

# The Eclectic Report

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Logo design by Josiah Kopp



## Greetings!

We love our church! We love our church family, our pastors, our Sunday School program, and our small group and it has been actually very, very easy to do! I am reminded of this because summer is the time for our annual church picnics held during June and August (sometimes one in July, too!) at the Blessed Life Ranch. Ray and Aimee have graciously offered their time and energies to make these events possible. The two old land squatters do the best they can to help. And we have such a fun time. There are horse rides (four horses this year!), yard games (often requiring very little talent-my kind of game!), lots of visiting, tours of the gardens (still haven't gotten anyone to bring along their gardening gloves!), a delicious pot-blessing meal with hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill, and a bonfire with s'mores at the end of the day.

There is so much to love about North Dakota (and America), but summer in the *Peace Garden State* just can't be beat. Okay, okay, so there are flies and mosquitoes; just slather on the bug repellent along with your sun-no-tan lotion. I am so grateful to live in this state, this nation, at this time in history (right, I've written this repeatedly, but I feel deeply blessed by this truth), especially as a woman. Really, think about it, would you want to live in Syria where they are purposely killing Christians, or Sierra Leone with endemic Ebola, or Russia now ruled by a despot, or France and England now kowtowing to miscreant, dangerous Muslims? Not me. I thank God every day and am ever mindful of His blessed hand on me and my family. I have a sneaky suspicion that I don't even know *how much* I am blessed. So every day and many times a day I raise to our Great Sovereign my sacrifice of praise.

Yes, I love our dear church family. I love North Dakota. I love America. AND I LOVE SUMMER!

May you and your dear ones experience great joy and peace during these blessed summer months, brought to us by the gracious Hand of our dear Lord Jesus!

## Gail

Visit our website: [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) Summer office hours vary; emails preferable [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org)

Like us on Face Book: [North Dakota Home School Association](http://North Dakota Home School Association)



## The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

Spring has come early and the view is lovely from my window! If you are like me, you are wrapping up all sorts of activities to get ready for one of your favorite endeavors – “playing in the dirt” or gardening as you might call it. As I wrap things up, I want to use my column this month to mention a few unrelated tidbits!

Our family somewhat follows the public school calendar and so we take a break from the formal book learning for more hands-on adventures in the summer. Because of that, the **office hours are varied in the summer time**. Please keep this in mind when calling or **better yet, send me an email**.

I wanted to remind those who signed up for membership during convention time that you are entitled to membership on the web page as well. Just fill out the information, create a password and under *how you will pay*, check the box “I am a current member.” One of my summer goals is to start creating some resource lists. These will be listed on the member's portion of the website.

The **Home School Day at the Capitol** was a great success. Thank you to all who participated. It was an excellent opportunity to visit with many legislators and make our presence known. I felt like there were many positive contacts made during the day.

**Remember:** if you have an address or email change please let the office know. **Send it to:** [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org)

In the next few days our family will be finishing up the elementary years and my “baby” will start high school. This is the end of our 28<sup>th</sup> year of home education! Wherever you are in your homeschooling venture, I encourage you to enjoy these precious years and the gift that God has given us called home education! Have a great summer.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Prairie Days

June 27 8:00 a.m. to June 28 10:00 a.m.

Mark Dagley Farmstead  
3329 20<sup>th</sup> St.  
New Salem, ND 58563

## Family FUN Days

July 3-5, 2015

Make your Fourth of July weekend special and join the Sip Family.

More news to come!

[wbsip@loretel.net](mailto:wbsip@loretel.net)

## Home School Roundup

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Watford City, ND

Watford City Civic Center

**Featured Speaker: Chuck Black**

Workshop presenters: Chuck Black, Theresa Deckert, Lora Knight and others TBA.

Morning and afternoon general sessions and workshops held throughout the day. Plus a mini-vendor hall.

**Get these dates on your calendar!**



From the NDHSA Board  
Jeff Deckert

The month of May is when **Mothers' Day** is celebrated. In many homeschools the mother is the main teacher. For this reason I want to honor all homeschool moms for their dedication and courage. You are a special kind of person to take on such an enormous task. I believe there are special rewards for those who are diligent in training their children to honor God.

As a homeschool Dad, I want to especially honor my wife for her courageous and faithful service to our children. She is a blessing. To the rest of you moms, your efforts will not go unnoticed. It is a lot of work and sometimes it may seem overwhelming, but hang in there. The God of the universe is not blind; He sees all and knows all. He will reward the faithful.

**Happy Mothers' Day** to all the homeschool moms out there, who gave up the "norm" to educate their children. You are *all* heroes in my book.

May God richly bless each one of you.  
Jeff Deckert



## Bits and Pieces of This and That

*From HSLDA*

### Common Core: Parents Opt Out, Government Steps In

The U.S. Department of Education says it will "step in" if parents keep opting their kids out of controversial Common Core tests. [Read more >>](#)

*From About.com*

Apart from the primary spiritual reasons for homeschooling this author has several other important reasons to consider. Mrs. Bales also has some great resources at her website:

<http://homeschooling.about.com>

### Should I Homeschool?

By Kris Bales

Why do people homeschool? Have you ever asked yourself, "Should I homeschool?" or "Should I continue homeschooling?" Discover 5 good reasons to homeschool and why the answer may be 'yes.' [READ NOW](#)

*From HSLDA*

### Six Types of Federal Bills to Watch in 2015

Up to 11,000 bills are introduced in the U.S. Congress each year. HSLDA's Federal Relations team explains six categories of legislation that might affect homeschool freedom and gives examples of each you should keep an eye on in 2015. [Read more on the HSLDA blog](#)

*From EDWEEK Update*

### 'Opt-Out' Push Gains Traction Amid Common-Core Testing

Activists urging parents to opt their children out of tests aligned to the Common Core State Standards hope to build on momentum in states like New York. [Read more.](#)

## The BIBLE BEE

### What is the Bible Bee?

It is a wonderful opportunity to join young people (ages 7-18) from around the country in the **study and memorization of God's Word**.

- Registration begins in April.
- Study materials arrive in June.
- Local competitions hosted by a Bible Bee Host (or via proctor or online) occur in August.
- National Bible Bee for top-scoring participants is held in November.
- Contestants at Nationals compete for over \$350,000 in cash and scholarships.

The cost is minimal and the rewards are priceless!

(\$20/first participant; \$10/subsequent family member; \$50/family max)

### What is a Local Bible Bee Host?

Local Bible Bee Hosts are the **lifeblood of the Bee!** They provide opportunities for communities to gather weekly, biweekly or monthly to support and encourage families and participants in their preparation.

They **coordinate and host** the local Bible Bees. We need more key people willing to serve as hosts. This year we are excited to announce up to \$1500 for local Bible Bee prizes and expenses, depending on the size of your group.

"The Bible Bee is a superb opportunity for your children to do something of eternal value. Learning and memorizing God's Word is always a great idea--how much more when there is a fun and rewarding contest to encourage your child. Every family needs to take a fresh look at the Bible Bee."

Michael P. Farris, J.D., Chancellor of Patrick Henry College

JOIN US IN THIS LIFE-CHANGING ADVENTURE  
OF STUDYING AND MEMORIZING GOD'S WORD.

[www.biblebee.org](http://www.biblebee.org)   [info@biblebee.org](mailto:info@biblebee.org)   210-489-7311

*From Lee Binz, The HomeScholar*

Learn about teaching public speaking in your homeschool:

<http://www.thehomescholar.com/blog/public-speaking-is-number-one/11135/>

Read more from Mrs. Binz at:

Web: <http://www.TheHomeScholar.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TheHomeScholar>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/TheHomeScholar>

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/homescholar>



# The Hardest Part of Home Schooling

by Zan Tyler

(Snatched from Crosswalk.com Homeschool Life 5/5/15.)

As one of our readers reminded me last week, homeschooling is a calling. It is rewarding. The benefits for the [family](#) and the children are multi-dimensional. Homeschooling is also hard.

Homeschooling is hard because it is worthwhile, because it produces eternal fruit, because it goes against the grain of the status quo, because it is demanding. As homeschooling mothers, we can now add choosing curriculum, organizing school days, and teaching to the long litany of demanding tasks that already fill our days: cooking, cleaning, laundry, chauffeuring, nurturing, grocery shopping - the list continues, ad infinitum.

But to me, none of these things is the hardest part of homeschooling. The hardest part is the daily pressure and concern I experience regarding my children's welfare. I know their lives are in God's hands, and yet I can't help but sense that my children's futures depend on me in a significant way. Am I giving them everything they need? Are we covering enough material in school? How are they doing spiritually? Am I challenging them enough? Too much? What if I mess up? What if, when they are grown, they resent our decision to [home school](#)? What if they can't get into the right colleges or get the right jobs? The haunting "what ifs" - like my daily lists of chores - seem to be never-ending. (As a note of encouragement, my grown sons are doing very well in life, are walking with God, and cherish their homeschooling heritage.)

I used to think that my deep concern about my children's welfare was sin, until I read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. In these verses, Paul recounts the grave physical dangers and hardships that had been his as a servant of Christ - imprisonments, beatings, shipwreck, robbers, hunger, etc. (Please read these verses when you have a minute.) But in verse 28 Paul says this, "Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches."

Wow! This verse is packed with powerful significance for homeschooling mothers. Paul is saying in essence that all the external challenges he has endured are not as taxing or as ever-present as the "daily pressure of concern for all the churches." Paul is validating the daily pressure we experience regarding the concern we have for all our children. He has experienced that same pressure - multiplied. His concern for the churches stems from his great love for Christ and for them, just like our concern for our children stems from our love for Christ and for them. Doesn't that make you want to stand up and cheer?

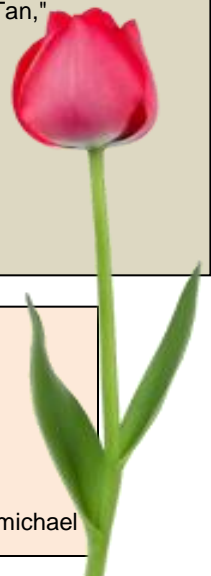
And instead of being a negative, our concern is really a positive thing - because it keeps us focused, motivated, and on our knees. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10: "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

For those of you who need encouragement, I hope you will read my article on the HomeSchool Channel this week entitled, "Must I be Superwoman to Home School?" It is really a continuation of our discussion here. In Terri Camp's weekly article "I Need a Tan," she also encourages us to keep our focus by basking in the glory of God.

What do you find hard about homeschooling, and how have you dealt with it?

This week, may Paul's words and wisdom encourage you as you continue your very worthwhile labors in your home.

Zan Tyler is co-author of the book [Anyone Can Homeschool](#). She and her husband have three children and have been homeschooling since 1984.



## Convention of the States

From the project team

*Editor's note: Learn more about this topic from the proponents' point of view.*

Every groundbreaking political movement endures opponents who spread misinformation, and the Convention of States Project is no exception. Fortunately, a host of national opinion leaders like [Sarah Palin are taking the time to debunk](#) fear mongering propaganda such as the "runaway convention" myth.

We want you, too, to have the [tools](#) you need to respond to any Convention of States objection. That's why we created the ["Responses to Opposition"](#) page on our website. Here, you can find information about [who would control a Convention of States](#), [how a convention would operate](#), and [whether or not it could be limited](#).

It's important to be able to explain these concepts, so that Americans will understand how we can counter an [ever-expanding regulatory system](#), the [corruption of the IRS](#), and the astronomical costs to our economy of an [overly-complex tax system](#).

We can take our country back, but we need to know the facts about Article V.

*Editor's note: If you have a succinct article with links regarding opposition to a Convention of the States, forward it for consideration for a future [Eclectic Report](#).*

Give me the love that leads the way,  
The faith that nothing can dismay,  
The hope no disappointments tire,  
The passion that will burn like fire,  
Let me not sink to be a clod--  
Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.

*Toward Jerusalem by Amy Carmichael*

One way of laying down our lives is by praying for somebody. In prayer I am saying, in effect, "my life for yours." My time, my energy, my thought, my concern, my concentration, my faith--here they are, for you. So it is that I participate in the work of Christ. So it is that no work of faith, no labor of love, no smallest prayer is ever lost, but, like the smoke of the incense on the golden altar, rises from the hand of the angel before God.

*Notes on Prayer by Elisabeth Elliot*





# PRAY WITHOUT CEASING . . .

~Pray for our board: **Ken & Llorra Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham.** Pray for them regarding all issues of board governance.

~Pray for single parent homeschoolers. Maybe God would use you to come alongside and help them with childcare, finances, curriculum.

~Continue to Pray for those with health challenges: Nathaniel Breuer, 12<sup>th</sup> grader (and family), Minot; Evan Vanderbeek, 9, (and family); Nancy Larsen (and family) as she recuperates from chemo; and Jon Leedahl (Adie, too) who is now back in the states recovering after his visit to Mayo Clinic.

~Beseech our dear Lord Jesus to make His presence known, pour out His mercy, and overwhelm with grace the Alvin Reich family. Alvin went to be with Jesus this week and leaves behind 3 children still being homeschooled, 5 children graduated, and his wife, Becky.

~Pray for Christians in the Middle East. Beg God to strengthen them to the very end. Pray for Iraqi, Syrian, and Libyan Christians. Pray for Christians in Kenya, and Niger. *Open Doors USA* reports that 100 million Christians are persecuted globally. Many are dying with the name of our dear Lord Jesus on their lips. Pray for those fearful mommies and their little ones as they run, hide or die because they are Christians.

~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. PRAISE the Lord they are carefully watching the latest trend i.e. "medical kidnapping". 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.

~Pray diligently for your Pastor that our Lord will keep him faithful, honorable in all areas of his life, and filled with godly wisdom.

**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

## The Greatest Need of Families

From *The Shaping of a Christian Family* by Elisabeth Elliot

Called to be holy. If fathers of families could keep ever before their eyes this single high purpose toward which they seek to guide their children, what a difference it might make in the homes of our nation! And how shall they guide them unless they themselves are holy? This must be their constant prayer: For their sakes I sanctify myself. **The greatest need of families is holy parents.**

And how shall parents *bless* their children? Among the many meanings of this word *bless* are "to pray for the happiness of" and to "make happy, blithesome, and joyous." How should we do this? Showering children with material things is often the first thing modern parents and grandparents think of to make them happy. When I think of what made me happiest as a child it is not the tangible gifts I received, even though these meant more to me than such things can possibly mean to many present-day children because they have so many. I think of the pleasure my parents and grandparents showed in me. . . . we treasured any least word of encouragement. Our performance was not the result of relentless goading, or even the prospect of great rewards, but of that "steady pressure to be at our best," to do what was *right*. Why was it? Example is by far the best answer. It was the way our parents lived. The consistency of what we saw, the dependability of their word, the clarity of their requirements backed up the example.

Besides encouraging and comforting, my father urged us in every way he could to **live lives worthy of God.**

God knows the feelings of discouragement, inadequacy, and failure which conscientious parents feel. But it was His idea to make them parents and to give them this particular set of children. He knew they would not do a perfect job. He is Father to the parents, and promises every kind of help they need. He stands beside them in every situation, ready to give wisdom as needed and grace to help in time of need if only they will turn to Him and ask for it. He teaches them to love these children.

*It is a supernatural love. It is beyond our powers to love in this way, but it is not beyond His.*

Send your prayer requests to [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) or [billbivy@msn.com](mailto:billbivy@msn.com)

### NDHSA Board of Directors

**Ken Knight**, president and **Llorra Knight**, west region support group coordinator, 701.880.6126 or [knight\\_publishing@hotmail.com](mailto:knight_publishing@hotmail.com)  
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**Troy and Kristin Durham**, directors, 701.298.3414 or [tkdurham@ideaone.net](mailto: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

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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 *Lampighter 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: [billbivy@msn.com](mailto:billbivy@msn.com)

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