

The Eclectic Report

NDHSA, P.O. Box 1066, Devils Lake, N.D. 58301
1.701.662.NDHS (6347) office@ndhsa.org www.ndhsa.org
Face Book at: North Dakota Home School Association

Volume 4 Issue 11 Editor: Gail M. Biby billbiby@msn.com December 2014



Logo design by Josiah Kopp



Greetings!

Another year comes to an end and as we look back we can only give repeated thanks for God's wise care and abundant provisions. We are of all people most blessed!

This edition has a great article by midwife and NDHSA board member Llorra Knight. It made me think of the realities of giving birth in a barn.

Notice the *Feed my Starving Children* highlight. What a great service field trip this will be for homeschoolers.

The Legislative *WATCH* will begin publication in January; session convenes on Jan. 6. Look for possible legislation on Common Core, transgender sports, mandatory kindergarten (lowering of compulsory attendance age), open records issues, and requests for funding from many. If you hear of a specific topic

being addressed by the legislature and would like to see it covered in the Legislative *WATCH* send your request to billbiby@msn.com for consideration.

Check the prayer section as there are several new requests.

The NDHSA is a 501(c)(3) organization funded by folks who care about the mission of the association. Once you have given your tithes and offerings to your local church and if the Lord should so lead you, consider sending a year-end gift to the NDHSA. Our board is frugal, wise and diligent stewards of God's resources provided through His children. You can have full confidence that your donation will be used prudently. You can donate online at www.ndhsa.org or send your check to NDHSA, P.O. Box 1066, Devils Lake, N.D. 58301.

From us all at the NDHSA we wish for you: a blessed CHRISTmas, a spirit of peace from knowing Christ, and a life lived loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

Merry CHRISTmas!

Gail



The View from my Window

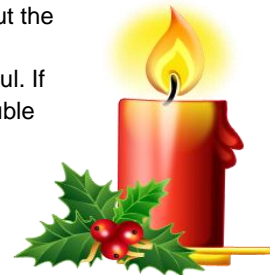
By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

I did not write an article last month because of the extended article from our board president. I hope you all took time to read it. I told Ken he could have my space because his article addressed some of the questions I get asked in the office.

This month I want to take care of a couple of housekeeping items. Each month I receive a number of after-hours calls at the office. **REMEMBER:** office hours are Mon., Wed., and Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and Tues., Thurs. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. If I am near the phone after office hours I often answer, but I also have an answering machine to pick up calls when I am not available. Frequently someone calls from a cell phone and leaves a message. Occasionally these messages are very garbled and I cannot make out the telephone number for a return call. Because of this, I have called many wrong numbers. So if you get the answering machine when calling the office, please say your name and number slowly and clearly. Repeating them is also helpful. If you called the office some months back and did not hear from me then your message may have been one I had trouble understanding. Please call back.

If you have a special needs child and are concerned about our present homeschool law email me at office@ndhsa.org. We have heard from only a few people and the board will need to decide at our next board meeting concerning pursuit of legislative action.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this month, may you and yours be ever mindful of why He came.



“Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!”

2015 NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention March 19-21, 2015

Fargo's First Assembly of God

Keynote speakers:

Hal & Melanie Young

Featured speakers:

Steve & Annette Economides

HSLDA Attorney for N.D.

Dewitt Black

Look for your convention booklet in the mail in January. For lodging options go to www.ndhsa.org and click on convention.

Common Core Tidbits from HSLDA

November 30: Fox News

Opposition to Common Core Spurs Jump in Homeschooling

November 27: Breitbart.com

Common Core Concerns Lead to Homeschool Increase

Sip Family Cabin Fever Family Camp

January 16-18, 2015

Email: wbsip@loretel for more information



A Midwife Looks at the Birth of Christ By Mrs. Llorra Knight

As a midwife, I can imagine what the birth of Christ was like for Mary better than most. Her labor would have begun during the long arduous journey from Nazareth. Mile after mile they traveled for several days. Mary would have walked as much or more than ridden the donkey, sleeping at night

wherever Joseph could find shelter. The labor would have started with an occasional twinge in her back and/or abdomen. She probably didn't even realize what it was or that her baby son was initiating his arrival. As the contractions increased in frequency, her pace would have slowed. There comes a time in a woman's labor when she is unable to walk or talk through a contraction. She would have been forced to mount the donkey, although his gait and her necessary posture would have only intensified the discomfort she was already experiencing. By this time she was mentally preparing herself for the coming delivery. They weren't traveling with anyone they knew. She wouldn't have the soft hands and gentle voice of her mother, or a sister, or cousin and definitely not the village midwife back in Nazareth.

They were alone. What would they do? Could they find a midwife in Bethlehem? The pains are getting closer and lasting longer. Would they have time to send for a midwife? Would they even make it to Bethlehem? She would only have Joseph to assist her and what did he know about having babies? He was a carpenter. He wasn't even a shepherd. If he had been a shepherd, maybe he could have been of some help.

I'm sure these and several other things passed through her mind during that last leg of their journey. Meanwhile, can you imagine Joseph's concern? Men didn't attend births in those days. They stayed outside and only came in when everything was finished – including the clean-up! Certainly, in his heart he desired what was best for Mary.

His dear Mary. He did not want to make this trip, but Roman law was not negotiable. She had assured him she would be fine. Now, here she was in pain, the baby coming and they weren't even to Bethlehem yet. 'Come, my loyal little donkey, a bit faster, please!'

As the contractions increased Mary established a pattern. If she leaned forward during the pain and then pushed on her back with one hand, she was able to hold on with the other hand to maintain her balance. In between the pains she would breathe deeply, try to relax and prepare for the next one. Lean and push, then breathe and relax. Lean and push, then breathe and relax. She made it to Bethlehem.

"Please, sir, my wife's baby is coming. We need somewhere!" Joseph pleaded with the inn keeper.

"I have no room. Every space, even the floor is filled. Everyone has come for the taxing," answered the kind, but frustrated man.

"But wait! I have a stable. It would be quiet and private. What do you think?"

"Yes, we'll take it. Thank you, thank you very much."

The inn keeper pointed in the direction of the stable as Joseph asked one more question. "Is there a midwife available?"

"Only if you can find one among the travelers. Hannah, our midwife has traveled to her cousin's to help there and won't return for a few weeks."

"Thank you again," Joseph offered as he led Mary in the direction the inn keeper had indicated.

The first order of business would be to prepare things for an imminent birth. Supplies included string and a knife for the cord, salt and cloth for the baby, and water and rags for Mary. The second step would be a bed for Mary. The stable likely provided plenty of straw. Joseph would possibly have had to muck out an area and lay down a thick layer of straw covered with blankets. Perhaps Mary was able to rest a while before the increasing contractions drove her to her knees. Here again, she would have suffered the lack of support that female family members and/or a midwife would have offered. As the baby began to descend and deliver, Mary experienced a peace which no first time mom had ever experienced. You see, Mary had a promise from the angel Gabriel that she would deliver the Son of God. She may have experienced pain, but she had no fear of her baby dying. She had God's promise.

First time moms often push for a long time; did Mary? The Scriptures are silent in that area, but I am sure Joseph encouraged her and assisted as he could. Once the baby was delivered, His cord was tied with string and cut. He would have been rubbed with salt and wrapped in cloths. Earlier Mary had visited her cousin Elizabeth whose husband was a priest. The priests' old tunics were torn into wide strips and woven into wicks for large oil lamps outside the Temple. These strips were called *swaddling*. Likely Elizabeth had given some to Mary for that is what they wrapped around the baby Jesus—*swaddling clothes*.

While Mary cleaned things up (Yes, she would have done that- right after giving birth most moms receive a rush of energy), Joseph prepared a nearby manger to be used as a cradle. By this time Mary was no doubt exhausted, in great need of some rest, so Joseph laid the baby in the manger and sat down to watch over them both.

It was while Mary and baby Jesus slept that the shepherds came calling – seeking for a baby in a manger and wrapped in *swaddling clothes*. I'm sure Joseph shushed them as they knelt in awe and wonder.

So as you enjoy the Christmas music and festivities, remember that Almighty God laid aside His deity to become a helpless baby, grew to be a man who would die on a cross that all men might have the opportunity to believe in Him, trust in His finished work, repent of their sin and receive eternal life.



Immanuel-God with us!



From *Practical Homeschooling Magazine* <http://www.home-school.com>

Issue 116, just published, has a great article on ***Special-Needs Homeschooling and the Law***. The article addresses IDEA, IEPs, and includes specific information on North Dakota law.

Feed My Starving Children

The Thanksgiving season is a great time to reflect on the many blessings we have and consider others in the world who are not as fortunate as we. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a non-profit Christian organization that was founded in 1987 and is committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. Volunteers hand pack specifically formulated meals for malnourished children. The meals are shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world.

Take a look at this video: http://youtu.be/nlGI94_dks0 to learn more. If you would like to engage your homeschoolers in giving to children in need here is a great opportunity. Just think, for only 21 cents per meal you can help feed the hungry or you can volunteer with preparing distribution packets. The FMSC MobilePack will be assembled at **Atonement Lutheran Church in Fargo, January 24**. What a great service project for your homeschool family or support group! More information is available at:

<http://www.fundraising.fmssc.org/Fargo>



2015 NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention

March 19-21, 2015 Fargo's First Assembly of God, 3401 25th St. S

Hal & Melanie Young, keynote speakers. Steve & Annette Economides, featured speakers. Dewitt Black, HSLDA attorney for N.D.

Turn a Milk Carton Into a Coin Purse

Hold on to your colorful eggnog cartons -- they make great raw material for this cut-and-fold recycled activity!

Search Related Topics: [environmental studies](#) [educational crafts](#)

Quilling: Early American Rolled Paper Designs Kids Can Make at Home

Quilling is a great way to learn about the history and culture of Colonial America.

Search Related Topics: [art instruction](#) [hands-on activities](#) [craft projects](#)

N.D. State Longitudinal Data System

This is an issue I have been following since the 2007 session. N.D. has been gathering information for their state longitudinal data system on public school children for years. And they have developed forms to collect the same data on private, parent-directed homeschools. See for yourself at: <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/resource/STARS/layouts/homeschool.pdf>

Read what Anita Hoge has to say about the SLDS in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Citizens Call for Moratorium on Data Collection

This is a system of surveillance through contracts with the National Center of Education Statistics in a state longitudinal system for every state in the entire nation. It is being set up using the schools as a means to collect this data. This system connects to the demographic data collected by the census. In thirty years those students who had been given the 'national unique ID' will be near retirement age, with absolutely no need for census gathering

<http://www.newswithviews.com/Hoge/anita111.htm>



Study Constitutional Law this Fall with Constitutional Attorney Michael Farris!

As a citizen, **it is your duty to understand the proper function of our government** in order to support representatives who will fulfill their oath to defend your liberty and to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States." Events in the past few years alone, from the revelation of widespread domestic spying to the Supreme Court's holding that the government's taxing power is virtually unlimited, demonstrate the extent to which our leaders have spurned the Founder's Constitution for one of their own making. **Now, more than ever, is the time to equip yourself for this duty!**

Michael Farris' online course, Constitutional Law for Enlightened Citizens, is the perfect resource for any student wishing to understand both the constitutional bounds of government and how the Supreme Court has interpreted those limits.

Geared toward high school students and designed to provide an entire credit of study in government, this course makes an excellent addition to a homeschool curriculum, but also presents a great opportunity for those whose formal education has ended. **Registration closes January 16**, so [sign up now!](#)

Special Offer

In the 25-part DVD series that goes along with this course, **Dr. Farris walks through the constitutional history and legal theory that are essential to American self-government.**

It is perfect for watching as a family, so even those who aren't specifically enrolled in the class can learn and benefit from this resource. With the Constitutional Law Course package, you get this \$95 DVD series for almost half off!

Tuition is \$300 for HSLDA members and \$325 for non-HSLDA members, which includes the required textbook and DVD set. There are also sibling and family discounts! For more information, or to register, [visit the course website](#) or send your questions to Samuel Johnson at conlaw@hsllda.org.

PRAY without Ceasing . . .

- **Pray** for our board of directors: **Ken & Llora Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham.** **THANK God** for their gentle, wise, devoted, and godly leadership.
- **Pray** for single parent homeschoolers. Help them if you can.
- **Pray** for all involved with the upcoming legislative session.
- **Pray** for Alvin Reich, Jamestown, recently diagnosed with acute leukemia; pray for Alvin and Becky during this challenging and disconcerting time.
- **NEW prayer request** for **Nathaniel Breur.** His mother, Kim, was a long time support group leader. Their family has also been involved in giving testimony, working toward better laws in our state. Nathaniel, homeschooled 12th grader, was diagnosed 2 weeks ago with cancer which has metastasized to three spots in his lungs, and two lymph nodes. He has begun chemotherapy. Pray for the whole Breur family; these are surely trying times.
- **NEW prayer request** for **Evan Vanderbeek,** 9-year-old homeschooled N.D. boy badly burned and is at the burn center in Minneapolis. Pray for the Vanderbeek family.

There is a *benefit fund* set up at:

American Bank Center, 505 4th Street, Cando, ND 58324 701-968-4421 Checks can be made out to Benefit for Evan Vanderbeek
Notes of encouragement can be sent to:

Evan Vanderbeek, c/o The Burn Center, 640 Jackson Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

There is a *facebook page* set up to keep informed. It is: *Prayers and Support for Evan*

- **NEW prayer request** for **Nancy Larsen,** long-time support group leader in Bismarck. She, too, is undergoing chemotherapy. Pray for her whole family that they will sense the peace that passes understanding and will trust our dear Father without reservation.
- **Pray** for Jon and Adie Leedahl (Arlo and Cam's son and daughter-in-law), missionaries to Papua New Guinea. Jon was involved in a motorcycle accident and due to severe damage an amputation of one leg was necessary; the other leg will require many surgeries and months of physical therapy. Praise the Lord that Cam was able to spend time with them in Australia. Cards and notes may be sent to: **(WOW! This would be a great assignment for N.D. homeschoolers. I wonder how many cards we could send their way? Good opportunity to learn about Papua New Guinea, too.)**

Jonathan Leedahl, Cairns Hospital, PO Box 902, Cairns, Queensland 4870, Australia

- **Pray** for Christians in the Middle East. Beg God to strengthen them so that if they are called upon to die for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that their testimony will be one of victory to the very end. Pray for Iraqi and Syrian Christians. Check out Voice of the Martyrs.
- **Praise** God for the ways Home School Legal Defense Association has advanced homeschooling in America. **Praise** God that HSLDA is a Capitol Hill watchdog particularly on issues about U.N. treaties and parental rights. **THANK God** for Dee Black and his many years of wise, gentle, and patient assistance to N.D. parent educators and NDHSA staff.
- **Pray** for **homeschooling mothers and fathers** in your support group, on your block, in your city, in North Dakota.
- **Intercede** for those with physical ailments; ask God to give them the measure of health that will most glorify Him.
- **Pray** that we will be known as Christians because we love God and love one another. **THANK God** for placing us in families.
- **Pray** diligently for your Pastor that our Lord will keep him faithful, honorable in all areas of his life, and filled with godly wisdom. Pray for his family (living in a fish bowl isn't easy!). **THANK God** for your pastors, elders, and deacons.
- **Pray** for wisdom and that God will keep us from foolish leaders, prevaricating teachers, and silly pursuits. Help us, Lord!

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Heb.4:15-16, **ESV**

Send your prayer requests to office@ndhsa.org or billboby@msn.com



NDHSA Board of Directors

Ken Knight, president and **Llora Knight**, west region support group coordinator, 701.880.6126 or knight_publishing@hotmail.com
Pas. Jeff Kapelle, director and **Karol Kapelle**, convention coordinator, 701.262.4446 or kapkfan@gondtc.com
Neil Toman, treasurer, 701.222.0250 or ntoman@nd.gov
Susan Huntington, director, 701.663.7858 or essh2nd@hotmail.com
Jeff Deckert, director and **Theresa Deckert**, office administrator & east region support group coordinator, 701.662.4790 or jntdeck@gondtc.com for NDHSA items, use office@ndhsa.org
Pas. Brian and Bev Skaar, directors, 701.247.2875 or walkalongdeut6.7@hotmail.com
Troy and Kristin Durham, directors, 701.298.3414 or tkdurham@ideaone.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 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 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 Dewitt Black, HSLDA attorney of reference, 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 billboby@msn.com.

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 24 years. She writes a regular column for *Eternal Encouragement* magazine (a magazine by and for Christian women), serves on the advisory board for Mark Hamby's *LampLighter Publishing*, writes a women's newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry. She lives a modestly agrarian lifestyle in the Red River Valley of the North with a prince of a man, her husband Bill, and right next door to their daughter Aimee, son-in-love, Ray, and their six children. Contact her at: billboby@msn.com

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

701.662.NDHS(6347)

www.ndhsa.org

office@ndhsa.org

Visit our website: www.ndhsa.org Like us on Face Book: **North Dakota Home School Association**