

# THE ECLECTIC REPORT

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## Editor's Musings:

Greetings,

How blessed we are in America.

Not sure about that? Check out some of the national news sources, the ones that give you information on the killing of Christians in Nigeria, the grave troubles in China, the freedom fighters in Hong Kong, the churches being burned in many parts of Africa, droughts and floods, starvation in Venezuela, and much more--enough to spur you on to pray for these places and peoples. And more than enough to fill your hearts with gratitude.

We are blessed in America. I could make a list as long as my jiggling arm that includes all the ways we are blessed of God in this land.

Does this mean we are living in utopia? Hardly. We certainly have many challenges in our great land, but when I think of the horrors occurring around the world (especially to Christians) it is easy for me to be overwhelmed with thankfulness to our Great God and Saviour for His benevolence to America. We have not earned it. We do not deserve it. We are recipients of His grace and mercy.



We are blessed. We are blessed, indeed!

Grace and peace,  
Gail M. Biby

*Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.*  
Psalm 95:2

**March 5-7, 2020**  
**NDHSA Convention**  
**Jamestown, ND**  
**Keynote:**  
**Chuck Black**



## The VIEW from my WINDOW

By Theresa Deckert NDHSA Office Administrator



We had a great time in Williston for the 2nd Western Dakota Home School Round-up. We did not have a large crowd, but that made for a wonderful time of fellowship and getting to know those who did attend!

Chuck Black was our keynote and had some very encouraging words for us. Llorra Knight, Kathy Miller and Theresa Deckert were the other presenters. Workshops were *Getting Started in ND*, *Developing Discernment in Your Child*, *Preparing Transcripts*, *Teaching Multiples*, *Leaving the Classroom Mentality*, *CLEP/Dual Credit*, *Courageous Fatherhood* and a panel of seasoned homeschool moms for a time of Q & A and encouragement.

This mini-conference gave western North Dakota homeschoolers a taste of what our annual state convention offers. This year we will be featuring many of our own state speakers and **North Dakota's own Chuck Black as our keynote.**

Please save the date and join us March 5 – 7 in Jamestown for our annual convention. This has always been my go-to-place for new ideas and much needed encouragement!

**JOIN today at [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)**

**AMAZON Smile** During the holidays when you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) you can generate AmazonSmile donations for the North Dakota Home School Association.

**The NDHSA is a 501c3 non-profit. We rely on memberships and donations to keep operating.**



## NEW RELEASE

Chuck Black is pleased to announce his new book, *Nova*, will release on December 5 of this year! *Nova* is the first book in a whole new series called *The Starlore Legacy*, a biblical science fiction allegory! Pre-order the book at [www.perfect-praise.com](http://www.perfect-praise.com) or [www.ChuckBlack.com](http://www.ChuckBlack.com) beginning Black Friday.



A family recently contacted an NDHSA board member with a complaint. Not about us, but about the rules regarding driver's education in ND. They used the Rules of the Road curriculum for driver's education. It included worksheets, quizzes, 60 hours driving time and more. See following link: <https://www.worldcat.org/title/rules-of-the-road/oclc/276879014>

They were told at the department of motor vehicles' office in Bismarck that the course is not on "The List" and therefore unacceptable. The program was not approved by the DOT for driver's education in North Dakota.

I sent an inquiry to the DOT asking them to review the program for inclusion on the 'approved' list. I wait with bated breath for their timely response. I'll let you know if I ever hear from them. Putt, putt!



## Williston School District Attempts to Add to Homeschool Requirements

### From Theresa Deckert, NDHSA office administrator:

I have been fielding questions from homeschoolers in the Williston district about providing proof of residence. The district requires all public school families provide proof of residence. This year they are saying their new policy requires the same of homeschoolers. They are stating it is not state law, but it is district policy and they are refusing to accept statements of intent unless two pieces of proof are also presented. Those unfamiliar with state law are complying, but others who have homeschooled a number of years are questioning the legality of this. It appears this is only happening to those who personally deliver their statements of intent, but maybe once school is in full swing those who mailed theirs will receive notification. Can a district make demands beyond the scope of state law as a policy for homeschoolers?

### Response from Daniel Beasley, North Dakota's Home School Legal Defense Attorney of reference:

Such a policy is unenforceable. The district does not have the authority to "disapprove" of a home education program based on an arbitrary requirement not referenced in ND law. Compulsory attendance requirements do not apply to a "child receiving home education." Thus, the district's attempts to enforce compulsory attendance requirements on a student that is receiving home education based on failure to show a ND Photo ID or a specific proof of residency should be futile.

### Excerpts from Attorney Daniel Beasley's letter sent to Williston's Superintendent Dr. Jeff Thake:

Several of our families in the Williston Public School District have contacted our office regarding a form sent out to homeschooling parents. The letter references enforcement of a new district guideline.... It informs parents they must submit a photo ID and two forms of documentation proving residency. I am writing to clarify that parents are not required to submit this information in order to supervise home education for their child.

Home education in North Dakota is governed exclusively by sections 15.1-23-01 through 15.1-23.19 of the North Dakota Century Code. Thus, local school officials are without authority to enforce policies or procedures that add to or contradict these sections of the law.

Section 15.1-23-02 lists the specific information parents must provide to their local school district in order to supervise home education for their child, which includes, among other things both the parent's and child's address. Noticeably absent from the detailed list of required information is submission of a photo ID or proof of residency. Children receiving home education are generally not subject to registration requirements that may apply to students enrolled in the public school system.

In light of the above, please update any district guidelines that do not accurately reflect North Dakota law.

Mon 10/21/2019 FB message to NDHSA - Williston district still demanding information. This parent was asked to supply a real estate tax statement, a utility bill and ND driver's license. She was told that they had "called the state and they can" do this.

**Editor's note:** Our homeschool freedoms were won after decades of hard work by those who respect the right of parents to oversee the upbringing and education of their children. Don't disrespect this long struggle by giving in to demands not required by law.



For legal assistance JOIN  
Home School Legal Defense Association. [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

Find a support group near you at:  
[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)  
Click on support groups.

Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS for Education:**  
**Laurie Morstad**  
9175 80<sup>th</sup> St. NE,  
Hampden, ND 58338  
Check expiration dates.



By Mrs. Llor Knight

I once heard the following question: “What if you woke up tomorrow and only had what you were thankful for today?” I have taken that question to heart. I try to spend time each day thanking the Lord for everything that comes to mind.

It is easy to thank the Lord for our salvation; our family; our home – including food, clothes, furniture, appliances, heat, electricity, etc. We don’t forget to be thankful for our church, our pastor, and even living in America. Those are the first things that come to mind. What about medical care – especially if you have on going illness in your family. In the homeschool arena, are you thankful for the freedom to home school, for HSLDA, for the NDHSA, for the homeschool convention where you can visit, learn, be encouraged, and SHOP; for homeschool curricula consistent with our worldviews, for books to read and games to play. This list can go on and on and on and on ...



Typically, when we talk about being thankful or giving thanks, we are talking about giving thanks to God and rightly so. He deserves all our gratitude. We are commanded in Scripture to give thanks. Read Psalm 106, 107, 118, and 136 and look for “O give thanks unto the Lord.” Everything we have, both physical and spiritual, comes from the Lord. Some might say, “I bought that, so how did it come from the Lord?” My response would be, “God gave you the health and strength to go to work, to get a paycheck, to purchase whatever it is you’re talking about.”

The Lord isn’t the only one deserving of our gratitude. Anyone who supplies us a service – even if we pay for it – deserves to be thanked. That would include a visit to the doctor, dentist, grocery store, pharmacy, music store, gas station, etc. Think of your to-do list for today and make it a point to thank everyone who assists you.



Another group of people that deserves our thanks are the men and women who serve in the armed forces, those who fight for freedom in theaters around the world. How many veterans and or active duty military do you call on Veterans Day (that’s just around the corner!) to thank for their service to our country? Have you ever stopped a complete stranger who is wearing a “Navy Veteran” (or Army or Marine Corps) hat, shaken their hand, and thanked them for serving?

The Old Testament Jews were commanded to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving. God wanted them to show their gratitude in a physical, tangible way and He wanted it to cost them something (sacrifice).

Yearly, around Christmas time, we make platters of goodies – truffles, cookies, mini-muffins, fudge, peanut brittle and other mouth-watering items. We then give these to the mail lady, garbage collectors, our doctor, dentist, and chiropractor, the bank, etc. This is a physical way to show our gratitude.



At a recent meeting, the board of directors of the North Dakota Home School Association discussed how we could show our thankfulness to organizations and churches that are especially helpful to the home school community. If you are aware of a church or organization which has been helpful to your home school support group, please notify us of such. We will mail them a certificate of appreciation. In addition, we will put their name in a high-lighted spot on our website to show our gratitude.



The first Thanksgiving dinner in America, held by the Pilgrims at Plymouth, wasn’t the feast we see pictures about. That was the second. The first was simple, meager fare by a small group of survivors who wanted to give thanks – even for the hard times. When asked to list the things for which we are thankful, I daresay the hard things – the losses, the struggles, the failures- never lead the list. I’m not advocating that they should, but we are commanded, “In every thing give thanks...” I Thess. 5:18 (emphasis mine). Therefore, the hard things should at least be on the list.

As Thanksgiving approaches, think on and remember the things (good and bad) for which we should be thankful; to whom we should be thankful; and how we can tangibly show that thankfulness.



Editor's note: No matter what you believe about forced immunizations this attack on religious freedom ought to concern us all!

## Freedom of Religion and Conscience in America

By Barbara Loe Fisher

NVIC report:

Government health officials and medical trade associations are aggressively lobbying state legislatures for elimination of religious exemptions to vaccination in public health laws in your state. One reason they are doing that is because they know it is unconstitutional to force you to prove you are a member of a church that opposes vaccination in order to exercise freedom of religion in the United States of America. In this country, our Constitution guarantees we have the freedom to follow our conscience and worship God or hold spiritual beliefs that do - or do not - adhere to the tenets of an organized religion or church. We also have the freedom to hold no religious or spiritual beliefs.

Read this referenced commentary, watch a video or make a comment [here](#).

Tear yourself away from self -- that is the work of the strong. The really great hearts are those who have learned to forget self. So long as one is occupied with self, one is petty and unworthy of Christ who humbled Himself even unto death to prove how much He loved us.

From *Whispers of His Power* by Amy Carmichael



Now mark you, no man can be true for God and live for Him without at some time or other being unpopular in this world. Those men who are trying to live for both worlds make a wreck of it; for at some time or other the collision is sure to come.

Daily Gems, D. L. Moody, November 26

### NDHSA Board of Directors

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#### 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 [bilibiby@msn.com](mailto:bilibiby@msn.com).

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 29 years. She has served on the advisory board for Lamplighter Publishing, writes a 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: [bilibiby@msn.com](mailto:bilibiby@msn.com) She is blessed beyond measure and once had a very long bucket list. She now prefers buckets of June berries.

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[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) Instagram link: <https://www.instagram.com/ndhsassociation/>

#### North Dakota Home School Hall of Fame Inductees

- 2014 Rev. Clinton & Judi Birst, Mark & Lynette Dagley, Dr. Ray & Rita Larsen, Gerald & Sheryl Lund
- 2015 Neil and Chris Toman, Dr. Graef Gannon, Rev. Edward and Sue Huntington
- 2016 Michael Farris J.D., Rev. Thomas & Peggy Patzer
- 2017 Bill & Gail Biby, Morris & Jackie Conklin, Allen & Barb Entzel
- 2018 Linus & Anna Evinger
- 2019 Dr. Brian Ray, the Sack-Headed Anonymous HSer



# PRAYER

- **PRAISE** God for His continued mercy over our land.
- **PRAY** for those who are hurting. Help if you can.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen those who are weary; ask Him to renew the homeschooling mom's courage and perseverance. Pray for those who have given up.
- **REMEMBER** the lost. If one dies apart from Christ, one is eternally lost...think about it.
- **INTERCEDE** for your spouse, your pastor and family. Pray we will be faithful, obedient, and willing to throw away all excuses that keep us from denying self, taking up our crosses, and following Jesus.
- **PRAY** for those in prison. Especially for Christians.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen our resolve in all manner of godly living. Courage, Lord, give us courage.
- **PRAY REGULARLY** for the NDHSA board of directors as they continue to provide vision and wisdom. Remember Melanie Joerger as she deals with visual problems.
- **PRAISE GOD** for Home School Legal Defense Association; for Daniel Beasley, HSLDA rep for ND; for their continued careful monitoring of federal legislation; for their continued work to expand freedom for homeschoolers.
- **REMEMBER** the suffering Church around the world. Often. Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, Cameroon, Sri Lanka. Christians are dying daily. Don't forget.

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Psalm 34:17-18