

THE ECLECTIC REPORT

North Dakota Home School Association

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Editor's Musings:

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord.



And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

**'Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill
toward men!'**

March 5-7, 2020

NDHSA Convention

Jamestown, ND

**Keynote:
Chuck Black**

Mark your calendars!

Year-end giving matters! Ask God if He would have you donate to the NDHSA.



The VIEW from my WINDOW

By Theresa Deckert NDHSA Office Administrator

I just wanted to take this opportunity to say how blessed I am by knowing so many of you over the years. It is such an honor to serve my fellow home educators.

Thank you to those who support and pray for the NDHSA!



I pray that you will have a restful **Christmas Season** and take time to reflect on the many blessings we enjoy! May you find added strength to love, train and serve your own children in the **New Year!**

Merry CHRISTmas!

If you no longer wish to receive the convention mailings, please contact office@ndhsa.org and we will remove you from the list.

AMAZON Smile During the holidays when you shop at smile.amazon.com you can generate Amazon-Smile donations for the North Dakota Home School Association.

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

JOIN today at www.ndhsa.org



BOARD COLUMN

Merry CHRISTmas from the NDHSA Board!

Do we “need” the NDHSA? That is an interesting question. There are many who homeschool their children and have no knowledge of the NDHSA. They just do their thing and have no need for the organization. While it is true that you certainly can homeschool without an organization, I believe there are tremendous advantages for one.

Argument #1

Without the organized effort of the newly-formed NDHSA, the legislation that was approved in 1989 legalizing home education would not have occurred. That was then, what about now? There are continuing efforts to improve our laws and to be a liaison between homeschoolers and the legislators.

Argument #2

Who do you call if you are having problems with your local school district? Your neighbor, your dad, your legislator, or do you call the office of the NDHSA? The office receives many calls about a variety of questions. It may be a real estate question or a request for curriculum, or any other question in between. There is a person to call. Without the NDHSA, it would be a lot more difficult to find answers.

Argument #3

The NDHSA sponsors an annual convention to assist those in attendance with a host of help concerning the education of their children. It is a time to connect with other homeschoolers. It is an opportunity to put your hands on various curriculum choices. There are speakers from all over the country who share their insight.

Argument #4

Invitation to national leadership conferences. There are opportunities to learn from national leaders.

Argument #5

Publications monthly on various homeschool topics.

I hope that gives a brief overview of why the NDHSA exists. You may ask how the organization is funded. Only by your generous contributions can we continue to operate. Please consider giving a gift if you have benefited from the NDHSA.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Deckert, NDHSA Board Vice President



Widowhood brings many changes to one's life. All difficult. Nancy M. must now sell their home-based business following the death of her husband. Pray for Nancy and other homeschooling families that have said good bye to someone they love this past year. The God of all comfort will be their comfort.

FOR SALE

Twenty three year old home-based business with low overhead. Potential for more than \$100,000 annual income. **Service Plus**, Beulah, ND. If interested contact: Nancy Miller at 701.870.7654 or serviceplus@westriv.com



For legal assistance JOIN
Home School Legal Defense Association. www.hslda.org

Find a support group near you at:
www.ndhsa.org
Click on support groups.

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



Do WORLDVIEWS MATTER?

I have been studying this topic for many years and have become a bit alarmed by the changes I have seen in worldviews among Americans, especially Christians. You may think you have a biblical worldview, and maybe you do, but here is a way you can actually determine your worldview. Visit Nehemiah Institute and take their PEERS test. This will aid you in determining whether you are a Biblical theist, moderate Christian, secular humanist or a socialist. It's not a difficult test and it is relatively inexpensive. I took it many years ago. The following is taken from their website.

Categories PEERS Test

Biblical theism: (Scores 70-100) A firm understanding of issues as interpreted from scripture. The individual is allowing the scriptures to guide his reasoning regarding ethical, moral and legal issues to determine correct or incorrect thinking. Truth is seen as absolute for all ages for all time. Key distinctive: God is sovereign over all areas of life; civil government should be highly limited in purpose and authority, and under the supervision of scripture. All people will live in eternity in heaven or hell as judged by scripture.

Moderate Christian: (Scores 30-69) Basically, 'one foot in the Kingdom and one foot in the world.' A blended view of God as creator and ruler, but man as self-determiner of the world. This position generally sees God as supreme in matters of religion but not concerned with matters related to governments, economics and education. Key distinctive: God is concerned with the soul and eternal life; man must control temporal issues.

Secular Humanism: (Scores 0-29) Man is supreme. By chance, the human race has evolved to the highest form of life, but has responsibility to see that lower forms of life are not abused by man. The masses are more important than the individual. Key distinctive: There is no 'biblical' God; man is the predestinator and savior of the human race; eternal life exists only in the sense of how each person is remembered for the good or bad he has done. Ethics are relative to each generation.

Socialism: (Scores <0) Mankind cannot prosper as individuals acting alone. A ruling authority is necessary to ensure that all facets of life are conducted fairly and in harmony. This authority must be the state (civil authorities) with the elite of society serving as its leaders. Key distinctive: Individualism is not good; a civil body-politic is necessary with control of assets and redistribution of wealth as seen fit by leaders for the good of all.

Gail's take

I have said repeatedly that there are really only two world views: God is the center and measure of all things or man is the center and measure of all things. This means as Dr. Kristin Bird writing for *Answers in Genesis* says, "There are only two foundations on which to construct a worldview--God's Word or man's word." She continues, "It may surprise you that an extremely small percentage of youth from even Christian schools and homeschooleds have a truly biblical worldview. The Nehemiah Institute conducts a PEERS test to objectively measure the understanding of how biblical principles apply to all areas of life, and it compares how a student's worldview compares with that of their parents or teachers."

The PEERS measures one's worldview in politics, economics, education, religion and social issues. I took the test many years ago and did so rather secretly, just in case I discovered I was desperately in need of remediation. I tested as a Biblical theist. But the testing itself caused me to think deeply about the question of worldviews. After all these years I realize more and more that the glasses through which we view the world matter a great deal. We either see all things through the lens of Scripture or we see things through the ever-changing philosophies of man. The latter makes for an uncertain and frightening walk through life in my opinion.

Teaching a biblical worldview matters (if you are a Christian) because if our dear ones spend most of their time with those who at the least ignore God and at the worst believe He doesn't exist, it will cause confusion in the thought life and actions of the child. Children can understand worldviews! I teach Sunday School to 3rd-5th graders and have found them to be quite able to understand the difference between biblical worldviews and secular humanistic or socialistic worldviews.

Nehemiah Institute conducted a small study about 20 years ago with high school students. The group included representatives of Christian schools, church youth groups, public schools and homeschooleds. The goal was to see if creationist views or evolutionary ideas affected the young person's view of religion, education and various social issues. Daniel Smithwick, President of Nehemiah Institute summarized the findings:

1. What people believe about the origin of man and the world has a very strong impact on their views in other important matters in society.
2. Individuals holding to predominantly evolutionist views of life are generally opposed to orthodox views of Christianity.
3. Test results of all six groups...gives strong evidence of the need for Christians to place their children in a distinctly Christian educational setting...where creationism is taught strongly and routinely.

Not very comforting results and this was almost 20 years ago. I wonder what the test would show today.

WHAT TO DO:

--Go to nehemiahinstitute.com and take the test.

--For a comprehensive view of the subject read *Understanding the Times* by David A. Noebel.

On PERSEVERING

Do the right thing; one foot in front of the other; one piece of the problem at a time; take lunch, exercise, sleep.

I remember the counselor Jay Adams saying that the trouble is not usually that we don't know what to do but that we don't do it long enough. We give up just before the breakthrough would have come.

Like Screwtape said, "It is so hard for these creatures to persevere."

But persevering is what it's all about.

Persevering is just faith with Nikes on.

From *We Shall Have Spring Again* by Andree Seu Peterson

My life is but a weaving betwixt the Lord
and me,
I do not choose the color--He worketh steadily.

Oftimes He weaveth sorrow and I in foolish
pride,
Forget He sees the upper, and I the underside.

Not till the loom is silent, and the shuttle cease

to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas and explain the
reason why.

The dark threads are as needful in the Weaver's
skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern
He has planned.

Quoted in *Secure in the Everlasting Arms*, Elisabeth Elliot

Editor's note: I found this while looking through One Hundred and One Famous Poems, 1923. I remember memorizing from this while attending a one-room schoolhouse. Sadly we have come very far from this ideal. Still good advice!

In choosing books for children these rules, recently laid down by an author of books for boys, are worth the consideration of parents:

Read your children's books yourself. Or better still, get your boy or girl to read them aloud to you.

Ask yourself during the reading: "Does this book lay stress on villainy, deception or treachery? Are all the incidents wholesome, probable and true to life? Does it show young people contemptuous toward their elders and successfully opposing them? Do the young characters in the book show respect for teachers and others in authority? Are these characters the kind of young people you wish your children to associate with? Does the book speak of and describe pranks, practical jokes and pieces of thoughtless and cruel mischief as though they were funny and worthy of imitation? Is the English good and is the story written in good style?"

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 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! Advertising likewise. If you have something that may be of interest to homeschoilers, or if you have comments or corrections, send them to the editor at bibby@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: bibby@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 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. Grael 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 enter this season without a loved one.
- **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. Speak to them.
- **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.
- **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 homeschoilers.
- **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