

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 5 Issue 7 Editor: Gail M. Biby billboby@msn.com July 2015



Logo design by Josiah Kopp



Greetings!

I can't help but mention that my long-distance mentor, Elisabeth Elliot, has gone home to be with Jesus. I cried on and off for several days. Not because she has gone to glory, but because there will be no more insightful, courageous, mature, godly wisdom from her pen.

I own most of her works and have reread them frequently. I recently had someone ask me what my favorite of EE's books is and I replied with *Keep a Quiet Heart* (maybe because I have often been in need of such) and *Secure in the Everlasting Arms* (probably because security has been a life-long desperate need). But I also mentioned *Discipline the Glad Surrender* and *The Liberty of Obedience*. I would be hard pressed to find any that were not worth the reading.

I write a newsletter for my church gals which features a section containing EE quotes. I hope to make more gals aware of her great biblical teachings. I am shocked to find that many, even in my generation, don't know who Elisabeth Elliot was; mention she was the wife of one of the missionaries killed by the Aucas in Ecuador in the mid-1950s and you often get an acknowledgement of who Jim Elliot was. I find this rather heartbreaking as her greatest assistance to the church of our dear Lord Jesus is the many godly, bold, honest writings that filled the decades since the five missionary men were martyred on a beach in Ecuador.

After a decade long battle with dementia Elisabeth Elliot Gren was called to forever while she gently slept the peaceful sleep of the godly. I am thankful for her service to Christian women around the world and that she worked hard, studied hard, wrote diligently, lived devotedly and finished well. I am confident she heard her Savior say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Gail



The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

The last few weeks have caused me to do much reflecting. The Supreme Court decision has troubled me greatly. Our culture is going to be affected in many ways, but I think one in which we will feel the greatest impact is in the realm of public education.

Parents around the country have been awakened to troubles in that arena through the Common Core hoopla. I think Common Core will pale in comparison to what is to come as our courts have now "approved" a lifestyle that is against the teaching of Scripture.

When I did my *Getting Started Workshop* at the state convention this past year, I was pretty hard hitting in urging parents to make the choice to homeschool. If you were there and are still undecided about what you are going to do this fall, I urge you – **This is the time! Pull your children from the government education system and start teaching them at home.** God has given us an opportunity, but it may only be for a time. We need to be raising young people who can stand firm in the days to come.

In June we were blessed with two new grandchildren. I was able to hold them in their first week of life while their mommies got some much needed rest. As I cuddled those precious little ones, I spent that time praying for them and their parents . . . asking God to make them strong, speakers of truth, able to stand against the tide of culture.

Perhaps you are fearful about taking on the task of teaching your own children. I can tell you without a doubt that if God is calling you to do this, He will equip you for it!

The NDHSA exists to help you in your homeschooling endeavor. We do our best to answer questions and point you to resources. There are many support groups around the state to give you help and encouragement plus a monthly newsletter and annual convention.

In closing, may this word from Scripture be a reminder to us all:

"My Grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness."

2 Corinthians 12:9

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, Llorra Knight and others TBA.

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

For more info on the **Roundup** contact office@ndhsa.org

The entire set of 15 **Legislative WATCHes** for the 2015 legislative session are available at:

<https://goo.gl/gfHCXQ>

This link is also at our website:

www.ndhsa.org

Happy July 4th

The Vaccine Reaction

An Enlightened Conversation About Vaccination, Health, and Autonomy

Welcome to *The Vaccine Reaction*, a new online publication sponsored by NVIC. TVR's managing editor, Marco Cáceres, and I invite you to join our editorial staff and guest writers in an "enlightened conversation about vaccination, health and autonomy."

Read more about TVR [here](#). - Barbara Loe Fisher, TVR Executive Editor

[Sample articles]

The Misunderstood Theory of Herd Immunity

Published June 20, 2015 | [Opinion](#)

Because of the recent outbreaks of measles in the United States and the re-energized public debate about vaccines and vaccination policy, we're again starting to hear references to the theory of "herd immunity." The theory is the foundation for the mass vaccination campaigns around the world.

[Read More >](#)

Do You Know What's In Your Vaccines?

Published June 15, 2015 | [Vaccination](#)

Forget for a moment that government and physician recommended vaccines contain lab altered bacteria and attenuated viruses causing the infections you are trying to avoid contracting. It is important to learn more about the additives and other ingredients in vaccines, including animal DNA and chemicals and heavy metals.

[Read More >](#)



From Crosswalk.com July 1, 2015

Why You Need to Limit Your Kids' Screen Time

By Rachel Marie Stone

Perhaps because I know too well how technology affects me, I allow my kids very little screen time.

[READ FULL ARTICLE >>](#)

Six Essentials to Inspire Your Young Artist

By Tim Chambers

I asked kids at my recent art workshop, "Do you like to draw?" Every hand went up. It was unanimous.

[READ FULL ARTICLE >>](#)

Board NOTES



Editor's note: I can affirm Pas. Skaar's descriptions of Bryce Canyon (and Zion, too!). They are two of the most awe-inspiring places I have ever visited. We took the car tours and my husband had his glasses on though!

From Pastor Brian Skaar

Our family recently made a visit to Bryce Canyon in Utah. It is one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. Arches and spires with landscapes that almost seem otherworldly as far as the eye can see. Our plan was to hike several days while staying in a rustic cabin in the wilderness, which to me is a nice cabin at KOA. The first day in this national park was rather uneventful. The clouds were so thick we couldn't even see the cars on the other side of the parking lot, let alone the canyon we had traveled many miles to experience. Since we are from the rugged plains with the harsh winters of North Dakota, we went back to our cabin and waited for the weather to clear.

Day two was the time that I had anticipated for months. Going to the fitness center every week-day and walking three miles on the treadmill should keep me in front of the crowd. We arrived at the parking lot and got off the bus. We walked to the edge of the canyon. What an amazing view! Looking down we saw hikers that look like ants walking through the arches and spires. Two trailheads, one on the upper rim of the canyon with great views only two miles or for only another mile or so we could make the plunging hike into the depths of the canyon for the spectacular views below and come up on the other side which was two hundred feet lower. We picked up the trail map and headed down into the canyon. I was the guide and map reader, who left the cabin without his glasses.

The first part of the hike was great. The path went right through one of those awesome arches and descended to the bottom of the amphitheater-like rock formation. We came to a fork in the trail and we took the easier lower loop where in less than a mile we could branch off onto the Navajo trail and back up to the lower rim. We got to the bottom of the loop and there was a path to the right that led to another trail. I was sure, looking at the map without my glasses, that the Navajo trail would branch off, in just a few hundred more feet. I was wrong. I ended up leading my family on a trail that was several miles further. On the way back up I had a gall bladder attack. (How does that happen? It was removed several years ago). Needless to say, by the time we got back to the top this fearless trail guide was not very popular.

This month it will be forty years since I was called into the ministry. We have been on several difficult hikes, so to speak, along this road. I ask myself several questions concerning the path that I am going to take. Do I have the strength and resources to go this way? Am I seeing clearly? (Glasses help when you are reading a map. The word of God is essential for life direction.) Am I willing to pay the price to do the right thing? Our Founding Fathers were willing to give up their property and their very lives to gain liberty. Let us not be willing to sell our liberty for convenience. I do not regret taking the path of home education. Many valuable treasures have been discovered along the way that were not visible from the trailhead.



LOTS of STUFF

- From Stephanie Phillips

FILMMAKING

"I wanted to share a new opportunity that has come up on the homeschool horizon. I recently started taking online classes, taught by a friend of mine, called **Tomorrow's Filmmakers**, a Christian Film Academy. It is so excellent that I thought I would share it with the homeschool community, as I know many homeschoolers are interested in filmmaking and videography. This is definitely the best course I have found on this topic, and I would highly recommend it for any age. This has been an amazing course for me and I hope the information blesses others as well." Email me at steph@hearts4home.org for more info or go to: TOMORROWSFILMMAKERS.COM

- From LeRoy Nelson, M.Ed.

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Leadership, Nelson Academy of Agricultural Sciences Online, Box 23, Scobey, MT 59263

Voice: 406-783-8552 Email: leroy.nelson@k12.nd.us Website: www.AllAgOnline.com

The **Nelson Academy of Agricultural Sciences Online** is changing hundreds of lives each semester through a unique and flexible learning format. From middle and high school students, to homeschool students, to adults seeking to expand their own knowledge and skills, all are enthusiastic about the benefits of the academy.

Experts find agriculture and natural resources to be among the fields with the lowest unemployment rates – lower than business, engineering, law and several others. With more than 20 classes in the areas of animal and plant science, agribusiness, leadership, and marketing, hundreds of students nationally and internationally are able to enrich, educate and prepare themselves for a promising, exciting and rewarding career in the field of agriculture!

Mr. Nelson started NAASO in 2010 with one goal in mind: to provide high quality agriculture education classes to those who might not otherwise have the opportunity. NAASO is nationally accredited through AdvancEd, and the curriculum is approved by the National Council for Agriculture Education's "National Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster Content Standards."

Visit www.AllAgOnline.com and click on any of the courses on the home page for a full description and lesson titles.

- From the **North Dakota Family Alliance Shelle HAS LEFT!**

Shelle Aberle, **policy director in Bismarck**, has left us. Shelle helped during the 2015 legislative session and did a great job of energizing the NDFA Facebook page. Thanks so much, Shelle. We will miss you. We pray and encourage all to lift up Shelle and Mike in your prayers as Mike prepares for a kidney transplant procedure in August. We know that Shelle's time will be devoted to Mike and her family as they prayerfully navigate through the next few months.

NDFA places a high priority on this staff position in the Bismarck/Mandan area and will look to fill it as soon as possible. If you or someone you know may have an interest in knowing more about the position, please contact Tom Freier. Until the position is filled, please direct all questions and requests for service to our Fargo office, 701-364-0676. <http://ndfa.org/>

- Something on Common Core

COMMON CORE LAWSUIT FILED

Several private North Dakota citizens have filed a lawsuit against the N.D. officials regarding the testing in Common Core being unconstitutional. Read more:

<https://www.thomasmore.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Cates-v-Baesler-Complaint.pdf>

<http://missourieducationwatchdog.com/breaking-common-core-news-from-north-dakota-lawsuit-by-the-thomas-more-law-center-challenges-the-constitutionality-of-common-core-in-north-dakota/>

From Liberty Counsel-Matt Staver

WHO DO THEY THINK THEY ARE?

LC.org

Chief Justice John Roberts was right when referring to "five lawyers" who think they can order the "transformation of a social institution that has formed the basis of human society for millennia....Just who do we think we are?" he retorted. He went on to write that the decision of these "five lawyers" (as he calls them three times in his dissent) "is an act of will, not a legal judgment... [because the so-called right] "has no basis in the Constitution or the Court's precedents."

We must not pretend that the opinion of five lawyers should be respected as the rule of law. The only authority the Justices of the Supreme Court have is the Constitution of the United States. But five lawyers violated their oath by disregarding the Constitution and seeking to impose their own opinion [on **what constitutes a marriage**]. These five lawyers are entitled to their own opinion, however wrong it may be, but they have no authority to impose their personal opinion on the rest of the country. This ruling by the five lawyers is no law at all. It is lawless and must be treated as such.

Read our [Press Release](#) for more information, and then head over to our [Facebook](#) page and join the conversation!

- From Home School Legal Defense Association **TEENS AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

Guiding your teen through the **social media maze** may seem difficult, but here's a resource that provides helpful pointers and advice. [Read more >>](#)



America certainly has her share of challenges, some *really* troublesome, but is there anywhere else in the world I would want to live? No, no there isn't!

From Wayne Walker's *Biblical Homeschooling*

Kim Kimble of the Hudson Valley, NY, in "What I Wish Someone Had Told Me at the Beginning", sets out virtually everything a new-to-homeschooling parent might need to know.

What I Wish Someone Had Told Me at the Beginning

By Kim Kimble

When I first began home educating nearly 20 years ago I was very nervous. In part, this fear was because everyone was always so positive about home education that I sometimes felt like I was buying snake oil. I searched for the negatives and couldn't find anyone to talk about them (well, other than the NEA, whom I didn't trust anyway). This is -- in as honest a form as I can say it -- what I wish someone had told me. My advice to new homeschoolers is as follows, take from it what makes sense for your family and leave the rest.

1. Relax, have fun, enjoy each other. This is my one mandatory suggestion.
2. Be a facilitator. I make an effort not to be a teacher. Instead, I try to facilitate learning by providing resources, opportunities, information, materials, and sometimes suggestions. I also try to mentor, but I have been most successful when I have arranged for others to mentor my children on specific topics.

Read More: <http://www.homeschoolnewslink.com/blog/?p=836>

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 our testing task force member, Pas. Jeff Hoverson, Minot.

-**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, 12th grader (and family), Minot; Evan Vanderbeek, 9, (and family); Nancy Larsen (and family) as she continues to successfully recuperate from chemo; and Jon Leedah (Adie, too) who is now back in the states learning to walk all over again with his new leg. Praise the Lord for His work in their lives.

-**Pray for** Mike and Shelle Aberle, homeschooling Bismarck family. Mike will be having a kidney transplant this summer.

-**Continue to pray for** Becky Reich family. Many adjustments are required after the death of a spouse. Becky has three children still being homeschooled and 4 children graduated. Alvin's death brings many challenges; pray for the comfort only the Lord can provide.

-**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; there are many temptations and challenges in our culture . . . pastors are not exempt!

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 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
Pas. Jeff Kapelle, director and **Karol Kapelle**, convention coordinator, 701.262.4446 or kapklan@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 billbivy@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 has written 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: billbivy@msn.com