

# The Eclectic Report

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

Volume 5 Issue 12 Editor: Gail M. Biby [billbivy@msn.com](mailto:billbivy@msn.com) December 2015



Logo design by Josiah Kopp



## Greetings!

Winter has arrived in the Red River Valley of the North. Heavy, wet snow has covered the flatlands and as far as the eye can see the land is brilliant white. Though

I freely admit that I struggle with this season (I am most definitely a summertime gal!), still there is

much to be thankful for during winter. Ingratitude is a terrible thing. And one can't help but be reminded that the Scriptures mention snow. Psalm 51:7 reads, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." My favorite snow verse: "Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

So though I am hesitant to express delight with the season, nevertheless it is a vivid reminder of the cleansing power of the blood of the Lord Jesus and how even our most horrible willfulness, our deepest private sins, our most awful wrong thinking and self delusions, and all our worst wrong doings can be forgiven. The cross walk demands complete honesty and full repentance. We must be willing to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus every moment of every day for as long as He gives us breath if we wish to be His disciple. There is no other way.

Worth thinking about at this time of the year when we remember that He chose to come to earth at the will of His Father. He came in the most humble of manners--a baby, born in a stable, of lowly parents of lowly means. At the expressed will of the Father. For the sake of His enemies. To die an ignominious death when He alone was completely free of sin and guilt.

See why ingratitude is so wrong? How can we not give glory to God unceasingly for this great gift? I'll be praying for you and for me that we will take our eyes off self and 'Look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.'

May you have a very blessed CHRISTmas! And BE GRATEFUL!



# THANK YOU!

Thank you to Ava H. for the following reminder:

Some, perhaps many, would like to say "Thank you!" to **Dewitt Black**, senior counsel Home School Legal Defense Association, for the 25 years of wise, humble guidance he has provided to the NDHSA staff and HSLDA member families in North Dakota. I am filled with gratitude to God for his friendship and instruction for the past 25 years. If you want to express your thanks send him an email:

[dewitt@hsllda.org](mailto:dewitt@hsllda.org)

Many, many thanks, Dee, for your wise, gentle, professional and friendly interactions with NDHSA staff, legislators, HSLDA member families and government school officials.



## Gail, from the Blessed Life Ranch



### The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

In recognition of the fact that freedom has a price, the board of the North Dakota Home School Association voted in the fall of 2013 to establish the **North Dakota Home School Hall of Fame**.

Each year at our state convention, we honor and recognize those who have given selflessly to promote the cause of homeschooling in this state. It was not an easy task, but these inductees chose to walk that difficult road, and consequently made the path easier for each of us to walk today.

And so, we honor and recognize these Hall of Fame inductees who have given sacrificially to advance the cause of homeschooling in this state. Many did so through court battles which came with much strain on families. God has been gracious to us in raising up these individuals who were willing to stay the course. Most of them were quiet people, following where God led. May God, in like manner, find each of us faithful to the task to which He calls us.

2014 inductees were **Clinton and Judy Birst, Mark and Lynette Dagley, Ray and Rita Larsen and Gerald and Sheryl Lund**. Last year we recognized **Grael Gannon, Ed and Sue Huntington and Neil and Chris Toman**.

2016 inductees will include a family who battled all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, an early board couple and an individual who worked countless hours for homeschool freedom in North Dakota. Come to the convention to see who these new honorees are and share this time of honoring them for their faith and perseverance. Each recognition ceremony has been a moving experience as we thank those who were pioneers in opening the gates to freedom for home education.



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



## Give Thanks to the Lord!

By Troy Durham, convention vendor hall coordinator and NDHSA board member

With November in the past and December happening now, we will soon be bombarded with "The Best of 2015" lists. The best dressed, the best news stories, the best sports stories and the best photos come to mind for these types of lists. Every news station, every newspaper, every magazine will have their own lists and they will all be different with some overlapping stories. Many stories will be very heartwarming and some very tragic, both will hopefully help us reflect on our own lives over this past year.

As 2015 comes to an end and we continue getting ready for the Christmas season let us take time to pause and reflect on this past year. We can reflect upon the great times we had in 2015, catching up with old friends or heading out on a much-needed family vacation. We can also reflect upon the not-so-great times as well, losing a family pet or loved one.

In either circumstance let us reflect and give thanks! Let us give thanks for all of the opportunities God has given us to serve Him, whether big or small. Let us give thanks for all of the people that we were able to come in contact with this year and share God's amazing love regardless of the situation we were facing on a personal level. Let us give thanks for the strength and energy God gave us to get through all of the not-so-great times and for the joy He gave during the great times.

Sit down with your family this month and make your own "The Best of 2015" list. Write down the great things that happened this past year (best family memory, best dad quote, etc.) and the not-so-great things. Reflect upon these things, try to figure out what God was trying to teach you during those times all while doing what the Bible tells us, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever," Psalm 107:1.

# Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable GIFT!

From *Homeschooling Today* magazine:

Merry Christmas from all of us here at *Homeschooling Today* magazine! This is the season for giving, and we would like to give you a **FREE digital Holiday Edition** of *Homeschooling Today*. It can be hectic this time of year. Our goal is to help lighten your load and encourage you to keep things in perspective. Issue includes: 7 Ideas to Make Memories on a Dime; Easy Christmas Crafts for Kids; Take Holiday Pictures Like the Pros; Star of Bethlehem Art Tutorial; and much more!

[- Get the Holiday Issue Here -](#)

From [crosswalk.com](http://crosswalk.com) (Click on title)

11-30-15

[HOMESCHOOL UPDATE 18 Affordable Ways Families Can Prepare for Christmas](#)  
Sarah Hamaker



## From The Old Schoolhouse magazine

Currently selling their year-end GIANT paper-based magazine for just \$10 (\$25 after Dec.31). Go to: <http://www.TOSMagazine.com>

## From Accredited Schools Online

We've just updated the branch of our website dedicated to **online high school** education. You can find the guidebook on this page: <http://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/k-12/online-high-school/>

With the advent and growing acceptance of online education, more and more parents are considering moving their children into online K-12 programs. High school students especially can benefit from online education as it allows for a much broader knowledge base and encourages independence and self-study, valuable skills at the college level and beyond. Key elements of the guide include:

- An extensive FAQ section detailing parents' common worries
- Samples of online high school curricula
- 20 supplemental online learning resources

For more information contact:

Angela Hanners  
Director of Communications  
[AccreditedSchoolsOnline.org](http://AccreditedSchoolsOnline.org)

## From Patrick Henry College

I am the coordinator for A Call to Pens, and I want to get word out about this great opportunity for young creative writers!

Patrick Henry College is excited to announce its sixth annual "A Call to Pens" **short story competition!** Students ages twelve to eighteen are eligible to enter. Participants in the first division, ages twelve to fifteen, will craft stories exploring the theme, "Unmerited Compassion." Participants in the second division, ages sixteen to eighteen, will pen fiction with the theme, "Perseverance Through Failure." Prizes will be awarded to the top three entries in both divisions.

Entry **deadline is February 8, 2016.** For more information and competition rules:

[www.phc.edu/acalltopens.php](http://www.phc.edu/acalltopens.php).

Contact Sarah Armstrong, A Call to Pens Coordinator  
[Shortstory@phc.edu](mailto:Shortstory@phc.edu)

## [3 Online Trends Parents Need to Warn Their Kids About](#)

By Ava Pennington

Did you know 70% of teens hide their online activity, 59% interact with strangers, and 1 in 12 will meet a stranger in real life?

(Click on title to read further.)



## 2016 NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention

Bismarck Civic Center

February 25-27



### UPDATE from our convention coordinator Karol Kapelle:

Plans are underway for an exciting 2016 NDHSA Home Educators' Convention. Our keynote speaker is **Israel Wayne, Family Renewal Ministries**. He is one of the leading voices in the national and international homeschool community. He may "step on our toes" a little, but he is always a great supporter of family, homeschool, and Christian discipleship.

Our teens have the opportunity to participate in a **Generation Joshua** program designed to train them in the legislative bill-passing process. I wish I were young enough to participate!

There are many **new speakers and workshops** scheduled, as well. Check out these titles: *Teaching Allergies to Writing; Keeping Smart Cookies Challenged; Critical Thinking; Bringing Public School Home?; Resistant or Struggling Learners; Faith, Values and the Constitution; Thinking Like an Entrepreneur; Encouraging Hard Workers; and Keeping Your Family Out of the Repair Shop*. Don't these sound great? Patrick Nurre of *Northwest Treasures* will be fascinating us with all manner of Creation and geology facts. Plus we have a panel workshop scheduled with veteran homeschool parents ready to answer any questions. Please come prepared.

We're also bringing back the much enjoyed **Talent Show** on Friday night. We look forward to a great time of entertainment and celebrating the talents God has blessed you with. Other special events planned: **Silent Auction** (we need your donated items); **Art Show, State Choir, Hall of Fame** induction, and, of course, the **Used Book Sale**. There's something for everyone!

Plan to join us at the beautiful **Bismarck Civic Center convention venue February 25-27, 2016**. You'll be glad you did!

P.S. Detailed information on convention activities and more at: [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) **Pre-conference booklets** will be mailed soon. Watch for yours. If you don't receive one, just contact [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) or your local support group.

**See you in Bismarck in February!**

From the Lewis Family at Homeschool Enrichment magazine

### Addicted to Screens?

Posted in **Editor's Notes** by Jonathan Lewis

Perhaps it's because I'm a father of young children, or perhaps it's simply because I'm concerned about cultural trends and the direction our society is heading, but I've found...[Read More](#)

### Deciding to do things we don't want to do

Posted in **Random but Relevant** by Matthew Lewis

Have you ever wanted to do something but weren't sure you really wanted to do it? I'm talking about "normal," everyday sorts of things, like learning a new hobby, cooking a...[Read More](#)

## Like Marriage, and Prayer, and Fresh Strawberries Out of Season

by Ned Bustard

We confess to "believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth," and in doing so, acknowledge that the One we worship has revealed Himself not only in His Word but also in his beautiful Creation. God made us creative and on Mount Sinai gave instructions on how to use art. Edith Scheaffer said "Christians are to be conscious of the fact that we are made in His image and being conscious of it should recognize the importance of living artistically, aesthetically and creatively, as creative creatures of the Creator." Virtually all cultures have made art, and that culture's art reveals its hopes, dreams, and beliefs. Sometimes all we have of a past culture is its art. If you do an online search for the Italian Renaissance, much of it will be about the art. For nearly two thousand years, Christians have made art. Art educates and enriches faith. And by studying the art of the past, their hopes, dreams, and beliefs, we can learn something about ourselves in the present.

[Read more...](#)

(Snatched without apology from *Veritas Press Epistula* November 2015 - Why We Study Art)



"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men,'" Luke 2:8-14, KJV.

The greatest gift of all . . . God sent His only Son so that we might be made right with God. As a baby! It was He Himself, the precious Lamb of God, who willingly came and bore our sins on the cross, dying in our place. That alone would be amazing. But He did not stay dead. He rose again and now lives to ever intercede for His children with the Father. And those who repent and believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, depending on His grace and faith alone, will one day live forever with Him. What a blessed hope. And it all began as a little 'gift' born in a barn and laid in a manger, the Lord Jesus Christ. The greatest gift of all!

# 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. May God give them perseverance and peace as they follow His leading.

~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.

~Praise God for the incarnation. That He would send His only Son on our behalf is reason to praise Him for all of eternity!

~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.

~Pray for homeschooling mothers and fathers in your support group, on your block, in your city, in North Dakota & around the world.

~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

**Ken Knight**, president and **Llorra 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 [kapklan@gondtc.com](mailto:kapklan@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 [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)

NDHSA, P.O. Box 1066, Devils Lake, N.D. 58301      701.662.NDHS(6347)      [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)      [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org)

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)

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:15-16

From Elisabeth Elliot's book, *The Music of His Promises*

### No Reservations

Obedience to the call of God must be wholehearted. That is, we can lay down no conditions, withhold no part of ourselves from Him.

"Show me the way that I must take; to thee I offer all my heart", Psalm 143:8.

It is right and proper to ask for the Lord's clear direction about what to do, but it does not make sense to ask it if we offer only some of our heart. God will open a way for us when we open our hearts to Him.

### Exert Yourself

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote of 'cheap grace'--the distortion of Christianity that lays all the stress on free salvation and none on the fruits of salvation which show it to be genuine.

There is always work that only God can do--this is our salvation. We are helpless unless He helps us. But there is also work that we must do. It is hard work. It requires blood, sweat, toil, and tears. Study the lives of godly men and women. You will always find both the work of God in them, and their corresponding work, rigorous effort, exertion to 'supplement their faith.'



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

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