

# The Eclectic Report



Logo design Josiah Kopp

Volume 7 Issue 11 Editor: Gail M. Biby [billbiby@msn.com](mailto:billbiby@msn.com)

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Greetings!

I use to really love Christmas--family, cooking, baking, gifts, cards, multi-colored strings of lights, reading the *real* Christmas story, caroling in the snow, vacation from the normal activities of daily living. Maybe it is a change in me or in my perspective. I still adore CHRIST; I love that He was incarnated; I celebrate His earthly birth, visit, and ministry. But for me the real glory is that He came to die. He came to die. He knew His purpose. And He came to die. So I find myself looking forward much more to Resurrection Sunday than I do to Christmas day. Because His death led to eternal life for all who believe. And it wasn't just His death. There are plenty of religions with dead prophets. It is CHRIST'S RESURRECTION that makes all the difference.



The hard lessons I am learning in life have a lot to do with dying. The more I realize that the true disciple of Jesus must die to self every day-every moment of every day-the more I admire, reverence and stand in awe of Christ's mission. He emptied Himself--how else could He come as a baby? He relinquished something (it's more than I am able to understand) in order to become the last Adam. The price He paid for our salvation is too deep for me to grasp. And all was set in order before the foundation of the world. I hope I will still be in awe of these truths as I someday escape this mortal coil and fly away.

Yes, Christmas is a wonderful time for family and friends and all that goes with the celebration, but remember, it was with a difficult purpose in mind that the Lord Most High set it all in motion.

I will be praying for us all that we will everyday deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow hard after Jesus. We can be His disciples because He came to earth one starry night as a baby ... a baby!

Blessed CHRISTmas greetings to all!  
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.

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



## The View from my Window



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

This week I was visiting with a friend whose son is a dean in a Christian college. She said he had recently gone to China to recruit students – specifically homeschool graduates. Apparently in China you can homeschool, but your child may not attend college if homeschooled. In China your life will be hampered without a college education. These families must count the cost.

This reminds me of the early days of homeschooling in North Dakota when parents also counted the cost. If they chose to pursue this - then illegal - form of education, they risked losing their children, facing fines and possibly even jail time.

During those difficult days many left our state in order to be able to homeschool their children without fear of repercussions, but many stayed and fought the fight for our freedom. Some moved their wives and children to a neighboring state while court proceedings progressed. Many were fined.

I am so glad my friend shared with me the plight of parents in China. It is a reminder to pray for those who do not have the freedom to homeschool their children or who are fighting for that right.

It is also a reminder for us all to be thankful for the progress we have made legislatively. North Dakota is a state that is slow to change, but each of us can now legally homeschool without the threat of losing our children or going to jail.

As we celebrate this holiday season, remind your children that freedom is never free and offer a prayer of thanks for God's grace toward us!





## CONVENTION UPDATES

From convention coordinator Karol Kapelle  
[kapklan@gondtc.com](mailto:kapklan@gondtc.com)

Before you get caught up in Christmas preparations, will you take a moment to check out **ONLINE CONVENTION REGISTRATION**? We are so excited to offer this new service provided by the Grand Forks Convention and visitors Bureau. It is being offered at no extra charge to you or the NDHSA. So there will be **no added fees**.

To use this service simply log on to <https://visitgrandforks.com/meeting/participants>. Find “**2018 North Dakota Home School Convention**” in the drop-down box. Then enter the **Username: HomeSchool** and the **Password: 2018**. This will take you to the registration page. Fill out the information and pay via credit card. It is as easy as that! Notice several of the field questions require an answer even if they don't apply to you. Just enter the “\$0 None” selection.

Online registration is **open immediately**. If you choose to register via paper and snail mail, registration forms will be on the NDHSA website soon ([www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)) and will also be available in the pre-conference booklet that will be mailed in early January.

Also please consider booking your hotel rooms EARLY. Grand Forks area hotels fill quickly due to a myriad of sports activities in the area. There are **blocks of rooms** for the NDHSA at the Canad Inn, Sleep Inn and My Place hotels. Information is available at [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

We look forward to a great convention. **Please spread the word** (via social media, too!) and invite other homeschoolers ... especially those new to the convention. Thanks so much for helping us to assist, equip and encourage families in our homeschooling community.



### Teaching Tip

From Carrie Austin, Heart of Dakota Publishing

Laundry may seem like an odd topic to include on our teaching tip day, but I must say that laundry can really interfere with teaching by taking up needed space for "school" and overtaking our house! So, I'll just share a tip that may get you thinking of how to address laundry at your house. As our family has grown, we've discovered that the sorting of whose clothes belong to whom can really take time and slow down the folding process. So, we've found it's easier to just keep the laundry a bit more separated from start to finish. To do this, each of our bedrooms has a laundry hamper, which reduces the amount of mixing of clothes among family members. We also schedule our laundry to be done in smaller chunks each day to keep it more manageable. So, at our house, Monday is our littlest guy's laundry day. Tuesday is our 10 year old's laundry day. Wednesday is the day for my hubby and my laundry and is also towel day. Thursday is for our oldest two sons' laundry day (because they share a room). Friday is the overflow day to finish the older two's laundry from Thursday as needed. Saturday and Sunday we have off from laundry.

Everyone just brings their own laundry downstairs in their hamper on their designated day. The person whose laundry it is also helps fold and put away on their day, as they know better where their own clothes go! Of course, we all pitch in to help fold and put away when we are in a hurry. Having a plan for your laundry may really free you up from the feeling like the laundry is never really done. Try making a laundry plan and see what you think!

[Request our New 2017/2018 Catalog!](#)

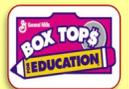
### A Heart of Rebellion

By Chuck Black

[Thanksgiving] week is a good week to remind us to be thankful for the goodness of God. Now on the back side of raising children, I hope to share some encouragement with you Dads and Moms still in the trenches of parenting. It is hard but noble work. I am thankful for all of you that are pouring your lives into raising children that love God and are committed to seeing this through. Here is an article I wrote regarding a few challenging days...[A Heart of Rebellion](#).

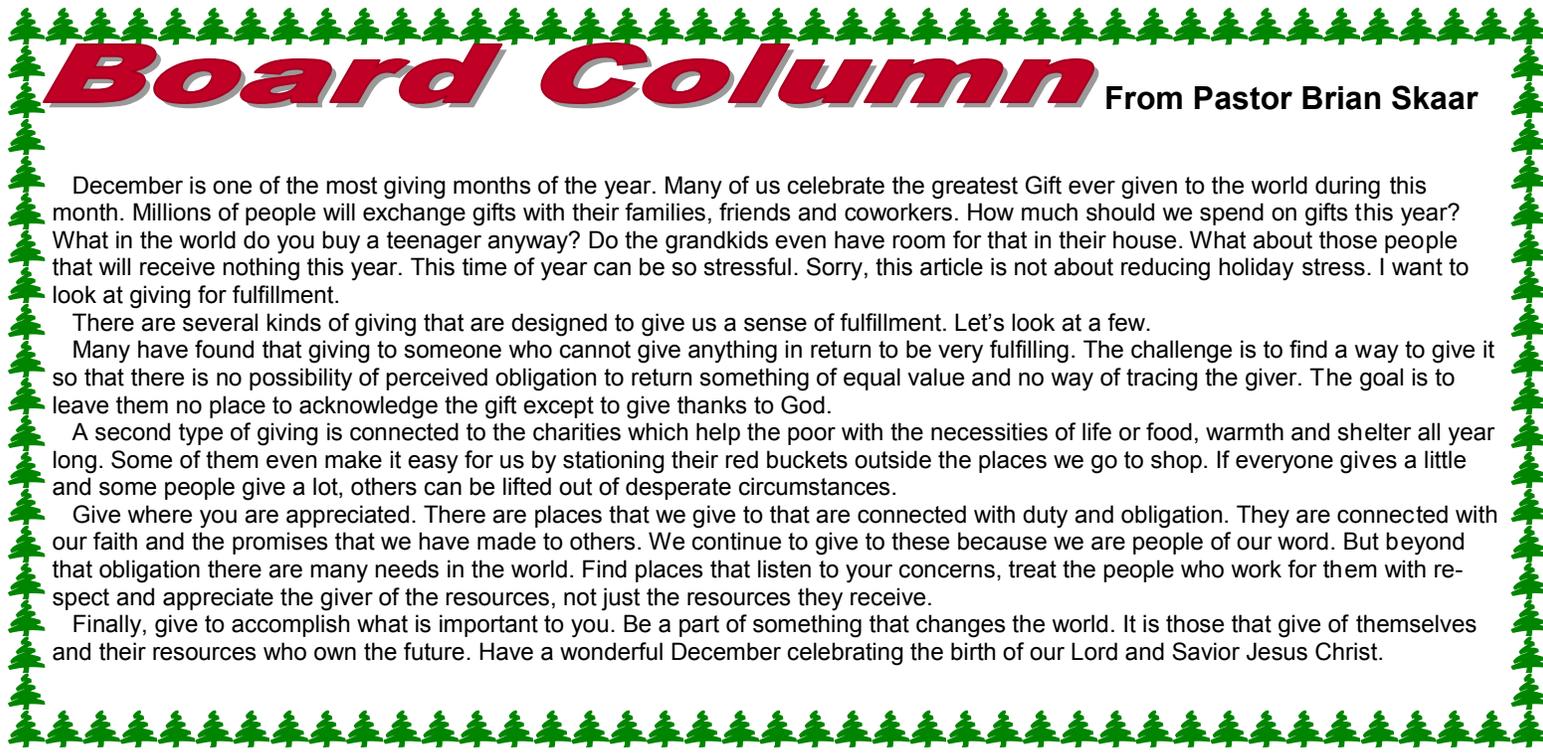
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Interested in learning more about the testing brouhaha? Follow this link: <http://www.fairtest.org>



# Board Column From Pastor Brian Skaar

December is one of the most giving months of the year. Many of us celebrate the greatest Gift ever given to the world during this month. Millions of people will exchange gifts with their families, friends and coworkers. How much should we spend on gifts this year? What in the world do you buy a teenager anyway? Do the grandkids even have room for that in their house. What about those people that will receive nothing this year. This time of year can be so stressful. Sorry, this article is not about reducing holiday stress. I want to look at giving for fulfillment.

There are several kinds of giving that are designed to give us a sense of fulfillment. Let's look at a few.

Many have found that giving to someone who cannot give anything in return to be very fulfilling. The challenge is to find a way to give it so that there is no possibility of perceived obligation to return something of equal value and no way of tracing the giver. The goal is to leave them no place to acknowledge the gift except to give thanks to God.

A second type of giving is connected to the charities which help the poor with the necessities of life or food, warmth and shelter all year long. Some of them even make it easy for us by stationing their red buckets outside the places we go to shop. If everyone gives a little and some people give a lot, others can be lifted out of desperate circumstances.

Give where you are appreciated. There are places that we give to that are connected with duty and obligation. They are connected with our faith and the promises that we have made to others. We continue to give to these because we are people of our word. But beyond that obligation there are many needs in the world. Find places that listen to your concerns, treat the people who work for them with respect and appreciate the giver of the resources, not just the resources they receive.

Finally, give to accomplish what is important to you. Be a part of something that changes the world. It is those that give of themselves and their resources who own the future. Have a wonderful December celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Educators' perceptions of homeschooling: Adulation, Marginalization or Indifference? Looking for parent educators to participate!

Home school parents/teachers are urged to participate in this important research project. Contact **Ruth Zacher** for more information at : [crzacher@gmail.com](mailto:crzacher@gmail.com) or call 701.898.3093. Your participation matters. Hoping for 25-50 participants to complete a very short answer questionnaire.

Ruth Zacher who is a former homeschool Mom and public school teacher. She is currently doing her Master's in Education on homeschooling in ND. Contact her today.

## How Many Homeschooled are there in NORTH DAKOTA?

### Homeschool Numbers in ND

For the 2017 school year the Department of Public Instruction reports 98,022 students in grades 1 – 12 in ND. They report 3,013 homeschool statements of intent (SOIs) filed. This number does not include children under age 7 or over age 16 as well as any child removed and homeschooled mid year and thus not making the reporting deadline. Each school district is required by law to report the number of SOIs filed annually.

### March 2017 ACT Scores for ND

This includes all juniors who took the test, however, the DPI allows students who test poorly to take the WorkKeys or the ND State Assessment test instead and thus are not included in the scores.

**Public school students: 19.48**  
**Private school students: 21.56**  
**Homeschooled students: 23.9**  
12 private schools reported and 139 public schools, excluding Four Winds.

SOI Filings	
2016-17	3,013
2015-16	2,830
2014-15	2,720
2013-14	2,349
2012-13	2,029
2011-12	1,869

The North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo), through their affiliate, the Institute of Local Government (ILG) has announced **SIX \$2,000 scholarships** will be awarded to children or grandchildren of county employees and appointed or elected county officials. To qualify, students must have a parent or grandparent currently employed by a county, including elected and appointed officials or other full-time county employees. The student must be enrolled for the 2018-2019 school year at an accredited North Dakota college or technical school.

The application **deadline is Friday, June 8, 2018**. Winners will be announced within 30 days of the deadline, and will be invited to accept their honor at the NDACo Annual Conference in October.

The scholarship application is available at [www.ndaco.org/scholarship](http://www.ndaco.org/scholarship) or by contacting the NDACo office in Bismarck at 1-800-932-8730 or by e-mail at [ndaco@ndaco.org](mailto:ndaco@ndaco.org). For more info contact Jeff Eslinger, Communications Manager at (701) 328-7332 or [jeff.eslinger@ndaco.org](mailto:jeff.eslinger@ndaco.org).



### 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, [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

This was sent to the editor by a legislative friend. She saw the irony in it, too! :-)  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/13/children-losing-ability-hold-conversation-technology-wimpy-kid/>  
Remember when "homeschool kids" were not-fully-socialized?



If you are interested in teaching Creation Science in your homeschool but don't know where to start for resources, contact me at [billbiby@msn.com](mailto:billbiby@msn.com). I will gladly share a list of my myriad resources.

## Farmer Fisherman Will Make a Trade

Maybe I am not the only one thinking of summer. Christian homeschooling father of five, Kion Hoffman of Deer River, MN, is thinking about it, too!

Here is a note from him:

Once the crops are growing well, how would you like to take a vacation at a gorgeous log lake home on a beautiful crystal clear lake in northern Minnesota? Enjoy sailing, skiing, swimming and fishing or how about a 5-day guided wilderness canoe trip adventure in Ontario?

My two boys and my brothers love to pheasant hunt and would like to find someone who has farmland and is willing to trade the privilege of hunting on their land for a summer vacation.

Interested in these possibilities? Contact Kion Hoffman at: [kiohoffman@live.com](mailto:kiohoffman@live.com) or call 218.246.2553.



## 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 state-wide 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:

**October income: \$2,656**

**October expenses: \$2,130.88**

(Increase in income due primarily to convention fees.) **Year-end giving is a great way to say 'thank you!'**

## NDHSA Board of Directors

- ~Ken Knight, president & Llor Knight, W region spt.grp. coordinator 701.880.6126 [knight\\_publishing@hotmail.com](mailto:knight_publishing@hotmail.com)
- ~Pas. Jeff Kapelle, director & Karol Kapelle, convention coordinator 701.262.4446 [kapkian@gondtc.com](mailto:kapkian@gondtc.com)
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- ~Troy Durham, conv. vendor hall coordinator & Kristin Durham, conv. art exhibit 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.

NDHSA P.O. Box 1066 Devils Lake, N.D. 58301 701.662.6347 [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)  
[office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org)

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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 those who are struggling with health issues that we may realize that God works for good in the midst of imperfect health. Pay attention to His working.

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

**PRAY** for NDHSA finances. God has provided for decades, He is providing, He will provide. Ask Him if He wants to use you.

**INTERCEDE** for those experiencing indescribable loss of a loved one. God alone is the Answer for all Comfort!

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

**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. Imagine having to oversee such an unruly mob of sheep!

**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.

**PRAY** for the Magnus family as they learn to go on without husband, father, brother Warren.

**... whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.**

**Philippians 4:8**