

# The Eclectic Report

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Logo design by Josiah Kopp

## Greetings!



Here's what I LOVE about autumn: We celebrate THANKSGIVING DAY! It is my very favorite holiday. Somehow the secular world is struggling to make it a secular holiday. And I always think it is exceedingly sad when folks talk about being thankful but then don't appear to believe in anyone to be thankful to! For Christians we have a Person to whom we give thanks. And our gratitude ought to be specific.

For example: Fall flowers, wild geese flying, freedom to homeschool, wisdom from above (if we just ask!), love of family and friends, indoor plumbing, assured eternal destiny, grace, automobiles, abundant food, drink and clothing, immeasurable mercies from our dear Father in heaven, abiding friendships, washing machines, no fear of bombs dropping on our

heads, phones, computers, everlasting love from our God, local bodies of believers, abundance in every form imaginable, health care (which includes anesthesia-think about it!), corrective lenses, the Bible, employment, and much, much more!

My word to you (and me!): BE THANKFUL to our dear Heavenly Father for all that He provides knowing full well that we are not worthy. Yet He continues to bless us abundantly. It's a marvelous thing.

Give thanks with a grateful heart!

*Gail, from the Blessed Life Ranch*

**NDHSA Convention**  
**Feb. 25-27, 2016**  
**Bismarck Civic Center**  
**Keynote speaker:**  
**Israel Wayne**

The great battles waiting for biblical Christians are not over homosexual 'marriage' or abortion or pornography on the Internet. The crucial debates aren't over racism or immigration or justice for the poor. The most telling discussion in the years ahead, just like those in the years immediately behind us, will be over who has the right, and the freedom, to educate our children. All the other issues will more or less fall in line if we get that one right.

Joel Belz, founder of WORLD magazine, commenting on Nevada's new school voucher system that gives parents the freedom to choose where their children attend school.

## The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator



I was recently talking to a new homeschooling mom who was feeling very overwhelmed with this new endeavor. She was realizing that homeschooling is more than a cozy picture of Mom and kids cuddled up together reading and learning. Homeschooling is a lot of WORK! I agreed and she asked why I even do it.

Well, if you have ever attended one of my *Getting Started Workshops*, you have seen my reasons for homeschooling. I always encourage families to make their own list. This has been my lifeline in times of discouragement. This is what I penned when my oldest son was just 4 years old and I was thinking about teaching him at home even though it was yet illegal in North Dakota. May my thoughts written almost 30 years ago give you encouragement and a reminder of why you are going against the culture to teach your children!

- I feel that it is my God-given responsibility to personally see to my children's education.
- No one loves my child as much as I do, therefore others are not as concerned about his education.
- A parent is the best teacher a child can have if the parent is willing.
- I want to know my children and to pass my morals and values on to them.
- I want to experience watching my child joyfully learn and discover. I don't want to give this **privilege** away to a stranger.
- Children learn better when instructed one-on-one.
- There is a need for a good solid base of learning in the early years. Children love to learn at these tender ages. I want to see that the love of learning is not quenched.
- I don't want my children to become peer dependent. This is a form of negative socialization. (I have a personal example of this with my brothers, i.e. dropping out of school, drugs, jail time). An adult is a better role model than another child.
- If children can learn to get along with adults, they can get along with peers. Peer groups change with adulthood. The traditional school's grade segregation is not the "real world".
- I want to give my children the valuable gift of a **healthy** self-esteem. Self-esteem can be crushed by too early exposure to pointing, jeering peers. Peers don't build positive self-esteem as young children. My children need to see who they are in Christ.
- Many things being taught in the public schools are in direct opposition to my faith, i.e. evolution and secular humanism. Absolutes are rarely being taught anymore and there is no moral reinforcement.
- The public schools are in trouble. This is seen in falling test scores in the basic academic areas. Valuable school time is spent teaching and emphasizing other areas.
- Certain teachers, counselors, etc. lack the same standards that our family holds and thus cannot impart these things to my children.

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



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# When Life Hurts

By Mrs. Llorra Knight, NDHSA board member

How do we handle the hurts in life, the tragedies, the losses – loved ones, homes, jobs? How do they affect us? Our lives? Our home schooling? I've experienced losses in my life as I am sure all of you have, but the past eight months have been a period of time of ongoing loss and grief. My family has lost four loved ones, including both of my parents. During that time and with each successive loss, the previous pain of loss returned afresh.

How do we cope, how do we continue, and do we survive? It is only through the sustaining grace of a loving, almighty God. I have felt His love, His comforting arms, His presence in my life through a plethora of ways: initially it was with words. Prayer was the most important use of words. As our humble cries for comfort wafted before God and the intercessory prayers of others joined them, we knew the touch of the Comforter. One friend texted, "We're praying for you and crying with you." Those words were a healing balm to my sorrowful heart.

Sometimes in our grief we don't even know what to pray – we only know we need God, and He is there to offer comfort. The words continued in the form of friends and family calling and texting with words of comfort and encouragement. These words continually poured in throughout the days following our losses with cards, random CDs we put into the player, songs on the radio and even the preaching of my pastor. It is so wonderful when the man of God listens to God and brings the message most necessary for a grieving heart.

After all the words, God showed His presence and care through gifts: gifts of food, gifts of time (a helper who just washed the dishes), gifts of finances, and small gifts of remembrances. Now I understand the blessing of having food brought to the home. Sometimes the grief takes the appetite completely away (rarely with the kids); sometimes you feel you might eat something but have no desire to prepare anything. If it's there you might try. Another treasured gift was the gift of touch – a warm hug from a family member or close friend, maybe a brief squeeze of the shoulder, a tender handshake. There is something communicated with a touch, perhaps the knowledge that they are indeed sharing our grief.

Another unusual comfort I received from the Lord was through His creation. A lunar eclipse occurred in the midst of these losses and because we had been studying astronomy we got up/stayed up to watch it. The wonder of God's creation and His mighty works brought a reminder that He is in control of all things. One evening while driving to a birth, I saw the northern lights (something I hadn't seen in a few years) in a spectacular display. God's Word says, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:4). In the midst of my suffering an almighty God, Creator of the universe and all it contains, still thinks on me, still orchestrates things such as a breath-taking sunset or a special preaching message with just the right word to touch and heal my aching heart.

So, there are things that bring comfort, that help us cope, that encourage us to continue. What about home schooling? What do we do about school in the midst of trials, loss or grief? The answer to that question is dependent upon your family. What do they need? What do you need? And the answers to those may differ. Do they need some time to just be together, to share memories, to sleep (sleep, when possible, is a good remedy for grief and the stresses of life)? If that is the case, put school on hold. One of the joys of homeschooling is that we can decide when we have school. If you have younger ones who would benefit from the distraction of school – continue some classes. Some children need the regularity of a continuing schedule. If you aren't capable, maybe this would be an area where God would send the gift of a helper. Do what, if anything, you can or want to do. Life will go on and although we sometimes momentarily may think God has forsaken us, He makes His comfort known. He brings "hugs" in unique ways and laughter in the midst of the tears, often through sharing a memory. As we cry "Abba, Father" we must listen and look for the healing He offers. He shows His love to us and prepares us so that in time we may comfort others with the comfort wherewith He has comforted us.

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 KJV

## Cabin Fever Family Camp

January 15-17, 2016

Crystal Springs Bible Camp

Arrive 1:00 p.m. on Friday

Meals - Friday supper through Sunday supper. Bring snacks to share!

Activities galore and special chapel times. Rooms filling quickly! RSVP ASAP! MAX family rates.

Questions call 218.784.4804 or email [wbsip@loretel.net](mailto:wbsip@loretel.net)

Sponsored and Organized by the Wendell and Beth Sip Family



# THIS -n- THAT



## On Bible Quizzing:

Interested in a family activity with eternal rewards? Bible Quiz ministry is an opportunity to memorize Scripture as a family and to glorify God. It includes an interactive weekly Bible Study and has given many a renewed love for God's Word. For more information contact Rob and Peggy Schoon, Brandon, S.D., at 605.582.7341 or [robpeggy1@alliancecom.net](mailto:robpeggy1@alliancecom.net)

## On SN PING:

~Data: Sharing + Privacy, a special report on student-data privacy, [online now](#). From EdWeek.

~On snooping by government schools on homeschoolers from Home School Legal Defense Association

HSLDA is deeply concerned about the potential for these databases to collect the data of homeschool students. You can see an article we wrote about this here: <http://www.hslda.org/commoncore/Topic10.aspx> It also includes a slide from a presentation put on by some pro-Common Core public school groups in 2011 calling for homeschool data to be included in other student databases.

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~On snooping and the military from HSLDA

[Federal Student Tracking Defeated](#)

The federal government recently tried to track the students of every military family to learn whether they are private-schooled, public-schooled, or homeschooled. Home School Legal Defense Association formed a coalition to thwart this plan. [Read more >>](#)

~On snooping into immunization records from HSLDA

[Indiana: State Snoops into Immunization Records](#)

Officials used a statewide database to find the parents of a half-million children who have yet to be vaccinated for a common virus. Some of those parents contacted HSLDA for help. [Read more >>](#)

## On Crash Courses!

Crash Courses sponsored by the Bank of ND are being offered at various locations and homeschooled children grades 7-12 are invited to attend. Go here for more information: <http://trainingnd.com/crash-course>

Locations are:

- November 16 - Flasher
- November 17 - New Rockford
- November 19 - McClusky
- November 23 - West Hope
- November 14 - Hazelton
- November 30 - Lamoure
- December 7 - Watford City
- December 8 - Grafton



## On test scores in government schools . . . how are they doing?

**Math Scores Drop for 4th and 8th Grades on 'Nation's Report Card'**

U.S. 4th and 8th grade students are performing worse in math, and somewhat worse in reading, than they were two years ago, according to new data from a national test. [Read more](#).

## On Creation Science:

Dr. Raymond Damadian, Christian, Creationist and **Inventor of the MRI** tells his story in his new book, *Gifted Mind* where his pursuit of truth led him to the source of ultimate truth found in Jesus Christ. You can download and preview the full eBook by [CLICKING HERE](#). If you happened to watch the Ken Ham/Bill Nye debate, you may recall Ken played a clip of Dr. Damadian. To view that video [CLICK HERE](#). Questions or comments contact: **Katie Gumm**, Publicist, New Leaf Publishing Group [kgumm@nlpg.com](mailto:kgumm@nlpg.com) 870-438-5288

"To me, the highest purpose a man can find for his life is to serve the will of God. This is what motivates my work as a scientist: exploring and applying the laws of nature and of nature's God for the benefit of mankind." Dr. Raymond Damadian



## On Scheduling:

[Why Scheduling is Good for Your Soul and Your Sanity](#)

By Kym Wright

How could I introduce a balance to our lives? What would bring equilibrium to going and staying, up time and down time? Click on above title to read article.

## Gifts for children:

From my friend Janet:

We do the 4-gift rule for our 4 children every year [for Christmas]. Something they:

1. Want
2. Need
3. Can wear
4. Can READ!!

(Editor's note: *Maybe I would have put number 4 as number 1, but then that's me.*)



## 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, 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. Pray for the Solhjem family as they grieve the loss of their 9 year old son. Remember the Kelly & Shannon Olson family in the loss of their first grandchild. Pray for the Knights as they grieve the loss of Llorra's dad. (Know of someone we could be praying for regarding these challenges? Send to [billbivy@msn.com](mailto:billbivy@msn.com) and we will gladly add them to our prayer list.)

~Pray for Christians in Iraq, Syria, and Libya. 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 daddies 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 NDHSA staff. Dee will retire in December. He has blessed North Dakota home schoolers for 25 years!**

~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 the unity of your church and the entire Body of Christ.

~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 [billbivy@msn.com](mailto:billbivy@msn.com)

### NDHSA Board of Directors

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### 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](mailto: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](mailto:billbivy@msn.com)

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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)

From Elisabeth Elliot's book, *Let Me Be a Woman*:

Those who call themselves Christians are people who have accepted authority. They believed God's estimate of them and received His remedy on the basis of the authority of the Bible. Jesus said, "All authority is given to me," and when He called disciples He called them to do three things: deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow. It is impossible to do these things without recognizing authority.

In order to be a disciple we must deny ourselves--this is to exercise authority over our own spirit. We must take up the cross--this is to submit to Christ's authority. And we must follow--this is continued obedience. This is the road not to confinement, to bondage, to a stunted or arrested development, but to total personal freedom. It means not death but life, not a narrowly circumscribed life but 'abundant' life.

The mature woman acknowledges that submission is the will of God for her, and obedience to this will is no more a sign of weakness in her than it was in the Son of Man when He said, "Lo, I come--to do Thy will, O God."

**DON'T FORGET our office hours:**

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

