

# The Eclectic Report



Logo design Josiah Kopp

Volume 7 Issue 9

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October 2017

Greetings!

Pas. Jack has been routinely stepping on my toes recently. The lessons we can learn from I Timothy are apropos to the times in which we live. Some of them are hard. Hard to do, hard to hear. I'm not preaching, just reporting. How you view Paul's words to Timothy depend on what you believe about the veracity of Scripture. All true, partly true, just nice words. I reveal my bias: I believe the Bible is inspired by God, in fact, it *is* God's Word. So I am left with just two choices: it is either all true or one big fabrication from the minds of simple men. I believe it is all true! Those who know me, know I sometimes practice these truths stubbornly, reluctantly, half-heartedly, and out of compulsion. However, just because I don't practice the truths of Scripture perfectly does not mean it isn't the truth. Doesn't that allow us to be more gracious and merciful to others? (Rhetorical question.)

How does this apply to your homeschooling? Well, if you produce an academically 'qualified' student, but he doesn't love God with all his heart, soul and mind, then as a Christian parent you have failed. This is easy to remedy though it requires diligence because you (and I) are often bad examples. So true wisdom comes from observing He Who is our Example. We must keep our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. And we must teach our children to do the same. The moment they look to academic remedies, psychological mumbo-jumbo, political means, even medical mojos, without viewing all through the lens of Scripture, it is easy for wrong thinking to enter. Wrong thinking leads to wrong actions. Wrong actions lead to all kinds of heartache and long-term baggage. You can avoid this. Your children can avoid this.

Preach the Word by your life. Paul exhorts Timothy to "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of eternal life...." Paul's closing to his first letter to Timothy states, "Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge--by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith."

Grace and peace to you as you fight the good fight of faith.  
Gail M. Biby

## NDHSA State Homeschool Convention

February 15-17, 2018

Alerus Center  
Grand Forks, ND

## Cabin Fever Family Camp

January 26-28, 2018

Crystal Springs Camp

Registration is open for Cabin Fever Family Camp. Plan on attending? Contact the Sips ASAP.

[wnbsip@gmail.com](mailto:wnbsip@gmail.com)



## The View from my Window

### From Mrs. Theresa Deckert, NDHSA office administrator

The NDHSA has operated for more than 30 years because of the generous donations of our constituency. In the early years people gave out of a sense of necessity as the NDHSA diligently worked to secure homeschool freedom in our great state. We can now homeschool in North Dakota without fear of arrest or losing our children.

Because the threat is no longer as great, it is easy to think that the Association no longer needs your support. However, the opposite is true. As homeschooling has become mainstream the need for an office person and a website is crucial, yet donations have gone down significantly the last two years. The summer months show just a bit of the monthly losses. For June, July and August of 2017 our income was \$2,355 but our expenses were \$5,425. If you do the math you will see that is a loss of over \$3,000 over a 3-month period.

So how does this breakdown? Well the convention is pretty much self-sustaining. The newsletter expenses and website are covered by memberships. We were able to cover the cost of putting out the newsletter this past year, but have gone in the hole with the website hosting fee. Your membership helps to send out the monthly newsletter and pay website fees.

The office expenses are covered by donations. The donations are not keeping up with the expense however. Many phone calls and emails are answered on a daily basis. Questions come from families considering homeschooling, those who have had a problem with their district, curriculum questions, school districts with questions and legislators who are wondering about homeschooling.

The NDHSA operates very frugally as you can see by the expenses above. These expenses represent salaries for three part-time staff people for 3 months along with other incidentals.

What can you do? First of all consider renewing your membership or becoming a member if you have not already done so. This will give you 10% off on convention registrations and access to the member portion of the website. Secondly, consider a one-time donation to the NDHSA or possibly commit to donating monthly. All donations are tax deductible.

Let me thank you in advance. Together we can work to keep homeschooling a strong, viable educational choice in North Dakota!





## BOARD COLUMN

### Preparing for the Next Legislative Session



By Ken Knight, North Dakota Home School Association

Even though 2018 is not a legislative year, there's much we can do to make the next legislative session advance homeschool freedoms.

#### PRAY

The first thing we need to do is pray. Pray for North Dakota's homeschooling families. Without God's help, we cannot prosper.

#### JOIN

Second, if you haven't already done so, join and get active in a local support group. Go on field trips, join the choir, attend special meetings and participate! Get the encouragement and strength you need from others in the group and don't be afraid to encourage and strengthen others as well. Strong homeschool families build strong support groups which create a strong statewide organization which produces a strong influence on homeschool legislation. Next, if you're not already a member, **join the NDHSA**. It was members of the NDHSA who banded together to break the chains of legal oppression and gave us the homeschool freedoms we now hold dear. North Dakota is still one of the most highly regulated states for homeschooling and without your membership and participation, the state organization cannot continue to make progress in attaining legislative freedom. Without continued vigilance and ongoing work the legislature will revoke the freedoms we have already gained. Next, if you're not already a member, **join HSLDA**. This organization stood by our side and significantly enhanced our effectiveness in developing legislative freedom. You may not need their help now, you may never need their help, but if you do need them, the experience and legal expertise of these advocates will be of immeasurable help.

#### PRAY

Third, pray! Pray for those support group leaders who labor on your behalf. Pray for the board of directors of the NDHSA. Pray for the ministry and court cases of HSLDA.

#### COMMUNICATE

Fourth, communicate. Communicate with our legislators. Encourage those homeschool dads who have sacrificially committed to representing us in the state government. Participate in their campaigns. Assure legislators who support homeschooling that you are behind them and tell them what issues concern you. Visit your local legislators who are not homeschool friendly. Let them meet your children. Be a positive example of the homeschooling community.

#### PRAY

Fifth, pray! Pray for the homeschool dad's whom God has seen fit to put in the legislative assembly, that they would be persuasive in getting other legislators to support homeschool freedom. Pray for the legislators who oppose homeschool freedom that God would touch their hearts and bring them to our side.

#### PREPARE

Sixth, prepare. Be prepared by reading and knowing the North Dakota homeschool law. An annotated copy of the law is available to NDHSA members on the website. Prepare to attend the Homeschool Day at the Capitol. Prepare to give written or oral testimony for homeschool bills.

#### PRAY

Seventh, pray! Pray for God's guidance in choosing the legislative issues He wants us to address. Pray for patience and understanding. Our homeschool freedom wasn't attained in one session. In North Dakota, homeschool liberty has been gained in small significant steps. Finally, pray and ask God if He would have you run for some political office.

Krisa Winn  
Krisa Winn  
HSLDA SPECIAL NEEDS  
CONSULTANT



### Motivating the Reluctant Learner

You've got the homeschool room prepared. You've purchased curriculum. The school supplies are ready. But do you have the most important component of a successful school year—a motivated learner? If your answer is no, then please read on. This month, we are going to explore the idea of curiosity and how it can be used to awaken the reluctant learner. [Tell me more about inspiring a love of learning »](#)

Laurie Morstad is collecting **Box Tops for Education** for the NDHSA. Send clipped labels to:  
Laurie Morstad  
9175 80<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Hampden, ND  
58338

Be sure to check  
for expiration  
dates.



Jacob Schulz is an 8th grader and homeschooled in North Dakota. He prepared the following for presentation at the 4-H communication arts contest. WOW! You can learn a few things from this astute young man.

<https://www.theamericanview.com/the-law-of-the-land/>

David Barton interview:

<https://wallbuilderslive.com/8th-grader-constitution/>



## The Old Schoolhouse Magazine [www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com](http://www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com)

The summer issue (paper-based) was filled with a wide variety of information. One of the articles dealt with "Homeschool Methods and Styles", compiled by Deborah Wuehler, Senior Editor. It is always good to occasionally review our methods/styles.

### **The Distinguished Charlotte Mason Method** by Karen Andreola

This method is described as "using the Bible and 'living books,' as schoolbooks. Living books are often written by one author who enthusiastically shares his favorite subject with us. With living books, children gain knowledge through the Holy Spirit's enlightenment and their own effort. Children educate themselves by narrating from the well-chosen words of author. With living books children are motivated by love of knowledge rather than artificial stimulants such as prizes, competition, and grades." [www.charlottesmason.com](http://www.charlottesmason.com)

### **Relaxed Homeschooling** by Mary Hood, Ph.D.

This method "isn't as much a philosophy, or even a method, as it is a mindset and lifestyle. One of the major tenets of relaxed homeschooling is to have individual relationships with your kids." Dr. Hood states, "There are two things necessary ... a basic schedule for the day ... a clearly delineated set of written goals." The purpose of both is to prevent laziness or chaos from developing. [www.archersfortheLord.org](http://www.archersfortheLord.org)

### **The Unit Study Method** by Nancy Fileccia

This is a method of "themed topic teaching. All areas of learning--Bible, history, science, health, and the arts--center around a chosen topic. The goal ... is to provide resources and opportunity for development of new interests." Mrs. Fileccia states that the "brilliant part is the ease of education of all ... at the same time on the same subject." [www.ajourneythroughlearning.net](http://www.ajourneythroughlearning.net)

### **Delight-directed Learning** by Marcy Crabtree

A "love for learning is the goal" of this method. The parent "does less teaching, more facilitating." Further, Mrs. Crabtree states, her job is "to provide the tools and materials he needs to learn about the things that interest him." The parent must also "make sure that he meets the necessary requirements for college." Visit her blog at: [benandme.com](http://benandme.com)

### **The Sense of Classical Education** by Leigh Bortins

Simply put Mrs. Bortins states, "The aim of classical education is to form children into adults who pursue truth, prefer goodness, and proliferate beauty." [www.classicalconversations.com](http://www.classicalconversations.com)

### **Online Education** by Crystal Marcum and Tammie Bairen

This is exactly what it says and the options are numerous. Tips from Marcum and Bairen: use the right search criteria; use curriculum that fits your student's need; search for product reviews. [SchoolhouseTeachers.com](http://SchoolhouseTeachers.com)



## **Olivia Nellermoe Accepted at Air Force Prep Academy**

Thank you, Julie Nellermoe for sending the following:

**Olivia Nellermoe**, 2017 home school graduate from West Fargo, has been accepted at the United States Air Force Academy Prep Year in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and reported for duty July 19, 2017

There are 1200 students from around the United States who are offered a position as freshman at the Academy and only 240 more who are offered a position at the Prep School. She plans on applying to the Air Force Academy next year.

Olivia was a member of JROTC, at West Fargo High School, for 4 years and worked herself up the ranks to become the Battalion Commander her senior year. She was also President of the West Fargo Police Explorers- a youth group sponsored by the West Fargo Police Department for those interested in learning more about law enforcement. Way to go, Olivia! And Dad and Mom, too!

### **Visit our website TODAY!**

Updated HS PKTs, ND Guide to Home School High School, Monitors' INFO PKT, Superintendents' INFO PKT. Can't access everything? Then you need to join the NDHSA. It's easy, it's inexpensive, it's necessary to continue services, information, conventions, support group assistance, state and federal tracking of legislation, and more. [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

### **NASA's Hubble Space Telescope Exhibit Launches at State Museum**

The temporary exhibition, free and open to the public through June 5, 2018, immerses visitors in the magnificence and mystery of the Hubble mission. A scale model of Hubble is the focal point. Visitors will learn how the telescope works and about Hubble's contributions to the exploration of planets, stars, galaxies, and the universe.

The exhibit contains images and data taken from Hubble of planets, galaxies, black holes, and other celestial objects. Visitors can also learn about the different wavelengths of light by viewing objects in ultraviolet, visible, and infrared light. For information about the Hubble exhibit at the State Museum, visit [statemuseum.nd.gov/exhibits/hubble](http://statemuseum.nd.gov/exhibits/hubble). For information about the James Webb Space Telescope, visit [jwst.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://jwst.gsfc.nasa.gov). For NASA information about the Hubble Space Telescope, visit [hubble.nasa.gov](http://hubble.nasa.gov).

The North Dakota Heritage Center is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For additional programs sponsored by the State Historical Society of North Dakota, go to [statemuseum.nd.gov/events](http://statemuseum.nd.gov/events).

## **The College Search and Application Process**



From HSLDA High School Consultants, Carol and Diane.

As the school year begins, many parents have questions about the college application process and how to narrow the college search among so many options. We want to help you start this process early, keep on track each year, and finish with confidence. If your teen is a senior this year and applying to college is at the top of the to-do list, then you will find this information timely. This process includes choosing a college prep academic plan, investigating prospective colleges, updating documentation yearly, and applying to colleges. [Tell me more about applying to colleges >>](#)

### **Another reason to begin or continue homeschooling:**

*Overruled: Government Invasion of Your Parental Rights*

Showing @ [OverruledMovie.com](http://OverruledMovie.com).

### **And then there's this:**

Mary Pride's magazine, *Practical Homeschooling*, September/October 2017, mentions some of the coming trends in education. Included are:

- The increased use of digital media, including virtual reality, augmented reality, and gamification
- Increased pressure by the largest educational companies for schools to use their data-capturing software [Ed. remark: snooping and recording]
- Emphasis on "social-emotional learning" or SEL, and what this means for children in schools and homeschools
- The "P21" preschool-to-grad-school-career-and-beyond complex and its push for more government and corporate tracking and control of individual students.

[www.home-school.com](http://www.home-school.com)

## JOIN!

What? You are not a member family of the NDHSA yet? It matters. Maybe you won't be in desperate need of our services, but your membership allows the staff and association to continue to write, research, lead support group workshops, make contacts with school districts, keep up to date on national homeschool issues, plan and coordinate statewide conventions, answer questions and provide guidance, and much more. Go to [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) and join today.

**Yes, it really does matter.**

### Financial UPDATE:

August income: \$635

August expenses: \$1823.55



**The Saint John's Bible Exhibition *Illuminating the Word*** begins October 1 at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead. It is the first complete handwritten Bible commissioned by a Benedictine monastery in 500 years (see [www.thesaintjohnsbible.org](http://www.thesaintjohnsbible.org)). We have been selected as one of the sites to host original folios before they are bound into books and stop touring. The documents offer a breathtaking visual experience through their artwork creating an exciting addition to any curriculum.

We welcome homeschoolers to experience these spectacular works and are hosting a special day of events just for homeschool groups October 9. Students will be able to view the exhibit, experience calligraphy, and possibly bookmaking in some mini workshops. Tours of the Stave Church and Viking Ship will also be offered rounding out a full day of education.

You are invited to schedule a tour anytime we are open. We offer discounted group rates for groups larger than 10 people.

For more information contact:

Maureen Kelly Jonason, Executive Director  
Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County  
202 1st Ave. N.  
Moorhead, MN 56560-1985 218-299-5511, Ext. 6732

### NDHSA Board of Directors

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director 701.730.4159 [tkdurham@centurylink.net](mailto:tkdurham@centurylink.net)



### NDHSA Statement of Faith

We believe in Almighty God, the Author of all creation, eternally existing in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; the Bible as the inspired, infallible, written Word of God, complete in 66 books and our sole basis of faith and practice; the fallen state of man, guilty by nature and by act and therefore condemned before God; the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, except without sin, the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins, His visible bodily resurrection demonstrating His power over death and sin, His personal return; and regeneration by God, the Holy Spirit when we accept His free gift of salvation by His grace, through our personal faith, and not by any works we can do.

### Mission statement

To provide a comprehensive home education information system to support, train and protect every willing North Dakota individual, family and church in the methods of privately funded, parent-directed home education.

### NDHSA Statement of purpose

1. Encouraging and assisting Christian families in the education of their children according to Biblical principles;
2. Providing to home educators and the general public information pertaining to the Biblical, academic and legal aspects of home education;
3. Entering into activities, in filling out contracts necessary, incidental or beneficial to the accomplishment of the nonprofit purposes of this corporation.

### The Eclectic Report

Gail M. Biby, editor

*The Eclectic Report* is published monthly by the NDHSA and is provided free to anyone who asks. The NDHSA is a Christian 501(c)(3) organization funded by the gifts and memberships of interested parties. No substantial part of the activities of the NDHSA is used for the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, promote any political campaign, or on the behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Legal issues are for instructive purposes only and do not constitute the giving of legal advice. If you need legal advice concerning homeschooling, contact Daniel Beasley, Home School Legal Defense Association attorney of reference for North Dakota, if you are a member family, or contact an attorney familiar with homeschool law. Any comments or opinions are those of the editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NDHSA board or staff members. Bylined articles ditto! Advertisements likewise. If you have something that may be of interest to homeschoolers, or if you have comments or corrections, send them to the editor at [billbiby@msn.com](mailto:billbiby@msn.com).

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 26 years. She serves on the advisory board for Lamplighter Publishing, writes a women's newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry and Metropolitan Prison Pen Pals Ministry. She and her husband Bill are recipients of the 2017 NDHSA Homeschool Pioneer Award. Contact her at: [billbiby@msn.com](mailto:billbiby@msn.com) She has been blessed beyond measurability and once had a very long bucket list.

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## PRAY with us and FOR us!

**ASK** God to continue to give wisdom in all governance affairs of the NDHSA to our board of directors: **Ken & Llor Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham.** Pray they will be strengthened and encouraged by the Lord to continue faithfully in the work God has given them.

**PRAY** for board members as they attend HSLDA national conference.

**PRAY** for your support group families during the 2017-2018 school year. Volunteer!

**PRAY** for NDHSA finances. Maybe God is asking you to do something about it. Then do it.

**INTERCEDE** for those struggling with loss, lack of diligence, even disobedience. Help them if you can.

**PRAISE** God for Home School Legal Defense Association and for our attorney of reference, Daniel Beasley.

**ASK GOD** for resilience to weather the storms of life.

**Continue to REMEMBER** in prayer those thinking about giving up ... on life, on homeschooling, on marriage, on church.

**Praise** the LORD for good friends ... and be one!

**PRAY** for your Pastor and his family. Encourage, support, and assist them as the Lord leads. No whining now, dear ones. Bless him every chance you get!

**INTERCEDE** for homeschooling dads, that God will strengthen their resolve and show them how to lead and participate with devotion and grace.

**REMEMBER** these words of Jesus, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." John 7:37-38

**PRAY** for those in prison. It is a hard life for Christians.

**Casting all your care upon Him;  
for He careth for you. I Peter 5:7**

Practice will make us perfect in this. It will become natural to us to cast our care at once upon our Lord, instead of carrying it for a while ourselves, until tired out we turn to Him to find the rest that might have been ours at the beginning.

He cares for us. He who has loved *will* love; He who has led *will* lead; He who has kept *will* keep.

*Amy Carmichael, Whispers of His Power*