If I want my kids to know about self-control, then I need to practice self-control.

We will never get these years of their childhoods back. These are the training years, the ones that require self-sacrifice on our part. Having raised a few to adulthood, we know that these years go by so quickly. We are enjoying our young adults, and delight in seeing them thrive in their lives, working hard and loving their families and others, being involved in the lives of those the Lord brings their way. Each one does this in a different way, as each one is different from their siblings.

This reminds me of a Steve Green song, "Find Us Faithful," from years ago: *Oh, may all who come behind us, find us faithful. May the fire of our devotion light their way. May the footsteps that we leave, lead them to believe, and the lives we live inspire them to obey. Oh, may all who come behind us, find us faithful.*

Parents, grandparents, friends, I hope you'll be encouraged that your work is not in vain. You are encouraging others by your lives, leading little ones and older ones closer to the Lord, bearing each other's burdens. Choose good things to model in front of your children. ■

Deanna Rabe is a veteran homeschool mom with 23 years of experience. She has led a co-op and served on her local homeschool board, along with her husband, Tim. They have six kids and three grandkids, one who is now a homeschooler.

mrsrabe.blogspot.com



The Work of the Legislative Committee

CHAP's Legislative Committee is a permanent subcommittee of the CHAP Board. The committee has sought to help fulfill the purpose of CHAP to be "Pennsylvania's trusted advocate for Christ-centered homeschooling." My wife and I have served on this committee for the past six years, and we have had the opportunity to observe and participate in the passing of HB 1013, which is the current Pennsylvania Homeschooling Law, in October 2014. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mark and Corie Moore, to Bruce and Maryann Eagleson, and to the efforts of so many others who saw to it that this legislation passed. This law strengthens homeschooling freedoms; however, there is always room to improve the law and always a need to monitor what bills are being proposed that may be of concern to homeschooling freedoms.

The Legislative Committee does not endorse, campaign for, or support any political candidates. CHAP is both a 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) organization, and, as such, we cannot and do not engage in political activity. However, we may provide information to legislators and to our members to advocate for a particular piece of legislation.

The committee has cultivated relationships with members of both political parties in the State Senate and General Assembly of Pennsylvania. In the past, we have also cultivated relationships with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's offices, as well as with a United States Congressman.

With the retirement of some familiar faces on the Education Committees in Harrisburg, we will look forward to cultivating new relationships. It is currently a quiet time in Harrisburg as we await the committee assignments by the leadership of both political parties.

In 2019, the committee is looking forward to improving communication of legislative and governmental issues that impact homeschooling families. We also desire to invite state legislators to the CHAP Convention.

We are thankful for the opportunity to come alongside of HSLDA and the Homeschool Alliance in their efforts to review and alert members of pending legislation. We are cautious and only send out an alert to our members when there is a legislative issue which may potentially impact homeschool education.

The committee, relying upon the wisdom of those who have preceded us, only addresses issues related to homeschooling. There are many other family and faith-based organizations that advocate for other social issues. We are the consistent voice in Pennsylvania for Christian homeschooling.

In the past year, I have read and analyzed 252 bills submitted to the House Education Committee and 109 bills submitted to the Senate Education Committee. This total does not include any later amendments to those bills. Thankfully, there has been little federally proposed legislation in the area of education.

I truly appreciate the elected officials who seek and respect our voice on homeschooling issues. Through the years we have learned that respect is earned, cherished, and guarded vigilantly. The CHAP mission is vital, as, "we raise the next generation to follow Christ in all of life." I am thankful to the Board for giving me the opportunity to serve in this position.

As we lift up your families in prayer, I ask you to pray for the Lord's continued guidance and blessings upon CHAP, the Board, its employees and volunteers, and all our member families as we move forward in 2019. Consider prayerfully if you might be suited to serve as a new member on the Legislative Committee, working within the specific parameters of this committee. On a personal note, I ask for your prayers for wisdom as we engage with the elected officials in Harrisburg and Washington, DC. ■

*Brad and Kathy Bastedo
CHAP Legislative Committee*

by Brad Bastedo



SIDE BY SIDE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Parents: Matt and Jenny Bates

Children: Jayna (20), Ellie (18), Josie (14), Levi (9)

Hometown: Clarion, Pennsylvania

Tell us a little bit about your family dynamics.

We've been married since 1993. Our oldest daughter is in her third year of college, while the other three are still at home. Ellie is a senior, Josie is in ninth grade, and Levi is in fourth grade. Since Matt is a public school teacher, we enjoy terrific adventures in our camper during the summer. Our kids have been to 30+ states, and we love discovering new places. Our favorite night of the week is Friday, when we enjoy Matt's homemade pizza and watch a movie together. We do this almost every week of the year!

How long have you been homeschooling? What was one of the main reasons you chose to homeschool?

Our family has been homeschooling for 17 years, beginning when our firstborn was preschool-aged. Because Matt teaches in public school, we are often asked why our kids aren't in public school. We answer honestly that we wanted to give our kids a Christian education, which public school is obviously unable to provide. Even more, we wanted to raise children who are grounded biblically, and who can confidently live out and defend their faith.

In what activities does your family participate?

Our three kids at home are involved in our church youth group. Our family loves to sing together, so we sing monthly on the church praise team. All the kids play the piano. Ellie does martial arts, Josie takes gymnastics, and Levi plays soccer and basketball. My girls have all enjoyed TeenPact, a nationwide program here in Pennsylvania that teaches kids how to get involved in the political process from a Christian perspective. The kids go to church camp in the summer, and we've taken our older daughters on several mission trips.

What have been your most helpful resources?

Our favorite resource has been our homeschool co-op, Clarion County Home Schoolers, which meets twice a month. We have been involved in this group since we started homeschooling. It's amazing what you can learn from other homeschooling families! The support and

help a Christian co-op provides is priceless. We are also involved in a weekly Tapestry of Grace co-op with other families using this curriculum. It has been helpful for my kids to have the chance to discuss literature and history with kids their age. Each year, I look forward to the CHAP Convention, which offers a literal sea of resources for homeschooling families.

What educational philosophy/curriculum do you follow?

The mission statement for our homeschool is to nurture in our children a love for God and a love for learning. I remind myself often that school is more than just academics; it's the development of the entire self as God created us—body, mind, and spirit. This means that devotions, exercise, character training, service, and home chores are an important part of our homeschool as well.

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

As I look back, I would have to say that the highlight for me has been getting to be there with my kids, experiencing life and learning every day together. I don't mean to sugarcoat it, because homeschooling has many challenges. But now that our kids are growing up, I see what homeschooling has accomplished. We enjoy one another's company (we actually LIKE each other!); we have shared values; we know how to work through conflict; we laugh at the same things. My older kids want to teach their kids at home someday because they see the difference homeschooling has made in our family and in so many families we know.

What was your favorite field trip(s)?

Too many to count! If we have to narrow it down, some of our favorites have been the Creation Museum, snowshoeing at Jennings Environmental Center in western PA, and Inventionland in Pittsburgh.

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

Several years ago, we were studying the Roman Empire. On the first day of school, I dressed in a toga to introduce this period of history. Then the UPS man showed up. My kids still talk about the look on his face when I opened the door to receive my package wearing a toga!



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

For me, one of the biggest challenges is getting it all done! It's hard to be a mom AND teacher to your kids, along with everything else that needs to get done in a day. During the early years of homeschooling, it often seemed like an impossibility. Taking on the responsibility for my children's education has been a great chance for me to exercise my faith. When I feel overwhelmed, I turn to God and ask for His guidance. This is my #1 word of advice: when you don't know what to do because there's just too much to do, seek the Lord. It's amazing how He guides my steps and helps me prioritize so that what is truly important can be accomplished.

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

Have fun with your kids! Go on field trips, bake cookies, take walks in nature,

play games, build snowmen, read books aloud together. We get so concerned about "finishing" the curriculum that we forget that learning happens in other ways, too. Be on the same page as your spouse; homeschooling is definitely a team effort. Don't quit just because it's hard. It has been totally worth it as we've watched our older kids develop a committed relationship with Jesus Christ, read the Bible on their own time, and be a witness to those who need Jesus. As we look at the culture at large, we see so many things happening that can discourage us. Homeschooling enables us as parents to prepare our children for the world without them having to handle aspects of the world that they are not ready for yet. If we work hard, seek the Lord, and stay connected to like-minded believers, we will someday reap the harvest we are planting when we homeschool. My favorite verse for homeschooling reminds me that we are not doing this all by ourselves: "The one who called you is faithful and he will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24). ■

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.

ADVENTURES IN PENNSYLVANIA

I don't know about you, but I am so excited to come back to the CHAP Convention this spring and get another chance to visit Downtown Lancaster. Two years ago, I thought this looked like such a fun city to spend some time in, and this past fall I confirmed it. Downtown Lancaster is spectacular! Here are some things you must do when you are here:

Lancaster Central Market

The Lancaster Central Market was established in 1730, and is known as America's oldest continuously operating farmers market. It has a large variety of farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, homemade baked items, ready-to-go lunches, craft items, and more! It is located right in downtown Lancaster City and is just down the road from the convention center. Be sure to put this on your things-to-do when in town, whether just to browse around or to grab a bite to eat.

Rock Ford Plantation

This plantation is only 10 minutes from the convention center and, since this trip is about homeschooling, why not check off a field trip while you're here? Rock Ford Plantation embodies 1794 Georgian style and was the home of General Edward Hand from the American Revolutionary War. This plantation is also situated in Lancaster County Central Park, which is the perfect place to enjoy a picnic lunch or just to relax and spend some time in the fresh air.

Lancaster Science Factory

Another nearby museum is the Lancaster Science Factory. There's a museum for the history lovers and then one for those who enjoy more of the sciences and seeing how things work. This museum is great for young kids because it uses the hands-on learning style.

Dutch Wonderland Family Amusement Park

Also, only 10-20 minutes away (are you sensing a theme here?) is Dutch Wonderland Family Amusement Park. While there may be no school learning here, this is a fun family activity that everyone can enjoy. Celebrate the end of another school year and hopefully a successful time at the CHAP Convention, and just enjoy being together, having fun.

Lancaster County's Historical Society and Historic Lancaster Walking Tour

And finally, don't forget to learn about Lancaster's amazing history by visiting the Historical Society or doing the Walking Tour.

While here, you can take a tour of our 15th President's home, learn how Lancaster was involved in the Underground Railroad, and uncover 300 years of history of the city.

I hope this list of things to do makes you as excited to visit as I am! While the CHAP Convention is a time to fellowship with other homeschool families and pick out your curriculum for the next year, make sure you also spend some time learning and having fun around the city. See you in June! ■

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.

RachelRittenhouse.com



The Erosion of Parental Rights and How to Stop It

by Daniel Beasley,
HSLDA Staff Attorney

In a time of great political polarization, there is an issue Americans can agree on: children need loving parents to care for them, not government bureaucrats.

In fact, 93 percent of Americans agree that "in general, parents have the constitutional right to make decisions for their children without government interference unless there is proof of abuse or neglect," according to a 2010 Zogby poll.

This makes sense because children have important needs, such as warmth, affection, and love, that government simply cannot provide.

And, yet, for nearly two decades, parental rights have not been given the constitutional protection they deserve. In 2000, the United States Supreme Court departed from its long-standing precedent that classified parental rights as fundamental and deserving of the highest legal protection afforded to our most cherished liberties.

Instead, in *Troxel v. Granville*, the High Court opened the door for individual judges to apply their own rules in situations where parental decisions are questioned. Individual states, in turn, have been free to tear down the rich protection previously given to parental rights.

Since this landmark decision, parental rights have been eroded by various court decisions and state statutes, regulations, and policies.

In some states, parents may be told that they cannot access their twelve-year-old child's medical records—or even discuss their child's health with the physician—without obtaining the child's permission.

In most states, parents will be denied access to information about the books their child checks out at the library—even when the books are accumulating fees.

And many states are debating the extent to which parents have authority to determine what kind of sex education is age-appropriate for their child.

According to parentalrights.org, only 11 state statutes define and protect parental rights (Pennsylvania is not one of them), and 20 have courts that do not clearly recognize parental rights as fundamental.

Parental rights are foundational to the freedom to homeschool. The idea that parents can choose to provide an individualized education at home for their child instead of enrolling their child in a traditional classroom is built upon parental liberty and the presumption that parents generally act in their child's best interest absent proof that they are unfit to care for their child.

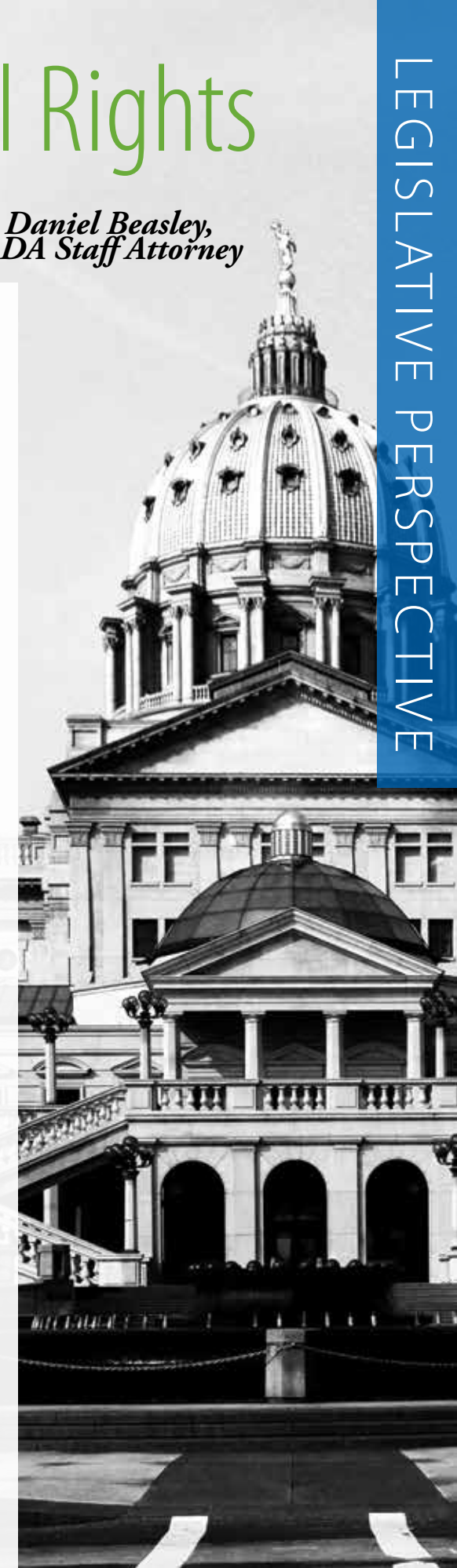
In response to the erosion of parental liberty since *Troxel*, there is a growing movement to restore the parental protection that children deserve. Parentalrights.org is leading the way by proposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Upon introduction of the constitutional amendment earlier this year, Representative Jim Banks of Indiana said, "It was not the intention of our Founding Fathers to leave government bureaucrats and elected officials in charge of deciding what is in the best interest of someone else's child."

He's right. But amending the U.S. Constitution is an enormous task and can only be accomplished if parents act. Visit parentalrights.org to see how you can get involved. ■

Daniel T. Beasley serves as HSLDA's contact attorney for Pennsylvania and 13 other states. He regularly corresponds with school officials, college admissions staff, 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 their four children.

hsllda.org



CONVENTION CORNER

Photos courtesy of J & D Studios

by Denise Grove,
Convention Coordinator

evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, KJV). It really does sum it all up for us, doesn't it? Rejoice evermore. Be cheerful no matter what the circumstance. Pray without ceasing. All throughout the day. Never stopping. And, finally, giving thanks in everything—even in the tough times and the long winter days because we have so much to give thanks for. When we do all of this, we don't have to wonder what God's will is for us. Giving thanks IN ALL circumstances certainly can be challenging, but the reward is great, and what a wonderful example to our children and to those around us.

Can I challenge you to give thanks today? Even in the hard times. I promise you that if you do, God will meet you right where you are, and, even though your circumstances may not change, the way you react to them will. Let's develop an attitude of gratitude.

And finally, do you know something else I am thankful for? CHAP's 33rd Annual Convention happening June 14-15, 2019, at the Lancaster County Convention Center. This is one experience you don't want to miss. I promise you that you will not be disappointed. You will leave with so much to be thankful for. You will be encouraged, refreshed, renewed, and ready to tackle another school year.

There will be something for the whole family to enjoy. Some highlights for 2019 include the following:

- Friday evening concert **FREE** to all attendees
- Interactive sessions for the whole family
- WJTL's Kids Cookie Break broadcasting live Saturday morning

- Keynotes both Friday and Saturday morning
- Life-sized dinosaur and many other interactive booths throughout the vendor hall
- Teen Track and College Fair
- Mentor booth and prayer booth
- Used Curriculum Sale (buy and sell)
- A full vendor hall with many returning and new vendors
- A shopping-only pass, if you can't make the whole convention
- Discounts for parents of preschoolers
- Giveaway cards
- A photography contest
- And much, much more!

On the fence about the convention? As you can see, it is an experience you won't want your family to miss. I promise you will be thankful you came. More information and a link to register can be found at conv.chaponline.com. See you in June! ■

Wife to Greg and homeschool mama to seven, Denise Grove is excited to be CHAP's new convention coordinator. She has been homeschooling for 18 years and also has six grandchildren here and one who went home to be with Jesus. She is a speaker, coffee drinker, and all-around crazy lady for Jesus. Denise is excited to serve in this new role for CHAP and minister to homeschooling families in PA!



33rd Annual CHAP Convention
"In Everything Give Thanks"
June 14 & 15, 2019

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!!!!

New! 2019 CHAP Photography Contest

Theme: "Something I'm Thankful for"

CONTEST RULES:

- 1) A maximum of two photos may be submitted per person.
- 2) Photos must be consistent with theme.
- 3) Photos must be taken in year 2019.
- 4) Photos must be uploaded to **lenspiration.com/chap** by June 8, 2019.

Winners will be announced on Saturday, June 15, at the 2019 CHAP Convention prior to the keynote session. (If winners are not already a registered CHAP Convention attendee, they will be invited to attend this keynote and awards ceremony for free.)

Winners are invited to attend the interactive photography sessions available at the convention for free, IF registered as a CHAP Convention attendee.

PRIZES:

First Place: One-year Lenspiration membership (\$228 value)
+ free ticket to 2020 Miracle Mountain Ranch (MMR) Media Summit (\$145 value)
+ free lens replica travel mug

Second Place: Three-month Lenspiration membership (\$65 value)
+ free ticket to 2020 MMR Media Summit (\$145 value)
+ free lens replica travel mug

Third Place: Three-month Lenspiration membership (\$65 value)
+ free lens replica travel mug

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"INDEPENDENCE

... confirmed by God Almighty in the victory of General Washington at Trenton"

Edited Excerpt from American Minute "Battle of Trenton"

by Bill Federer



2019 CHAP
Convention
Speaker



Washington Crossing the Delaware by Emanuel Leutze
image from Wikimedia Commons

In August of 1776, Connecticut Governor Jonathan Trumbull wrote to General George Washington, commander of the Continental Army, in response to his plea for reinforcements:

"In this day of calamity, to trust altogether to the justice of our cause, without our utmost exertion, would be tempting Providence. . . . March on! This shall be your warrant: Play the man for God, and for the cities of our God. May the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, be your Captain, your Leader, your Conductor, and Savior."

Then on August 27, British troops defeated the Continental Army at the Battle of Brooklyn Heights, forcing General Washington to retreat. The Continental Army was then driven out of New York, across New Jersey, and into Pennsylvania. In the six months following Congress' approval of the Declaration of Independence in July of 1776, the Continental Army's ranks dwindled from a high of 20,000 down to just 2,000 as of December.

Most of the remaining soldiers were planning on leaving at the end of year, as they had only volunteered for a six-month enlistment, needing to get back home to care for their neglected farms, shops and families. General Washington rallied his troops to stay by having Thomas Paine's "The American Crisis" read to them. It began: "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country."

Washington proposed a daring military operation, but insisted his officers keep it under strictest secrecy, as the British were paying spies in gold for information. Washington made the password for his operation "Victory or Death." This reflected Washington's general orders of July 2, 1776: "The time is now near at hand which must probably determine

whether Americans are to be freemen or slaves; whether they are to have any property they can call their own; whether their houses and farms are to be pillaged and destroyed, and themselves consigned to a state of wretchedness from which no human efforts will deliver them. The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under

God, on the courage and conduct of this army. Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us no choice but a brave resistance, or the most abject submission. We have, therefore to resolve to conquer or die."

On Christmas Day evening, 1776, Washington's troops quietly crossed the dangerous, ice-filled Delaware River in a freezing blizzard. The army trudged through blinding snow in strict silence. Two soldiers froze to death on the march. Washington's army attacked the German Hessian troops stationed at Trenton, New Jersey, at daybreak, December 26.

King George III had tried unsuccessfully to get Russian troops, so he hired the feared Hessian mercenaries. Some historians suggest, though others refute, that the German Hessian mercenary troops may not have been on peak alertness due to the Christmas holiday. Hessians were skilled in the European fighting style, where enemies faced off in an open field. They were not prepared for Americans firing from behind trees, walls, and fence posts. American captain Alexander Hamilton maneuvered his six-pound cannons into position and fired them down King Street, tearing into the Hessian ranks. Hessian colonel Johann Rall was shot, and without their commander, the remaining troops soon surrendered. Americans captured nearly a thousand Hessians in just over an hour.

On May 8, 1783, Yale President Ezra Stiles stated in an election address before Connecticut's General Assembly: "In our lowest and most dangerous estate, in 1776 and 1777, we sustained ourselves against the British army of 60,000 troops

"The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army."

~George Washington

commanded by . . . the ablest generals Britain could procure throughout Europe, with a naval force of 22,000 seamen in above 80 men-of-war. . . . Heaven inspired us with resolution to cut the Gordian knot . . . in the glorious act of Independence . . . sealed and confirmed by God Almighty in the victory of General Washington

at Trenton. . . . Who does not see the indubitable interposition and energetic influence of Divine Providence in these great and illustrious events? . . . Who but a Washington, inspired by Heaven, could have struck out the great movement and maneuver of Princeton—that Christmas (Day) eve when Washington and his army crossed the Delaware? . . . The United States are under peculiar obligations to become a holy people unto the Lord our God."

Trumbull wrote to trust God AND give "our utmost exertion." The stories we love best are when it looks hopeless, and God raises up little nobodies, small in their own eyes but big in faith, to turn things around. Instead of Moses, Gideon, David, or Washington, it is our turn! ■

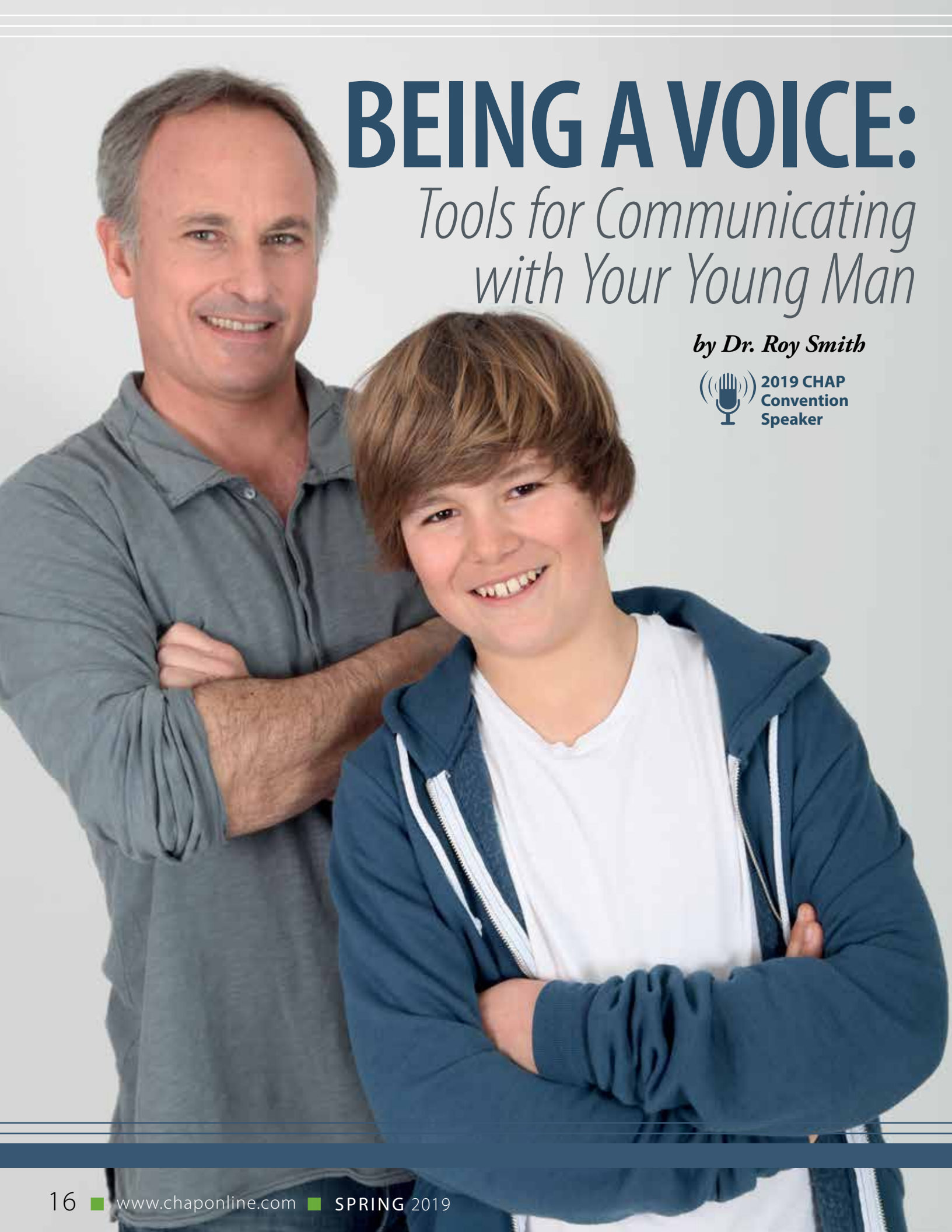


William J. Federer is a nationally known speaker and best-selling author of over 20 books highlighting America's heritage.

His America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations has sold over a half-million copies. His Faith in History TV program airs daily on DirecTV via TCT Network, and his American Minute radio feature is broadcast on over 100 stations, and read by thousands daily. A former US congressional candidate, Bill has appeared on CSPAN, FOX, CBN, SBN, The Blaze, NPR, Focus on the Family, Salem Radio Network, Bott Radio Network, and American Family Radio. He has been quoted or referenced in USA Today, Human Events, New York Times, Washington Times, Washington Post, WND.com, and the Daily Caller.com. The recipient of two honorary doctorates, Bill serves on the board of Regent University and is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Christian Statesmanship.

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BEING A VOICE:

Tools for Communicating with Your Young Man

by Dr. Roy Smith



Instinctually, young boys want to define themselves as men.

When we look back on our lives, one regret that we will not have is that we have talked with our children too much. As fathers, we have an important role in our children's lives. Often, when our children describe us, as fathers, it is similar to how they describe God. There is very little that is more important in our children's lives than our role as a representative of who God is. When we consider how dads communicate with their sons, there is an additional factor that is important to their role: fathers are not only God's representatives, but by their choice of words and actions, they define what a man is for their sons. Instinctually, young boys want to define themselves as men. They are driven toward this goal more than any other achievement in life. A father who practices true manhood will always have his son's ear.

A son wants to communicate with his father, which provides an important opportunity to prepare him for life. As he fulfills his God-given responsibilities, a father should keep the following factors in mind, which will increase the likelihood that the communication between him and his son will be positive.

Every young man is different; the type of bond you have with one young man might be different from the bond you have with another young man. As a good coach, you must adjust your approach and style of communication to the personality of the young man you are connecting with. You must practice flexibility, as you may need to challenge one son and encourage another.

Your son likes to move, watch movement, and make things move. Therefore, you will often have the best conversations when you are doing something together.

Males have the capacity to become emotionally worked up faster than females. When a male does not understand his emotions or learn how to modulate them, it does not matter what the good idea is or whether his intentions are positive; it is unlikely that his communication will be successful. The emotional state of your son and his ability to be fully present

for the conversation should be assessed. Sometimes, you need to wait for a better time to talk to him.

When you are attempting to talk about a spiritually related or character-related concept, remember that males focus more on the external elements of their life, which makes them less aware of the internal aspects of themselves. If you are trying to help them grow toward manhood, your messages will be more effective if they are connected to an external action or consequence. Jesus used trees, coins, mountains, and other external symbols to teach principles related to our spirituality and internal attributes.

A person's attention span is always a factor when you are communicating. Choosing the right place and time, and strategically preparing for what you want to communicate can be helpful. Directing the conversation toward subjects that fit the young male's interests and concerns can help keep him interested in what you are talking about. Being predictably unpredictable also increases the likelihood that a person will listen. A young man's interest in communicating is often spiked by certain words: challenge, failure, war, fight, competition, respect, competence, mastery, and winning. These words have aggressive or strength-related overtones that a young man is often drawn to. The hormone testosterone, which produces aggressive, energetic responses, causes a young man to lock in to a conversation, if the words that are used tap in to this internal energy.

Use questions that do not make your son feel like he is undergoing an interrogation. By asking the right questions, your son or mentee will be encouraged to discover and explore his thoughts about life and talk with you about them. Independence is highly valued by young men; encouraging them to think through things is helpful. You will not be there at every important decision-making moment. The right questions will prepare them for making the right decisions.

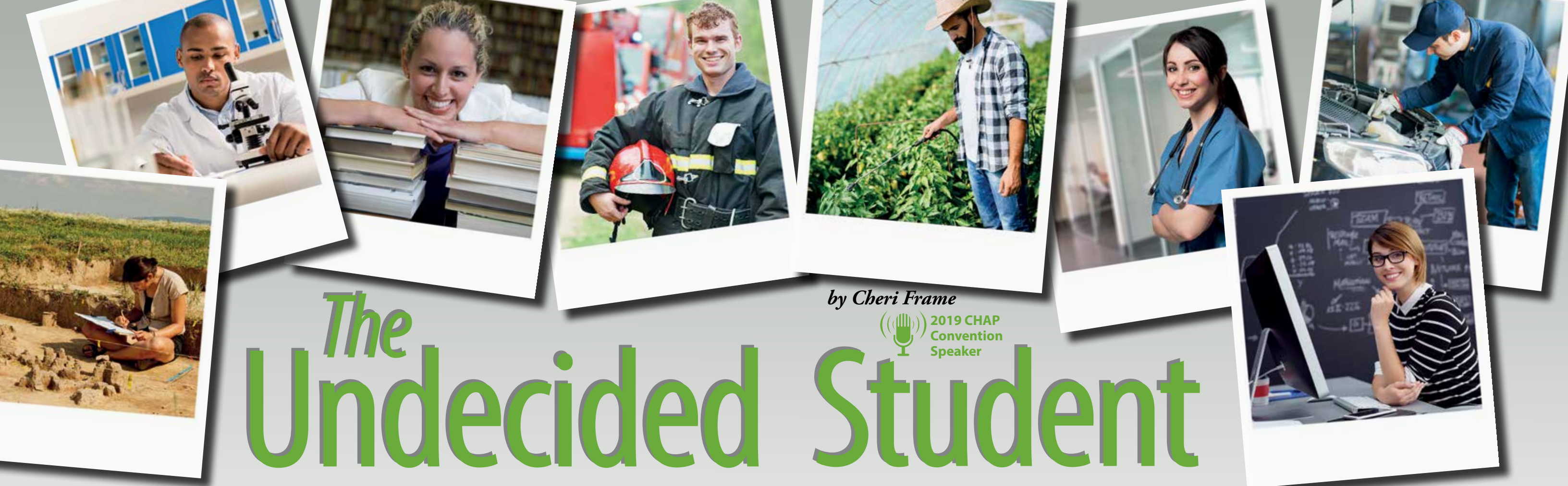
Relationships are a challenge, and there have likely been some ups and downs between you and your son. Since

there is a power imbalance that exists in your relationship with him, it is your responsibility as the leader to be sensitive to your son's feelings about the relationship; you decide how deep a conversation should enter into his internal world. As the God-man, Jesus is an excellent example of this type of leadership. Trust must be established in your relationship with your son. If the trust is broken in any way, it may create a barrier in your communication processes. It is important to be aware of how your son would describe his relationship with you in the here and now. ■

Dr. Roy Smith has worked for over 35 years as a psychologist and counselor to men and their families. Pennsylvania Counseling Services, which he began out of his home, now offers a variety of counseling services in ten counties in Central Pennsylvania. Roy is also an ordained minister with the Evangelical Church Alliance. He developed LiveUp Resources, a ministry that produces men's and women's video resources to help them grow and learn how to lead more effectively, contributing to the overarching goal of positively changing our culture. Roy has also written several books in the area of men's issues, including Bull, Being God's Man, Basic Warrior Training, Manhood Journey (Volumes 1-5), Why Not Try To Hit The Real Target—Men, and You're Not Dead Yet. He recently began writing The Campfire Gang series, which now includes six published volumes, to teach young boys biblical leadership and character-building skills through an engaging storyline. Roy has a master of divinity degree and a master's and a doctorate degree in clinical psychology. He is married to Jan, who is also a psychologist; they have two children, a son-in-law, and two grandsons.



liveupresources.com



The Undecided Student

by Cheri Frame



2019 CHAP
Convention
Speaker

Many people use the terms *work*, *job*, *career*, and *vocation* interchangeably. While it's true that each involves working and a wage, having a career and vocation means more than just a paycheck. They describe a type of work where your passion, purpose, skills, and the marketplace collide. In the words of theologian Frederick Buechner, "Your vocation in life is where your greatest joy meets the world's greatest need."

While some students seem destined for a particular vocation at an early age, it is common for today's students to near high school graduation without a plan. Parents can encourage informed early-career-direction decisions. It starts with helping teens identify who God made them to be, then supporting them as they explore occupations, and finally, helping them to develop goals and create an action plan. By partnering with and encouraging them in this important decision, they can then graduate from high school with a vision for their future.

Build Identity

Nothing is more foundational than being rooted in Christ. Assisting teens in forging strong, positive identities is one way to help them form convictions based on truth, and

then stand firm in them regardless of what everyone else does. Google "Who I Am in Christ" [list compiled by Neil Anderson]. Print and review as a family. Emphasize that work is part of God's plan and that He designed them for a purpose.

Be generous with your praise, affirming skills and natural abilities you have observed.

Ask questions that help identify likes and dislikes and what is important: What kinds of interactions energize you or drain you? Do you like to work with facts and data, or do you prefer people-oriented activities? Do your decisions tend to be objective and logic-based, or are your decisions based on how they may impact others? Do you like to talk out your ideas, or do you prefer time alone to make decisions?

Encourage busy teens to enjoy downtime, which can strengthen their creativity and problem-solving skills. Schedule time to pursue hobbies and to invest in electives, sports, and other team activities that build skills and reveal interests.

Explore Career Options

A better motto than "You can be anything you want to be" is "Be all you can be."

Researching careers online will help teens better understand occupational

profiles that match their interests and personalities. Set a goal for how many careers to research. Information should include primary duties, the education or skills needed for working in that field, work environment, and median wage. Discuss findings. (Check out CareerOneStop.org.)

Utilizing a career assessment tool at about the age of 16 may further identify vocations that match God-given interests. Informal assessments are readily available on the web. These are self-interpreted and can lack reliability so are best used to generate discussion. Fee-based or formal assessments are more comprehensive and statistically validated. A trained career counselor can interpret the results to identify best-fit careers and college options. Look for a comprehensive assessment that covers the four components of vocational design: personality, interests, skills and abilities, and values. (Check out CareerDirect.org.)

Good career planning includes building curiosity and excitement toward participating in the marketplace. Use your networks to make introductions to people in occupations that interest them and match their vocational design. Thinking about a career sector rather than a specific occupation will generate a bigger list of options that

match their interests. Encourage them to prepare a list of questions by Googling "informational interview." Practice interview skills to improve their confidence level.

Take advantage of the flexible schedule of homeschooling. Facilitate opportunities to learn outside of the classroom through part-time work, volunteering, and job shadowing. This will help confirm interests as well as build a resume with skills that employers value.

Set Goals and Take Action

By integrating the gathered information and identifying the education, training, and skills needed for the career sectors, plans and goals can be determined. Don't worry about choosing one specific occupation at this stage. Goals can be categorized into one of these five pathways: four-year STEM-related college degree; four-year liberal arts college degree; two-year vocational degree or certificate; apprenticeship training, military, or workforce; and gap year or travel.

Teens who have a healthy and productive level of guidance and support from their parents have a much better chance at making good college and career choices. Here are some questions

to think about: Which post-secondary institutions offer the programs needed? What is the cost for completion? How will it be funded? Can affordable or free

Vocation is where your passion, purpose, skills, and the marketplace collide.

college credits be earned in high school? What are the prerequisites or admission requirements? What courses should be completed during high school? Besides education, what experiences or skills would be valued? Together, you can develop a plan for high school, aligning them to support post-graduation goals.

Many students are more motivated in their studies when they have a defined purpose and have set personal goals. Those who write down their goals are 50% more likely to achieve them. Work to break down their goals into specific, manageable tasks with timelines for completion. Change is constant, so capitalize on preparations for success after high school, no matter what they choose to pursue. ■

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Cheri Frame is a homeschool parent of three graduates, a certified Career Direct® Consultant, and author of Credits Before College:

A Comprehensive High School to Graduation Guide. She specializes in advising parents and students on how to earn affordable college credits in high school, choose a career, and graduate college debt free. Cheri and her husband live in suburban Minneapolis.

CreditsBeforeCollege.com





HOMESCHOOLING *for the different Kids*

by Nathan Clarkson



2019 CHAP
Convention
Speaker

I was a difficult kid—not a bad kid, mind you—but I was admittedly a handful. You know the kind; when the other kids were walking in straight lines, I was climbing the walls. When other kids were able to sit still and listen respectfully during class, I was tapping my foot, talking, and asking “too many questions.”

My mom and dad took note of the unique behavior of me, their youngest son, at an early age, and with some help from insightful professionals, we quickly found out that I was dealing with a host of issues.

As a young boy discovering that I was diagnosed with OCD, ADHD, ODD, dyslexia, and sensory issues was overwhelming. Suddenly I found myself—a kid who truly loved people—feeling very alone. In the social and educational situations I found myself, I began to notice the wide chasm between me and my peers. Even at home it was painfully obvious that I wasn’t “normal.” I would watch my siblings’ behavior fit nicely into the home routine, while I found myself constantly in trouble for my endless energy and inability to not talk back.

Everything in me wanted to fit in, to look like the kids around me, to be studious, calm, “good,” but I simply couldn’t. It was not how I was made. I was different. And as a kid, being different can be scary.

But in the midst of my adolescence angst, I was blessed enough to have an observant and caring mother. In her godly intuition, she looked past all the letters and diagnoses and saw a uniquely created little boy made for a purpose beyond the confines of society’s limiting molds.

When teachers, parents, and authorities saw a boy who asked too many questions, wiggled too often, and colored outside the lines, she saw a child with endless curiosity, playful energy, and boundless creativity.

She saw the boy I was created to be, not the one culture said I should conform to be.

Early on in the inception of our family, my parents made a decision to home educate their children. The decision was a big one, but also an easy one. They took a hard look at the “normal” and expected route of typical schooling, and decided it was not for them, and not for us. When they took a critical look at the cultural

landscape, they saw so clearly that the conformist mentality that traditional schooling adhered to left very little room

*She saw the boy
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for uniquely designed children to grow and flourish in the way they were made. Very little room, that is, for children like me.

They believed in their hearts that it was good for children to live into the design

their Creator has made for them, and they needed an education that was as unique as we were—one that didn’t force kids to fit a mold they were never meant to fit, one that not only allowed but also encouraged kids to express and use their differences, not hide and do away with them.

They made this decision before I was born, but its positive impact has lasted through my upbringing all the way into me becoming an adult.

I don’t know how I would’ve fared in traditional classrooms as an out-of-the-box kid. But I think perhaps I would’ve learned to conform and to hide the parts of myself God created me to use in the story He is telling with my life.

Today I am an actor, writer, and filmmaker, utilizing all of the “different” aspects I struggled with as a kid as the conduits to living out the calling God placed on my life before I was even a thought. And I have a loving, accepting, understanding, and intentional home education to thank for that.

The truth is, while my differences were louder and more easily identified

(diagnosed), every kid is “different.” And all children deserve the opportunity to discover, grow, and live out their uniqueness in an environment that doesn’t force them into cookie-cutter molds but instead revels in their unique design. ■

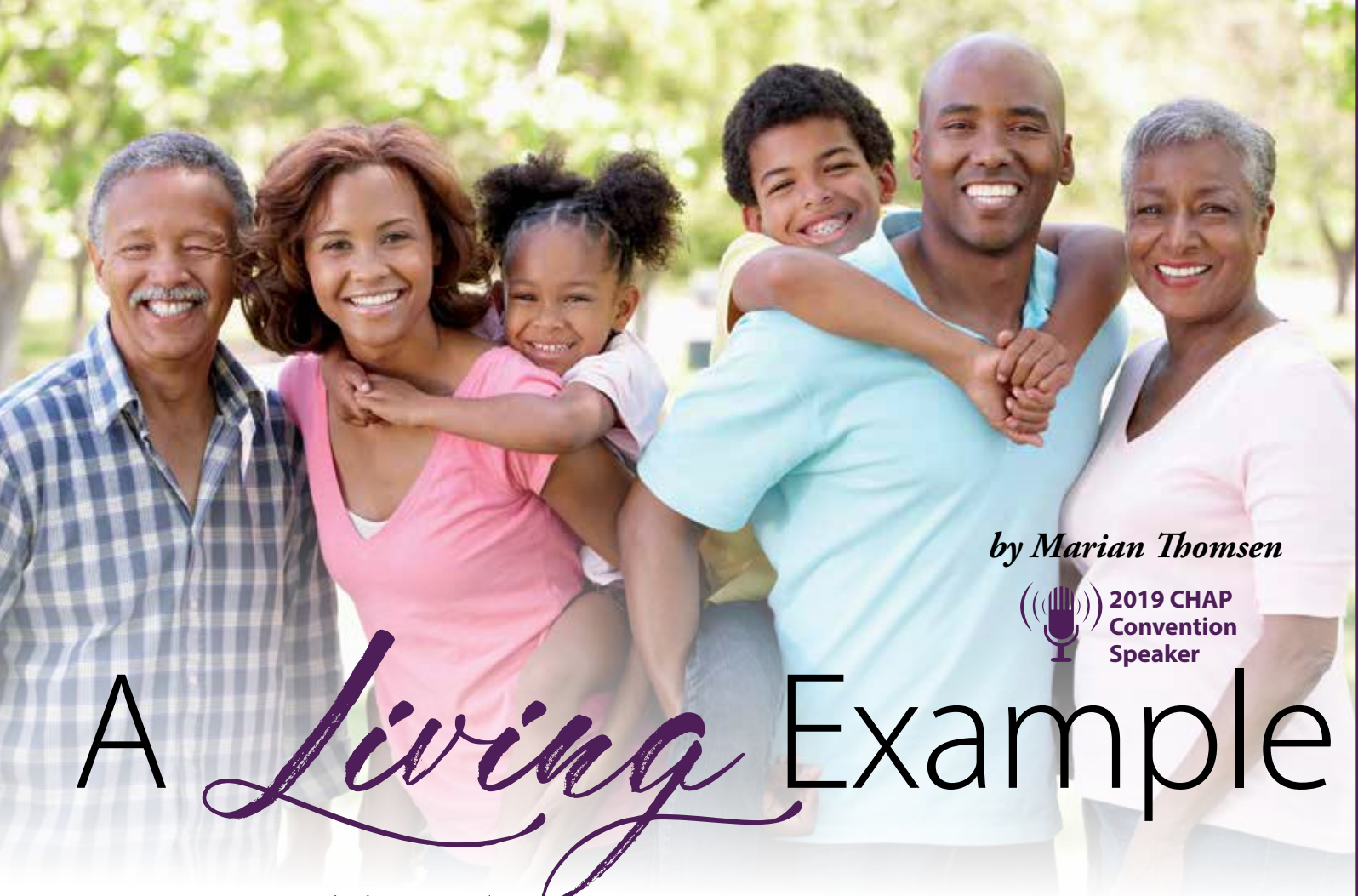


Nathan Clarkson is an actor, best-selling author, and filmmaker. For the past 10 years he has worked in the entertainment industry appearing in major motion pictures, popular TV shows, and independent films. He has also written and produced popular feature films,

such as *Confessions of a Prodigal Son*, and *The Unlikely Good Samaritan*, which have been distributed internationally and seen trending on Netflix. In 2016 Nathan released his first book, co-authored with his mother, Sally Clarkson, *Different*. The book is a memoir of Nathan’s young life, growing up as an outside-the-box kid and discovering that God uses the differences in our lives to tell the story He has for us. He just finished writing his most recent book *Good Man*, which will come out early 2020. Nathan lives between New York City and Los Angeles, pursuing the passions and dreams God has put on his heart and encouraging others to do the same through speaking and writing. Nathan often stops in his hometown of Colorado Springs, Colorado, to visit his family and his golden retriever, Darcy.

nathanclarkson.me

My mother and I wrote a book, now a bestseller—*Different: The Story of an Outside-the-Box Kid and the Mom Who Loved Him*. Take a look then write to me with your own stories, thoughts, and insights on the beauty of God creating us all, different. Also, keep a look out for our children’s picture book on the same subject, *Only You Can Be You*, coming soon.



by Marian Thomsen



My parents are both 89 years old. They love the Lord and His Word. This year, they will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary. To this day they continue to graciously welcome people into their home as they serve the Lord together.

My two sisters and I grew up with their living examples of what it means to love God with all of your heart and what it looks like to love our neighbor as ourselves. We learned firsthand what it was to be a disciple of Christ and how to help others know and grow in Christ.

I am so thankful that my parents taught by example. My parents had a daily quiet time—time alone with God in His Word and prayer. One morning when I was about 10 years old, I saw my mother having her quiet time and asked her about it. Due to her example, I started to have a quiet time too. My parents memorized God's Word and encouraged me to do the same. I can remember times when my father would ask one of my sisters or me to check him out on his memory verses as we rode in the car with him. And guess what? We soon began to memorize those verses too!

When my father was asked for help with a question, he became known for this

response: "What does the Bible say?" I saw that God's Word was our authority. He and my mother taught me how to go to God's Word for answers.

Having a daily quiet time, talking to God in prayer, studying and memorizing God's Word, and obeying God's Word, these are all things that my parents taught me not just by what they said, but far more importantly by how they lived. And since becoming parents ourselves, Kirk and I have had the privilege of passing on our love for God and His Word to our daughters. My parents' living example is impacting the next generation!

We all have the privilege of being living examples before our children. And as homeschooling parents we have a great window of opportunity. The opportunity to spend not just quality time but quantity time with our children in God's Word and prayer. Who we are and how we spend our time will not only communicate to our children what is top priority in our lives but will also influence their lives and the decisions they make.

As we come together at the 2019 CHAP Convention, let's think not only about our children, but also our children's children. What will we want our adult children and

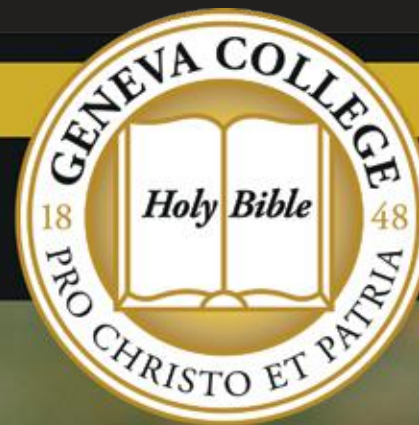
our grandchildren to be thankful for when they think of our love for God and His Word and how we passed it on to them?

One day may we wholeheartedly say what my mother is known to say: "Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory" (Psalm 115:1a, KJV). ■

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Discipleship has become an integral part of Marian's life through the influence of her parents, God's Word, and prayer. Marian has lived on four continents and has taught multiple grades in the public, private, and homeschool environment. Homeschooling their three daughters gave Marian and her husband, Kirk, the opportunity to place discipleship as priority in their daughters' education. Now Kirk, Marian, and their three daughters encourage others in discipleship through their family's ministry, Daughters of Decision.

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When I travel, I prefer to fly on Southwest Airlines. One of the reasons is that they have a sense of humor. As the plane is moving down the runway, the flight attendants take their positions throughout the cabin and give their spiel about how to buckle, where the exit rows are located, no smoking in the bathrooms, etc.

Then the person giving the instructions explains what to do if there is a loss of cabin pressure and the oxygen masks fall from the overhead compartment: "When the yellow margarine containers fall from the overhead compartment, first place the mask on yourself and then help your children."

I have thought about that vivid description many times. Our first reaction as parents would be to make sure our children have access to the flow of oxygen. It is counterintuitive to put on our own masks first. But there is wisdom in what they tell us. For if the parents are not able to breathe, they will not be able to help their children.

This principle speaks to me about how my relationship with God impacts how I relate to my wife and children. The best thing I can do as a husband and father is invest time each morning with a divine yellow margarine container over my face. This may include reading a few chapters of the Bible, being still, waiting on God, or praying for my family. As I breathe the divine air from above, I am properly equipped to help my family.

As I seek God and am refreshed, refilled, and refueled in His presence, I am divinely enabled to be a source of life and comfort to those who are nearest and dearest to me. My first responsibility as a follower of Jesus is to love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. As a husband and father, my primary calling is to love my wife and sons as Jesus has loved me. My ability to love as I have been loved flows from my own relationship with God.

For decades I have made a habit of reading Scripture daily and compassing the Bible from Genesis to Revelation each

year. I find my heart is softened as I am exposed to the inspired passages. These inspired words of life are true heart food. My faith is also increased since "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17, ESV).

After decades of loving the truth, God has been calling me to not only invest in reading and studying eternal truth, but to give equal time to developing my relationship with the living God. "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24, ESV).

These words, *in spirit and truth*, have been resonating in my heart. Each day my new habit begins with time in the Word followed by a walk around my neighborhood. I find when I am sitting in my comfy chair early in the morning, I am prone to drowsiness and distraction. When I walk (also a good source of

exercise), I am able to focus my attention on communing with God in my spirit, for the *spirit* is as essential as the *truth*.

I used to have a problem *waiting on God*, for I had not comprehended His grace or how much He truly cared for me. I am more convinced than ever that He not only loves me, but genuinely likes me. He is my Dad. He knows me intimately and still affectionately desires my presence. I know this from the source of truth, the Holy Scriptures, which say "God is for me" (Psalm 56:9, ESV). Believing God is beaming on me when I draw near to Him is a game changer and makes me want to draw near to Him.

I have been so encouraged by these special times communing with the living God, for "the Spirit gives life" (2 Corinthians 3:6, ESV). Sometimes I talk; other times I listen. This past week I prayed the prayer found in Revelation 2:11: "Give me ears to hear what the Spirit says." God faithfully meets me as I seek Him, and I am deepening my relationship with God and growing in spirit and truth.

I still smile when I fly and am told to use the yellow margarine container on myself first. As I have applied this principle, I find myself in a better state of being with God and my wife. Since every good and perfect gift comes from above, I am discovering new life, new hope, and fresh grace each day to love God and my family.

May God bless us each as we draw "water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3 ESV). ■

Steve Demme is the author of Math-U-See and the founder of Building Faith Families. In addition to his weekly podcasts, he authors a monthly newsletter and has developed other resources to strengthen and encourage parents.



buildingfaithfamilies.org

YELLOW *margarine* CONTAINER

by Steve Demme



2019 CHAP
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— TALIA



“Why Do You Just Bash Evolution?”

Editorial comments are in [].

The above is a question we [all] occasionally receive. Answering it goes to the heart of why we do what we do at Creation Ministries International [and why we say what we say as Bible-believing Christians].

CMI's Statement of Faith explicitly states these priorities:

- The scientific aspects of creation are important, but are secondary in importance to the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Sovereign, Creator, Redeemer, and Judge.
- The doctrines of Creator and Creation cannot ultimately be divorced from the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

So, we are a focused ministry [on Jesus Christ], but not in the way many think [only bashing evolution].¹

Following Scripture, CMI's mission thrust is two-fold: we give reasons *for* believing in biblical creation and reasons *against* believing in evolution. For the positive, here are some of the biblical reasons:

- Jesus Himself said: “the great and first commandment” is “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” (Matthew 22: 38, 37, ESV). Note that He doesn't expect Christians to check their brains at the church door!

- The chief apostle Peter commanded Christians: “in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15, ESV). So, we are to make a defense of our faith, which has reasons.

We also have admonitions for the negative side:

- The Apostle Paul said: “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5, ESV).

This is what the Prophets, Apostles, and Jesus Himself did frequently: destroy arguments. Often, the strongest rival belief system would be attacked because beliefs are the foundation for one's worldview.

After the Israelites came out of Egypt, the main opposition to worshipping the true God YHWH (Yahweh) was idolatry. First, many retained the idol worship of the land they had fled, and later on, they copied the Canaanite religion of worshipping many gods, including Baal.

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In a famous contest, Elijah showed up the absurd falsehoods of Baal worship (1 Kings 18:16–40). He even mocked the silliness of worshipping a nature god with ordinary limitations, like needing to sleep, couldn't hear prayers, couldn't be in two places at once, and even needing to heed the call of nature. This was a contrast to the true God who made everything and could

not be limited by anything He created—His fire even consumed vast amounts of water. This is an example of where we see both the negative and positive aspects of Elijah's arguments.

We are not told of any religious leaders who rebuked Elijah for the negative arguments, on the lines of, “Just present a positive case for YHWH worship; don't bash Baal worship. Don't claim that Baalism is a theory in crisis; there is evidence for it—gobs and gobs of it.” No, clearly God blessed Elijah's approach, I suspect because the false idolatry was leading people astray and straight to hell.

Later on, Isaiah likewise contrasted the true God with the idols (Isaiah 40–45), again with the twofold approach. For the positive, the true God who made the heavens and the earth is the First and the Last, so is not limited by time. This means that He owns the past and the future, so could tell what is to come (44:7).

Jesus makes the same claim to deity by declaring, “I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he” (John 13:19, ESV). To make it clear, Jesus even uses exactly the same language as YHWH revealed to Isaiah 43:10 as translated in the Greek Septuagint:

Hina ... pisteusēte ... hoti egō eimi
(Isaiah 43:10)

Hina pisteusēte ... hoti egō eimi (John 13:19)

“That ... you should believe ... that I am.”²

It's no accident that His enemies wanted to stone Him “for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God” (John 10:33, ESV). Jesus never corrected them for how they understood His claims, and, as we read three chapters later, He made his deity even clearer.

Isaiah used also negative arguments against idol worship. One of the most cutting is how a man plants a cedar tree then half he burns as fuel to warm himself and cook, while he fashions the remainder into an idol and prays to it for deliverance (Isaiah 44:14–20). Isaiah condemns the blindness and ignorance of such beliefs—“a deluded heart has led him astray” (Isaiah 44:20, ESV).

The prophets used both positive arguments for the true God and negative arguments against the leading competing false belief system. Today, the leading false belief system is “goo-to-you” evolution, teaching that humans are not made in God's image but are rearranged pond scum. This is an anti-God belief and the foundation for atheism. The biblical precedent clearly calls for both positive arguments for creation and negative arguments against evolution. ■

(Endnotes)

1. E. Hughes, “Is CMI only focused on one thing? Yep, and it's Jesus Christ!” February 2017; creation.com/focused-one-thing.
2. James White, The Forgotten Trinity, ch.6, Bethany House Publishers, 1998.

Dr. Sarfati is a dual citizen of Australia and New Zealand. He earned a PhD in physical chemistry from a secular NZ

university. Dr. Sarfati co-authored papers in mainstream scientific journals including one on high-temperature superconductors published in Nature when he was 22. Dr. Sarfati has authored some of the most popular and powerful books on the issues of origins, strongly defending biblical (young earth) creation and refuting the strongest arguments for evolution and “millions of years.” His first book, Refuting Evolution, has sold half a million copies, making it the best-selling creationist book of all time (apart from the Bible!). His latest and most important book is The Genesis Account, a thorough 800-page theological and scientific commentary on Genesis 1–11.



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CENTER *stage*



Allyson Jones, age 11



Elise Gingrich, age 5



Savanna Gingrich, age 8



Celene Gingrich, age 12

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Is It Dysgraphia?

One of the most common and most misdiagnosed processing problems in children is a blocked writing gate. This is the number one processing glitch in gifted children. Many of these children seem to be “allergic” to their pencil. They break out in whining as soon as they get a pencil or pen in their hand.

When we are asked to write something, our left-brain hemisphere is designed to concentrate on learning a new task, such as driving a car or riding a bike. After some concentrated practice, that task is then supposed to transfer over the brain midline into the right brain, which is responsible for the automaticity of the process. If we imagine the left hemisphere as the “concentrating brain” and the right hemisphere as the “automatic brain,” we can see how this transfer allows us to think and do at the same time. Generally, when we teach a child how to write, after six months of practice, that writing crosses over into the automatic brain hemisphere so the child can think and write at the same time. For many children, this transfer

does not easily occur. Thus, they have to expend so much more battery energy, or level of concentration, to any writing task than other children. Dr. Mel Levine in his book, *One Mind at a Time*, calls these learning blocks, “energy leaks.”

This particular blocked learning gate or “energy leak” can be called a grapho-motor processing problem, a visual-motor integration problem, a fine motor problem, or dysgraphia.

This often explains the mystery of why many children can learn their spelling words easily by writing them in a workbook or writing them five times each, and yet another child can write his words hundreds of times and still not store the spelling word in his long term memory. Now we realize that this struggling child has to use his “battery energy” just for the writing process, so the spelling words cannot be transferred into the right brain, where long-term memory is stored. Thus, the method of copying-to-learn is totally ineffective for this child.

Symptoms of Blocked Writing Gate

- Frequent or occasional reversals in letters (after age 7)
- Makes many letters from bottom to top (vertical reversals)
- Writing is very labor intensive
- Copying is poor, takes a long time...or is like artwork
- Mixes capital and small letters in writing
- Tells great stories orally, but writes very little
- Does all math problem mentally to avoid writing them down
- Experiences difficulty in lining up numbers in math
- Can't listen and take notes at the same time

Compensation

- Reduce the amount of writing a child needs to do during the day (especially workbooks). Do more answers for chapter questions orally.
- Reduce or eliminate copying for four months.
- Use another method of learning spelling words that does not include

writing in a workbook, or multiple times; for example, right-brain spelling uses a child's photographic memory to teach spelling without writing.

- Teach the child keyboarding for some writing projects. However, most children who have dysgraphia also find keyboarding quite labor intensive.

Correction— “The Hand Heals the Brain”

It is important to not just compensate for this writing glitch, but to also take steps to eliminate it, so the child can experience fluency in the writing process and take notes while listening, which is an important skill when older.

Many years ago, Dr. Getman, an optometrist, developed a unique exercise that crosses the midline, opening the child's writing gate. This exercise eliminates writing reversals, increases writing fluency, and actually rehabilitates the child's visual/spatial system, internalizing directionality. By doing this simple exercise daily for ten minutes, my students' ability to think

and write at the same time improved immensely, and they no longer needed to come into my “pull-out” language arts class for remediation. (In later years, I was also thrilled to learn that many of these students decided to major in journalism in college.) This powerful midline exercise uses the hand to heal the brain. (It will be demonstrated in the workshop “Is It Dysgraphia?” at the CHAP Convention by Pamela Gates, Certified Learning Specialist.)

A child can have a learning glitch, or block in a learning gate, that causes struggles everyday with schoolwork without parents' knowledge. Using some simple checklists, parents can identify this problem and design the school day to be less frustrating. More importantly parents can avail themselves of all the wonderful corrective techniques available, so that their child does not need to struggle with the burden of having to work so hard at writing. ■

Dianne Craft has a master's degree in learning disabilities and is a Certified Natural Health Professional. Her books—The Brain

Integration Therapy Manual and The Right Brain Phonics Reading Program—and her DVDs—

“Identifying Your Child's Processing Problem,” “Teaching the Right Brain Child,” and “Smart Kids Who Hate to Write”—and her CD set—“The Biology of Behavior”—have helped hundreds of parents and teachers remove learning blocks in their struggling children and students. Visit her website for many articles on children and learning, and to download her Free Daily Lesson Plans for Reading, Spelling, Writing & Math. Pamela Gates is a Certified Learning Specialist in the Dianne Craft “Right Brain” Learning System and is the presenter of Dianne Craft's workshops around the nation at home education conferences.

diannecraft.org



GARDENING

by Marann Jones



With CHILDREN

After two months of living in the United States, someone asked me if I was going to plant a garden. For the life of me, I did not comprehend the question. What could she mean—I already had a lovely garden comprising an acre of land? Why would I want a “garden?” Then she proceeded to tell me what she was planting in her garden, and I realized, “Oh! A vegetable garden.” Indeed, it was the perfect time of the year to start a kitchen garden—April/May.

Prior to that, we had rented a small hillside allotment in England within walking distance from our house. We would go there most afternoons—not necessarily to plant anything, rather giving the children an outlet to play in the soil. All they did was to get their hands dirty and have fun! At that time, they were too young to appreciate growing their own vegetables, more interested in digging to find creepy crawlies and amphibians. Since we were in no rush to start a kitchen garden, I used this time to introduce the children to God’s wonderful world, and when we came home, we would read all about nature.

The idea was to guide them throughout the years to create a garden without making what was fun for them a tedious, laborious work filled with discouragement. I had hoped to plant vegetables with the children in the beds they would have been making ready. But this plan was never completed because we left the United Kingdom to reside in the United States when they were still young. However, in the providence of God, we were blessed to live in the rural countryside of America with trees the children could climb, enjoying the outside with one step out of the backdoor.

Now then, back to the question I was asked regarding planting a garden. With the larger space, I decided not only to plant a vegetable garden but also to design the entire landscape, integrating it into our home education.

The first thing we did was to go back to Genesis and see the beauty of the garden and how it was that God Himself had designed the first garden with water, rocks,

plants, and animals. So we made a trip to the library and found all the books we could on gardening to enrich my personal collection. After that, I gave each child a writing pad, and we brainstormed our design around the table.

I asked them to make a list of all the vegetables they would like to eat and grow. At the same time I encouraged them to pick plants that are not too difficult to establish. Here is a partial list of what they came up with: lettuce, radishes, cucumbers, potatoes, onions, tomatoes, asparagus, and peas. (Later on as we saw the success from the first crop and as they began to enjoy the art of gardening, we added more challenging plants, such as collard greens, broccoli, cabbages, cauliflower, pumpkin, squash, peppers, watermelon, eggplant, okra, parsnip, carrots, beetroot, corn, etc.)

The next step was to get our soil tested, the results from which would give us an idea of our soil quality before we began planting. Whilst we waited for the results, we started on our garden design. I gave each child design supplies (scale ruler, triangle, tracing paper, graph paper, mechanical pencil, and the like). We came up with a lovely plan on paper and finalized ideal locations for the various gardens on the property.

We incorporated consumer math into this project to make sure our plan was functional, beautiful, and within the budget. We tried to place the vegetable garden in an area with good drainage and full sun by walking around our property and making many sketches of our existing area. We took numerous photographs, making notes of any other helpful information.

When all was ready, we began the installation process of laying out the garden and planting—not only vegetables but herbs, flowers, and fruits. We chose to garden in a raised-bed style, allowing the children to enjoy gardening instead of hating it due to myriad weeds, mud, and other problems the allotment style can have. After all, the days of playing were over, and we were now transitioning into having proper garden beds to care for.

There is so much to discover when you begin gardening with your children.

Without realizing it, they will be learning about science, art, math, botanical and horticultural practices. They will learn about nature, how to prepare the soil, when to plant, where the plants come from, and observe how they grow.

This will greatly help to cultivate children’s love for eating vegetables because when they get involved in the entire garden design process from start to finish, they will see what hard work planting the garden was and how joyful it is to enjoy the fruit of their labor and the increase from the LORD. In the long run, eating vegetables makes a healthy child and thus a healthy adult. (If what you have grown is more than enough for your family, fruits and vegetables make great gifts for others—or you may even choose to sell some of your produce.)

Growing your own vegetables is so rewarding. Not only is there a big savings on the household budget, but also the vegetables come to the table fresh from the garden, full of flavor and packed with health-giving vitamins and minerals. And in everything, remember the success of the garden comes from the Lord. ■

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Marann Jones is a landscape consultant, adult educator, wife and mother from central PA.

She spent 20+ years home educating her three children and tutoring many others with the support of her husband and a large homeschool community. Marann is a Penn State Master Gardener of Adams County, PA, holding a BS in Environmental Design and a postgraduate diploma in Landscape Design. Born in Liberia, West Africa, Marann has lived in the UK and various states in the US, and is the author of *Four Jewels in My Crown*, a book on the homeschool experience.



4jewelsbook.wordpress.com

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MINISTRIES



by Todd Wilson

Confession: I was an ungrateful kid. It wasn't that my parents were rich and had money coming out their ears that made me that way, I just never thought much about where all the money and *stuff* came from. I assumed it was their job to give me most of what I wanted if it wasn't too unreasonable or bad for me.

When I asked for a lariat for Christmas, I got one. One year it was a unicycle, another year a cowboy hat, and one year a ten speed bicycle. It was like magic—I asked and they provided.

I'm not sure it ever crossed my mind to thank them beyond: "Thanks Mom and Dad for the bike." I'm sure the thanksgiving never bubbled up from the depths of my heart. I just kind of expected them to take care of all those things, without thanks.

In fact, to this day I can hardly imagine my parents paying bills. I know they must have, and do, but I never gave it the slightest thought that they had lean times or worried if they would make ends meet. I was way too self-focused to think about such things.

That's why I'm perplexed by my children. They are truly the most appreciative and thankful people I know. They thank us for everything: "Thanks for taking us to McDonald's, Mom and Dad. . . . Thanks for letting us watch the video. . . . Thanks for getting pizza. . . . Thanks for driving to Grammy and Granddad's." And the thing is—it's heartfelt. I know that they really mean it, and it makes me feel loved and appreciated.

This leads me to YOU: I'm afraid you've become a little like me. You've forgotten about the gift you've been given—the gift of homeschooling.

I know you don't think of homeschooling as a gift from God. You see it as a duty you must perform, a service you offer to your children, a sacrifice of yourself, your last option in the school barrel, or a choice you made when you didn't know any better.

Don't feel bad because almost all homeschooling moms feel that way. I don't blame you—it's easy to lose sight in the midst of the day. Why wouldn't you? The kids are hard: they don't want to do school, and you could be doing something productive with your time instead of banging your head on the wall day after day. You could actually get a lot done, have lunch with your friends, clean your house, go shopping without being in a rush, or minister to others.

BUT here's what you would miss if your kids were in school: you'd miss those hours that you are *forced* to be together. You'd miss those precious times of laughter that come not nearly frequent enough. You'd miss sitting on the couch together caught up in a good read. You'd miss the arguing, the bickering, and the closeness that comes from being placed in the same ten square feet of space because you HAVE to be. Because you homeschool.

It's the gift. Maybe one of God's greatest gifts to a busy mom in a busy world that does everything it can to pull her family apart with distractions that demand her attention.

You have been forced into being together through the good and bad, forgetting that even the bad is the GOOD because you're together.

Your homeschooling years will pass quickly, and you'll be done before you know it, but those times of togetherness

will never be taken away from you. In your last years you will ponder those close homeschooling days in your heart. You'll forget the bickering and bad attitudes, but you will never forget the times of closeness, laughter, and warmth. And your children will remember them as well.

You've been the given the gift of homeschooling, Mom, but you've forgotten that. That kind of gift should cause us to give thanks from a truly thankful, although tired heart.

So take a few minutes right now to close your eyes, listen to the noise in the background, and thank your loving Father for giving you a gift of such eternal value—the gift of homeschooling. ■

Todd Wilson is a dad, writer, conference speaker, and former pastor. Todd's humor and down-to-earth realness have made him a favorite speaker

at homeschool conventions, retreats, and churches across the country. As founder of Familyman Ministries, his passion and mission are to remind dads and moms of what's most important through a weekly email for dads, seminars, books, and products that encourage parents. Todd and his wife, Debbie, still homeschool four of their eight children, have two grandchildren next door, and travel America in the Familyman Mobile.

familymanweb.com





SOLID

DECISIONS

*by Rebecca Farris,
The Well Planned Gal*

A mom will make, on average, over 35,000 decisions a day. Obviously, many are simple and routine. But when it comes to decisions that make an impact on our relationships, family, and schedule, how do you confidently make the right decision?

Breaking It Down

Sometimes the biggest help in a decision-making process is to realize that it can be broken down into a process. There will be times when you move through this process in a split second without consciously thinking about it. But there will also be those situations when slowing down to consciously work through the process helps you rest confidently in your choices.

Clarity of Thought

The challenge of a decision is not always caught up in how difficult the choices themselves are. Often, your mental, emotional, and spiritual health at that moment are a greater hindrance than the options themselves. When you are not healthy, even a decision as simple as what to cook for dinner can become overwhelming.

Fortunately, the method for making simple decisions in unhealthy moments also works for making complex decisions at any time: create clarity of thought.

If at any time you feel the decision being required causes your mind to race, makes your heart rate speed up, or creates confusion, step back and walk away. Take time to remove yourself from the decision and clear your head. For simple decisions, this may only require a moment or two of refocusing. Other times, though, this may mean delaying a decision for a few days. It's okay!

Either way, always allow for clarity before deciding.

Firm Boundaries

You know what it takes to keep your family healthy and strong. You know what will repeatedly conflict with your schedule and what will keep you from accomplishing the goals you have as a family. Because of this, it is important to set firm family boundaries to protect the health of your family.

Sometimes, though, a decision comes your way that challenges those boundaries.

If the decision requires you to break the boundaries you've set up to maintain a healthy family schedule and lifestyle, it is important not to be intimidated

Always remember, though, that your greatest confidence comes through the hope of Christ.

into thinking that your boundaries are frivolous or nonessential. You know your family better than anyone else.

If you know the decision is not worth breaking those boundaries, be bold enough to say *no*. If you lack that certainty, though, be brave enough to say, "Let me think about it." Step back and walk away. Most decisions of this magnitude do not require immediate answers, nor do they require that you consult with anyone outside your family. Feel free to discuss the situation with your family in private and make a decision together—without outside "help."

Remember, you know your family. Whether you choose to maintain or break your boundaries is your choice. Do not let anyone bully you into making a different choice.

Confidence

It never ceases to amaze me how little a child can be and yet have a skill set in the art of manipulation. Whether it's a grown adult or a two-year-old, we all want our own way. When you feel that your confidence in who you are or in the position you hold is being diminished, hold firm to your gut instincts and maintain your position!

If need be, intentionally surround yourself with people who will build you up and confirm your decision. If that is not an option, walk away from those who

are trying to chip away at your confidence.

Always remember, though, that your greatest confidence comes through the hope of Christ. If your decision is grounded in the clarity brought by His Spirit and is founded in the boundaries He has led you to set for your family, then rely on Him also for the confidence to hold to your decision. Rest continually in His strength and turn back to His Word for your confirmation, remembering the command of Matthew 5:37 (ESV): "Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No.'" ■

With five kids in their teen and early adult years, Rebecca shares the many ups and downs of parenting, homeschooling, and keeping it all together. As the Well

Planned Gal, she mentors women toward the goal of discovering the uniqueness Christ has created in them and their families and how to best organize and plan for the journey they will travel.

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CHAP: Behind the Scenes



**Convention
Volunteer in the
Spotlight:**
Corrine Wolf

What volunteer position/positions are you serving in?
Coordinator for the Leigh A. Genasevich Memorial Scholarship

What drew you to serve?

I was a friend of Leigh Genasevich and a witness to her incredible testimony of joy and gospel-centered life. When the first scholarship honoring her legacy was awarded, some local friends and I made sure we were there. I remember shaking the recipient's hand and letting him know I had known Leigh personally. Later CHAP had a need for someone to coordinate the scholarship application process. I felt the Lord's leading that this was great opportunity to serve CHAP while bringing a personal layer of service to the memory that my friend Leigh had on the homeschool community.

What do you enjoy about where you serve?

Each year I appreciate seeing the amazing godly potential of the scholarship applicants as they prepare to launch into their next step. I appreciate the balance of the scholarship contest in providing fair adjudication of the essays and personal assessment by the Genasevich family for the final decision. Setting up the memorial table is also a favorite time. As I display the picture of Leigh's second son Wade, I recall his graduation six weeks following his mom's passing. He stated: "Through homeschooling, I had the blessing of spending more time with my mom than most people do in a lifetime."

What would you tell others who are considering volunteer opportunities with CHAP?

Don't wait! CHAP has needs for volunteers that span a variety of commitment, time, and talent. ■



**Communications
Team Volunteer
in the Spotlight:**
Jennifer Jackson

What volunteer position/positions are you serving in?
E-News Editor

What drew you to serve?

I checked out the CHAP website one day, and I loved what I saw! I loved the mission statement, the content, the membership benefits, the discounts, the resources, and the information offered to homeschoolers and potential homeschoolers. I thought that CHAP was such an amazing organization, and I appreciated all that was available: the convention, the calendar, the magazine, the E-News, the tips, etc. When I read that CHAP was operating with the help of many volunteers, I saw it as a privilege to be a part of this association, even if only temporarily. I wanted to be able to say "Thanks for all that you do for us homeschoolers" in a tangible way.

What do you enjoy about where you serve?

I enjoy getting important and interesting information out to other homeschooling families. I also enjoy the new skills that I am able to learn and practice as I gather, organize, and edit content for the E-News. I also very much enjoy working with the communications team, who are all so friendly and professional.

What would you tell others who are considering volunteer opportunities with CHAP?

Volunteering with CHAP is a fun challenge. It is not difficult, but it does take a commitment. Although it is only a commitment of a few hours a week or month (depending on your position), I would request that you would be faithful to the commitment that you have made, as you will certainly be a valued and very important part of the team that makes CHAP run smoothly. ■



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 - Make-and-Take Busy Bags for toddlers
 - Art
 - Science
 - Photography
- FREE Friday evening concert with PHREDD (Fred McNaughton from WJTL) for all attendees
- Kids Cookie Break with WJTL Saturday morning
- Keynotes BOTH Friday and Saturday morning
- Photography contest
- Shopping only pass available Friday 2-6pm
- Don't miss the life size dinosaur in the vendor hall



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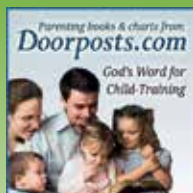


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