

THE ECLECTIC REPORT

North Dakota Home School Association P.O. Box 1066 Devils Lake, N.D. 59301 701.662.6347 office@ndhsa.org www.ndhsa.org

May 2020 Vol. 10 Issue 5

Published by the North Dakota Home School Association

Editor: Gail M. Biby

billbiby@msn.com

Mutterings and Musings from the Editor:

Doing what is safe hasn't really been much in evidence in the multitude of Christian missionary stories I have read.

Gladys Aylward would never have ultimately led 100s of orphans to safety in China if she had played it safe.

Mary Slessor could never have gone to Calabar where folks were still killing twins, practicing honor killings and other macabre tribal laws if she intended to play it safe.

Then there was David Livingston, the great African explorer and missionary. He, too, died far from home and not playing it safe at all.

How about our Founding Fathers? Many lost all. It was no game they were playing...and it cer-

tainly wasn't safe.

The Disciples didn't play it safe when they turned from their nets to follow an itinerate preacher. They had no idea what they were in for. At the end of their lives of service almost all paid a horrifying price.

Honestly, these thoughts come from someone not made of very sturdy stuff. Danger in all forms haunts me, but I also know the only place safety can be found and have learned to reign in my fears because of Who I belong to and because I know Him to be a faithful Protector who often allows us (even orders us) into unsafe situations.

You, Oh Lord, are my portion forever. And underneath are the Everlasting Arms.

Grace and peace,

Gail M. Biby

JOIN today:

www.ndhsa.org

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



The VIEW from my WINDOW

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator



Well, we are certainly living in interesting days. This is a wonderful time to have your children read articles and journal about current events as this will be something that goes into the history books. This can all be a springboard for discussing how they are doing with all the changes and uncertainty.

With the shut downs, I am sure many of our families are having financial struggles. There are some easy ways you can help support the NDHSA even in hard times. First of all is through **Box Tops for Education**. We just got our quarterly check which was \$41.50. A lot more of us could donate through this medium. Some boxes still have the clip and save labels, but they are in the process of going completely digital. This is from their website:

Box Tops is changing to fit today's families. The new and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.

Another easy way you can give is through setting up an **Amazon Smile account** and designating the NDHSA as your charity of choice. Many are using online ordering right now. It is simple to switch your current Amazon account to an Amazon Smile account.

Perhaps you were not able to come to our annual convention, missed a workshop you wanted to hear or want to listen to one again. You can still **order convention recordings**. Simply go to www.alliancerecordings.com and click on the 2020 North Dakota Home School Convention tab on the right. To date convention recording income for 2020 has been \$1,801.54.

Finally I want to mention that I am trying to stay in contact and offer an encouraging word via Face Book Live posts. I am doing a short talk each Monday at 3:00 PM CST. So far these **Mentoring Moments** have featured record keeping, a brief explanation of the ND homeschool law and transcripts. I have titled them for easy reference for you or to share with others. I truly hope they will be beneficial.



BOARD COLUMN

By Mrs. Llor Knight



May – it’s the middle of spring and in America a time to honor Mom’s and the fallen. Around the world, May features many celebrations. In six countries it holds Independence Day, in three countries it holds Flag Day, in three countries it holds Constitution Day, and in sixty-seven countries it holds Labor Day. There are also other designated days in May, like Regimental Day, Waisak Day, Kataklysmos Day, Revolution Day, Culture Day, Sovereign Day, Discovery Day, Kamuzu Day, Vesak Day, Matzu Day, Coronation Day, Martyrs’ Day, and Children’s Day.

In ten countries, May First is May Day. May Day was celebrated as early as 509 BC in the Roman Republic to herald the arrival of Spring. Most European countries today have some form of it. Communists turned it into Labor Day (hence the number of countries having that holiday.) I’m wondering if May Day won’t take on a new meaning for Americans. It will be remembered as the day the quarantine began to lift.

As restrictions are lifted and new guidelines are set in place, people are rejoicing in the ability to GO SOMEWHERE, ANYWHERE! As you and your family come out of the corona virus “slump” please remember to be wise in doing so. The restrictions are lifted because the number of new positive cases of the virus has dropped, but guidelines will stay in place to prevent a large resurgence. Currently our state is the eighth lowest in the fifty U.S. states and five territories with 1,033 confirmed cases and only 19 deaths.

Many of you probably have friends who have children in the public school. They may have even called their homeschool friends, namely you, for some advice. Continue to encourage them as they finish out the school year and possibly even consider homeschooling by choice next year.

Hopefully these days of quarantine have encouraged you to do something new – maybe play games together, write more letters, do puzzles, try virtual tours. Many people have learned creative ways to stay in touch. As things slowly return to normal (or at least a new normal), don’t forget these things you’ve learned – continue to play games with your children, do puzzles, write letters and most importantly stay in touch.



I have fourteen children spread around the U.S. and world – the Czech Republic, Japan, Canada, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Kansas, Texas and several here in North Dakota. We stay in touch with a Viber app. This one allows phone calls, texting, and face time chats internationally. You just need WiFi or data. Each month we do something different to encourage the family members to post. In March we posted creative photography – a baby, music related, food, an animal, a flower, an outdoor scene, sports, books, art, etc. In April it was a different type of joke, riddle or funny meme or vine on a given topic – lawyers, animals, travel, “You know you’re from ...,” knock-knock, etc. In May we’ll be sharing special memories on each day – an animal, school related, a vacation, concerning mom (Mother’s Day of course), a vehicle, etc. These posts are made by my children, their spouses, and/or my grandchildren. We have chatted more these past few months than we have in years.

May first, May Day, may go down in American history as “Freedom Day” or “Release Day” but whatever you call it and however you respond to the “freedom” stay safe, be smart, and rejoice that North Dakota and her government have handled things wisely.

NDHSA 2021 Convention - Bismarck Civic Center - Feb.18-20

Homeschool Day at the Capitol - Feb. 18, 2021



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

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



Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS** for Education:

Laurie Morstad
9175 80th St. NE,
Hampden, ND 58338
Check expiration dates.



Where to find SCHOLARSHIPS

(Snatched from *The Old Schoolhouse* magazine, Fall 2019. Visit www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com for oodles of great stuff!)

Local scholarships: Check local newspaper for churches, businesses, civic organizations, and community clubs.

National scholarships: Contact national corporations, honor societies, civic organizations, organizations related to field of interest, societies such as Daughters of the American Revolution.

College-specific scholarships: Check college websites and admission counselors. Ask about departmental scholarships.

Scholarship websites: Search sites such as scholarships.com and fastweb.com. TIP: Never pay a fee to *apply* for a scholarship.

State merit scholarships: Some states offer these for residents attending college in state. (*Editor's note:* I was given a Nursing Scholarship Loan back in the 1960s; if I worked in ND for 2 years I didn't have to repay it. So I did and it became a scholarship.)

Talent and athletic scholarships: Most of these are college-specific and require an audition or recruitment by a coach. Organizations like 4-H may offer scholarships as awards for winning competitions.

Library or guidance office: Your public library or high school counselor may be able to provide a list of available scholarships.

TRAIL LIFE USA ... for boys!

Trail Life USA, a rapidly growing alternative to the Boy Scouts, was featured in the Spring 2020 issue of *Practical Homeschooling* magazine (www.practicalhomeschooling.com)

It currently has about 33,000 members in all 50 states with 825 troops. Almost 60% of current members are homeschooling. It was founded to focus on "boys, character, leadership, and adventure", all from a Christian perspective. The article states, "Today's world and today's schools don't value traditional 'boyish' traits..." "Boys need a place where they are free to explore."

You can start a troop any time. Go to their website (TrailLifeUSA.com) and follow the easy steps. The chartering group is required to have a Christian mission and you must have five adults willing to be in charge.



Last Christmas I received two books for review from K.M. Allen from her **Play Wild Series**. Both deal with winter activities so forgive me for posting this after a very long winter in ND.

Where I Fly is a hockey story-brief script, really any age (I'm 70 and I enjoyed it!), beautiful watercolor illustrations by the author. Same with *Where We Run* about sled dogs. Each book has a section of words dealing with the sport highlighted, *Where I Fly* has the winter constellations; *Where We Run* has great information on sled dogs and tips on exploring the wilderness.

I found them enchanting. They can be purchased at: www.LegacyBound.com or Amazon. Check out Facebook.com/WhereIFlyBook and Facebook.com/WhereWeRunBook

Character means that there are no matters too small to handle the right way. It's been said that your character is defined by what you do when no one is looking. Cutting corners because "it won't matter much" or "no one will notice" still knocks your character down a notch and can easily become a slippery slope. "Unless you are faithful in small matters," we learn in Luke 16:1, "you will not be faithful in large ones."

Lawrence W. Reed, *Are We Good Enough for Liberty?*

TIPS from Debra Bell's Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling

- Invest time in determining the simplest procedure for completing a task, and then train your kids in that. Raising them to be responsible is in their best interest.
- The more field trips you take, the more your kids will get out of their studies at home. Most kids max out after two hours, even in a visually stimulating environment.
- Co-ops require time and energy from us, but the synergy that comes from pooling our resources sure makes that effort worthwhile for our kids.
- I don't need to figure out how 'most' children learn best: I need to figure out how my kid learns best.

Legalized Plunder? by Michelle Miller Howard is an article worth copying and distributing to friends and family. Her purpose is to make the reader see the truth of: "**Life, liberty, and property do not exist because men have made laws. On the contrary, it was the fact that life, liberty, and property existed beforehand that cause men to make laws in the first place. And in spite of the cunning of artful political leaders, these three gifts from God precede all human legislation, and are superior to it.**" (*The Law*, Frederic Bastiat) Article published in Winter 2019-2020 *The Old Schoolhouse*; www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com.



The Valley of Vision

A Collection of Puritan Prayers

Blessed Lord,

let me climb up near to Thee,
and love, and long, and plead, and wrestle
with Thee,
and pant for deliverance from the body of
sin,
for my heart is wandering and lifeless,
and my soul mourns to think
it should ever lose sight of its beloved.

Doing What We Ought to Do

Hardly anything can be more important in the mental training of a child than the bringing him to do what he ought to do, and to do it in its proper time, whether he enjoys it or not. The measure of a child's ability to do this becomes, in the long run, the measure of his practical efficiency in whatever sphere of life he labors.

H. Clay Trumbull, *Hints on Child*

A book which is enjoyed only by children is a bad children's story. The good ones last. A book which is not worth reading at age 50 is not worth reading at age 10.

C. S. Lewis, "On three Ways of Writing for Children"

NDHSA Board of Directors

~Ken Knight, president & Llorra Knight, W region spt.grp. coordinator 701.880.6126 knight_publishing@hotmail.com
~Karol Kapelle, convention coordinator 701.262.4446 kapkian@gondtc.com convention@ndhsa.org
~Susan Huntington, director 701.663.7858 sooznh@gmail.com
~Jeff Deckert, director & Theresa Deckert, office administrator & E region spt.grp. coord. 701.662.4790 jntdeck@gondtc.com office@ndhsa.org
~Bob and Melanie Joerger, directors 701.430.3978 bobjoerger79@gmail.com pollywogmusic@gmail.com
~Thor and Amber Sand, directors 701.535.1335 sand723627@gmail.com

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.

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for almost 30 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: billbiby@msn.com She is blessed beyond measure and once had a very long bucket list. She now prefers buckets of June berries.

NDHSA P.O. Box 1066 Devils Lake, N.D. 58301 701.662.6347

www.ndhsa.org office@ndhsa.org

Like us on FB: [North Dakota Home School Association](https://www.facebook.com/northdakotahomeschoolassociation) Visit us at:

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
2020 Leroy and Ann Nelson, Greg Lange, esq.



PRAYER

- **PRAISE** God for His continued mercy over our land.
- **PRAY** for those who are anxious and fretting about the corona virus and its ramifications.
- **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. Pray for those who are thrust into the role of homeschooling.
- **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 all who are confined in nursing homes and not allowed visits. It's lonely.
- **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.
- **THANK** God for new board members Thor and Amber Sand.
- **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.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!