

The Eclectic Report

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Logo design by Josiah Kopp



Greetings!

As another summer comes to an end and as I get closer to 70 I realize more deeply that time really does fly by. There are so many things/actions we fail to do, or be, or love, or obey, or persevere in. I can't help but think about how important it is to finish well.

So many 'Christian stars', it seems, as of late are ending up shipwrecked on rocky coasts of their own sinful desires and pursuits. So many worthy endeavors are begun but not finished. When it comes to God's call on our lives, quitting isn't really an option for the believer. That call takes many forms: mother, father, daughter, son, homemaker, provider, spiritual leader, homeschooler, and any noble vocation. If God has called you to do it, then you *must* do it. Aren't we all guilty of unfinished projects (still working on Lily's birthday afghan from last winter)? But the key is to finish well. *I* want to finish well. *I* want *you* to finish well. Not to just finish, but to finish *well*. . . like Elisabeth Elliot finished well. The only way to do that is to be continually doing the will of the Father. Then no matter the difficulties . . . we will finish well.

Praying for you as you begin another homeschool year.

Gail



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

NDHSA Convention February 25-27, 2016

Bismarck Civic Center

Keynote speaker **ISRAEL WAYNE!**

Don't forget to PRAY . . .

Please pray for **Pas. Jeff Hoverson** as he serves on the testing task force convened by the Department of Public Instruction Superintendent Baesler. It appears two other parent educators will also serve on this large task force (Is it just a behemoth committee to induce 'consensus?') so we can pray that at least the parent educators will be in agreement on assessment testing. Pray for the gift of wisdom from above (which "cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."). Pray also that Pas. Jeff will be wise as a serpent and as harmless as a dove. Ask God to give him courage when needed and that He will speak through him.



The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

Last month I wrote about the following. This is continuing to be an issue with several families so I am going to include the paragraph below again this month.

*It was recently brought to my attention that there was new legislation this past session regarding the ND state grant. Homeschoolers were inadvertently missed in the language and so the N.D. University System has set up documenting requirements for homeschoolers. Brenda from the N.D. University System states the following. "To qualify for the ND State Grant, students must now meet certain qualifications based on their high school credentials. Home schooled students can qualify if they were schooled in accordance with NDCC 15.1-23. Specifically, this statute requires parents to file a **Statement of Intent** each year and for the curriculum to match those subjects required by ND law to be taught to public school students. In order for our office to determine eligibility for the ND State Grant for homeschool students, we are requiring the final high school transcript and the Statement of Intent for each year of high school. These documents are then evaluated to ensure that the student met the intent of NDCC 15.1-23."*

I had written that in some apparent 2015 legislation homeschoolers were left out of the language, but I have found that is not the case. I have not been able to determine what changed to cause all the confusion, but parents need to understand that if their child is going to apply for either the **ND State Scholarship** or **ND State Grant** they need to follow certain procedures. In order to determine eligibility for either of these, the student's transcript must be sent to the Department of Public Instruction and *they* evaluate the transcript and determine the student's eligibility.

The NDHSA and HSLDA have always contended that the high school graduation requirements listed in the N.D. Century Code do not apply to homeschoolers, but they are an excellent guideline. If, however, you are applying for these state monies then those requirements are what is used to determine that eligibility. Because of that, you must document the courses in your high school transcripts to reflect those classes.

I have visited with Dee Black, HSLDA Senior Counsel, concerning this matter. Here are his comments:

I think the state can require that the student continue enrollment in a home education program for all four years of high school in order to be eligible for this scholarship, even though the student may no longer be of compulsory attendance age. Otherwise, I think the dropout status would apply. I also think the state may prescribe the courses that must be taken in order to qualify for the

scholarship, but I don't see that the state has done so in any of the statutes. The requirements seem to be simply that the student has completed a home education program.

Regarding the graduation requirements and the Higher Ed and DPI's reliance on Sec. 15.1-21-02.2 as applying to all students, I can see how they can take the position they're taking, because it does not expressly limit the requirements to public and nonpublic schools. However, the state has refused to recognize "a program of home education" as any type of "school," so it seems to me that since these requirements are for "high school" graduation, they would not apply to home education. Another reason I don't think this statute applies to homeschoolers is that Sec. 15.1-23-17 is the statute that prescribes the requirements for a student completing a home education program to get a diploma through the school district, a nonpublic school, or the center for distance education. A student who completed a home education program and then got a diploma from a school district by meeting the requirements of Sec. 15.1-23-17 would not have to comply with Sec. 15.1-21-02.2. Further, our position is that the state has not prescribed any graduation requirements for parent-issued diplomas.

This is not an easy matter, but we will write a letter to Higher Ed on behalf of any of our member families who complied with the home education law in grades 9-12 and who issued a diploma to their children, if they are being denied the scholarship."

Editor's note: *There have sprung up on the Internet several cranky, disgruntled and, in my opinion, shameful blogs whining about the abuse of homeschooling. Not the 'abusers' which may be involved in homeschooling, but the practice of homeschooling itself. I followed several for a brief period but found them so filled with ungodly bitterness, resentment, and anger that I unsubscribed.*

When there are legitimate complaints by the homeschooled toward their homeschooling parents the PUBLIC, one-sided airing of them does not follow the Biblical pattern (Matthew 18). I couldn't help but mumble to myself during most of my reading of these diatribes "What are you, twelve years old?!"

Jacinda graciously granted me permission to reprint the following. When one considers there are likely more than 2 million children currently being homeschooled, it is little wonder that a miniscule number of discontents have found a voice on the ubiquitous Internet.

MANY Homeschooled are Very Thankful

Jacinda Vandenberg

I'm a 2nd generation homeschooler, and it grieves me to see how much public shaming my generation has given homeschooling, especially when I know, like you, that there are thousands and thousands of homeschooling alumni that are tremendously grateful for their education.

We have not been immune to our culture's pervasive message of "tolerance" and "diversity." Sure, we loved our education, but there seems to be a general consensus not to ruffle anyone else's feathers with our own opinion. We're missing the conviction of our parents. This is an unfortunate challenge and we need to speak up. For better or for worse, social media is a powerful weapon; the ratio of articles on the Internet presenting homeschooling in a positive light by those who have reaped its rewards should be much higher, and I think a concerted effort by an organized peer group may help.

I started labeling positive blog posts with negative search terms after discovering that people were visiting our website by searching for things like "why I will never homeschool my kids," etc. An article scheduled for next week is entitled "Homeschoolers Miss Out On A Lot," something else I noticed gets searched for regularly. I suppose people would expect to find a list of negative things about homeschooling, but I'm afraid they'll be confronted with a list that details all the negatives one can avoid by simply not going to school!

Our main motivation for homeschooling needs to be Gospel-centered. Too many articles and celebrity families have presented homeschooling as the ultimate answer (follow this list of rules, and your children will turn out), not a method of family discipleship that requires God's blessing. They've fallen and we've been humbled. So maybe it's not an unfortunate challenge facing us. Maybe it's God's way of making sure the new generation of homeschoolers leans not on its own understanding, but in all its ways, acknowledges Him . . . and He will direct our paths. (Proverbs 3:6)

Jacinda Vandenberg
OCHEC Canada
www.growinghomeblog.com

"My Grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9



Editor's note: *Haven't heard of Gladys Aylward, the Small Woman, missionary to China? You are missing out on one of the most courageous stories of the 20th Century. Read about her amazing life in the following: Gladys Aylward by Catherine Swift; Flight of the Fugitives by Dave & Neta Jackson; Gladys Aylward Missionary to China by Sam Wellman; The Small Woman by Alan Burgess; and Gladys Aylward The Adventure of a Lifetime by Geoff & Janet Bengé. Believe it or not Hollywood actually made a movie (unfortunately with 'poetic license') starring Ingrid Bergman in 1958 entitled The Inn of the Sixth Happiness. We've watch it many times. From reading these enchanting true stories your children will learn about Chinese culture (foot binding), WW2, courage, obedience to God's call, Chinese geography, trust in the Shepherd of our Souls and even prison reform. Gladys Aylward's story is remarkable!*

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Following from **Diana Waring**

Right now, do you feel like you are overcoming. . .or are you going under? In the midst of the storm, it helps to read someone else's story of experiencing God's faithfulness. One of my favorites is Gladys Aylward, a British serving girl who went to China prior to WWII. Here is a [short excerpt of her story](#).

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**From HSLDA:** Grammar Police (which this editor admits to being!)  
*25 Most Common Grammatical Errors*

Take a refresher course in grammar. Lists easy-to-make mistakes and uses plain English to explain them. [View »](#)

# President's Board Report

Ken Knight, North Dakota Home School Association Board President



It has been a while since I brought everyone up to date on what is happening with the Board of Directors, so I thought I would steal the limelight in the newsletter to do just that. I'd like to start by telling you who the board members are and what their places of service are. Jeff and Theresa Deckert are from Devil's Lake. Jeff is the board past president and present vice president. Theresa does everything. She is the office administrator, support group coordinator, workshop presenter and the answerer of all homeschool questions. Troy and Kristen Durham are from Fargo. Troy is the board secretary, and the vendor hall coordinator for the conventions. Kristen is the head of the art contest and the silent auction. Sue Huntington is from Mandan. Sue handles photography and is the heart of our Board of Directors. Jeff and Karol Kapelle are from Tolna. Jeff is the convention chaplain. Karol is the amazing convention coordinator extraordinaire and all-around organizer of everything. Ken and Lora Knight are from Dickinson. Ken is the board president. Lora is support group coordinator, workshop presenter, parliamentarian, backup board secretary, midwife-in-residence and prettiest lady ever. (I might be a little biased!). Brian and Bev Skaar are from Lakota. Brian leads our legislation efforts. Bev is the leader of the convention's homeschool choir. Neil Toman is from Bismarck. Neil is the board treasurer. Understand that this is not a comprehensive list of all the duties this fine group of volunteers performs but just a sampling of their major duties.

Not long ago the Superintendent of Public Instruction asked the NDHSA if we would send a representative to sit on a Task Force for Testing. Feeling that it is vital to provide input and to know what decisions are being made in this area that effects so many homeschool families, we agreed and asked Minot Pastor Jeff Hoverson to be that representative for us. Pastor Hoverson is very qualified, highly capable and the answer to prayer for this position. We look forward to hearing his reports when the task force convenes.

With the surprising growth in the western part of the state we felt the need to hold a one-day event in Watford City that we're calling The Western Dakota Homeschool Round Up. Now all you easterners are welcome to grab your sombreros, strap on your spurs and come out and join us too. Information is on the website. [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

The Board of Directors will be holding our annual retreat October 1-2 at the palatial estate of Brian and Bev Skaar just outside of Watford City. A great deal of work and planning for the upcoming months is done at these retreats so please pray that this one will bear much good fruit.

The next homeschool convention will be in Bismarck, Feb. 25 – 27. It has been a long time since we've been able to find a facility that can handle the convention in the Capitol City. Mark your calendars and all you easterners can grab your sombreros . . . well, you get the picture. Remember that pastors and grandparents attend free. See the website [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) for details.

Support group leaders, keep in touch with our Facebook page for encouragement, support and resources. Contact the office for details. Also, don't forget if you would like to have a board member attend a support group or informational meeting just contact the home office to make arrangements. We would be glad to help.

Well, if you thought that your Board of Directors wasn't doing much I hope I have shown you that you're wrong. The board depends on you to keep us informed as to the needs and concerns of North Dakota homeschoolers. If you have input or suggestions, we are always ready to listen. E-mail or call: [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) or 701.662.6347.

The entire set of 15 **Legislative WATCHes** for the 2015 legislative session are at: <https://goo.gl/gfHCXQ> This link is also at our website: [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

**2016 Convention**  
**Feb. 25-27**  
**Bismarck**

Like us on Facebook:  
[North Dakota Home School Association](https://www.facebook.com/NorthDakotaHomeSchoolAssociation)

[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)



YES, North Dakota studies are required in grade eight and if you are looking for FREE materials to aid in your teaching just go to: [ndstudies.gov/gr8](http://ndstudies.gov/gr8)



From Homeschool.com Crosswalk UPDATE:

## What is Your Child's Learning Style?

By Melissa Pinkley

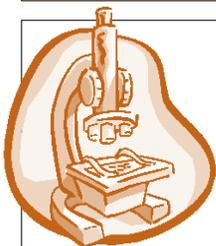
Have you ever gone over something repeatedly with your child, only to hear him cry in despair, "I just don't get it!" [READ FULL ARTICLE >>](#)

Research and experience show that home education works. It works because it is consistent with God's plan for parents to have the primary role in the education and upbringing of their children.

Dr. Brian Ray, National Home Education Research Institute, *Worldwide Guide to Homeschooling*

I'm a Christian homeschool dad of 8 and I **sell, service, and repair microscopes**. Are you looking for a microscope? I have them starting at \$115. All conform to requirements of *Apologia*, *Sonlight* and any other homeschool biology curriculum and come with a 5-year warranty. Curriculum providers offer them in the \$250 range so there are significant savings. One of our most popular student microscope models has been personally endorsed by Dr. Jay L. Wile, author of the popular *Exploring Creation with Biology* curriculum. Check out my website at [www.homeschoolmicroscopes.com](http://www.homeschoolmicroscopes.com).

For more information: Pat Luna, LGS Microscopes, 623.240.2232 or (c) 602.821.7468 or visit the above website.





## PRAY WITHOUT CEASING . . .

~Pray for our board: **Ken & Llor 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, and curriculum. Pray they will persevere.

~Continue to Pray for those with health challenges: Nathaniel Breuer, 12<sup>th</sup> grader (and family), Minot; Evan Vanderbeek, 9, (and family); for the Aberle family during this time of medical challenge. (Know of someone we could be praying for regarding this challenge? Send to billboby@msn.com and we will gladly add them to our prayer list.)

~Pray for parents still making decisions about fully directing the education of their children. Ask God to give them wisdom. Give each the courage to obey.

~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. Then express your gratitude to the Lord for being born in America!

~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 service to N.D. parent educators and NDHSA staff. How I praise the Lord for Home School Legal Defense Association! Join me. **PRAY** for their continued work and their upcoming HSLDA National State Leaders' Conference in Texas.

~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! Ask God to make them students of the WORD and courageous speakers of the truth.

~Pray for homeschooling mommies struggling with discouragement, feelings of being overwhelmed, resistance to this hard call, and for those who feel alone in their endeavor (especially in rural areas of N.D.). **Pray** the enemy will not diminish the zeal of beginning homeschoolers.

**Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 KJV**

Send your prayer requests to [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) or [billboby@msn.com](mailto: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](mailto:knight_publishing@hotmail.com)  
**Pas. Jeff Kapelle**, director and **Karol Kapelle**, convention coordinator, 701.262.4446 or [kapkian@gondtc.com](mailto:kapkian@gondtc.com)  
**Neil Toman**, treasurer, 701.222.0250 or [ntoman@nd.gov](mailto:ntoman@nd.gov)  
**Susan Huntington**, director, 701.663.7858 or [essh2nd@hotmail.com](mailto:essh2nd@hotmail.com)  
**Jeff Deckert**, director and **Theresa Deckert**, office administrator & east region support group coordinator, 701.662.4790 or [jntdeck@gondtc.com](mailto:jntdeck@gondtc.com) for NDHSA items, use [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org)  
**Pas. Brian and Bev Skaar**, directors, 701.247.2875 or [walkalongdeut6.7@hotmail.com](mailto:walkalongdeut6.7@hotmail.com)  
**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

*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](mailto: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 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 *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: [billboby@msn.com](mailto:billboby@msn.com)

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For your rumination from one of the wisest women of the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Centuries:

When women--sometimes well-meaning, earnest, truth-seeking ones--say "Get out of the house and do something *creative*, find something *meaningful*, something with more direct access to *reality*," it is a dead giveaway that they have missed the deepest definition of creation, of meaning, of reality. . . . when you ignore the Other World where this one ultimately finds its meaning, *of course* housekeeping (and any other kind of work if you do it long enough) becomes tedious and empty. . . . the ordinary transactions of everyday life are the very means of transfiguration. It is the common stuff of this world, which, because of the Word's having been "made flesh," is shot through with meaning, with charity, with the glory of God.  
Elisabeth Elliot, *Love Has a Price Tag*

**NEW office hours:**

M-W-Th-F: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Office **closed on Tuesday.**