



# The Eclectic Report

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## Greetings!

When we venture into a new year we often make resolutions about attitudes, actions, activities that we want to change, begin or continue. I've found that new resolve about old challenges is something that needs to be addressed every day. The new year can be used for making new starts on old challenges, but I gave such 'promise-making' up long ago. I have found that every morning provides for a new start to an old challenge. Homeschooling IS a challenge.

And aren't we thankful that our dear Lord Jesus spurs us on to increasing holiness as we search His word, speak to Him 'without ceasing', are involved deeply with our local church body, and run with diligence the race He has set before us? His mercy is abundant; His grace is immeasurable. He abides with us always. He encourages and strengthens us to do His will . . . even when it is really difficult. And homeschooling IS the difficult course.

Maybe during this year we could make a resolution to be thankful. To forget the past . . . can't live there. To never be anxious about the future . . . can't live there. To be filled with gratitude for each day our Lord gives us . . . tomorrow is not promised to any of us. And to seek God's face wholeheartedly so that we may do His will. Being a disciple of the Lord Jesus requires grace . . . denying self, toting a cross, and following faithfully after Him seems almost unAmerican. But it is the only way to be His disciple. (Yes, I keep harping on this. Perhaps because it is my greatest struggle--dying to self allows for no thought of self pursuit of any kind. It's a tough road.) Homeschooling IS definitely the tougher road.

Let's pray for one another as we enter 2016. Make we seek in all things to glorify God . . . and that includes our homeschooling.

Praying for you,  
Gail, from the Blessed Life Ranch

When God calls a family to homeschool,  
He will provide all that is needed to complete the adventure.



2016 NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention February 25-27 Bismarck Civic Center Keynote: Israel Wayne



## The View from My Window

Theresa Deckert, NDHSA office administrator

Jeff and I have been involved with a homeschool support group ever since we began this journey. We have made friendships that have lasted and gained strength and encouragement for the day to day. I am so thankful for the many support groups associated with the NDHSA around the state (and across the border in Minnesota). Currently we have 49 groups listed on the website, some of which are Face Book groups.

One of my favorite things to do as a support group coordinator is to travel to different support groups and share. This month I will get to attend the Ellendale support group on January 12 and share with their mom's groups. My topic is *Homeschooling High School: You Can Do It!* If anyone in the area would like to attend you can find out more by contacting the Ellendale Support Group. (Go to [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) and click on support groups.)

This year at the convention we will again be having a support group leader's banquet on Friday night. Each support group can send up to two leaders which may be a husband and wife or just two individuals. It is necessary to preregister, so be sure you include that on your convention registration form. This is always a great opportunity for support group leaders to connect and a time for the NDHSA board to say thank you for all you do.

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

From *The Classical Teacher*, Winter 2015-2016, Memoria Press

## “Today’s Education”

By Martin Cothran

Today, a new philosophy controls our schools. Its purpose is much different from the purpose of classical education. Today’s schools are about two things: progressivism and pragmatism. Progressivism is a political program that can be seen in an emphasis on political correctness and multiculturalism. Pragmatism is a vocational program that can be seen in an emphasis on job training and employment skills.

Today’s education is almost a direct inversion of the old classical emphasis on how to think and what to do; the political and vocational emphases of today’s education teach students, not how to think and what to do, but what to think and how to do. Its political goal is to use schools to change culture, and its practical goal is to change students to fit the culture.

The goal of classical education was very different. It was not interested in changing culture or fitting children to a culture. Its goal was to pass on a culture--and one culture in particular; the culture of the Christian West.

Lynne Cheney, former head of the Nation Endowment of the Humanities under Ronald Reagan, once said that if you graduate from school not knowing what Western civilization is, then you are not really educated. She was right.

## Think About THIS!

- I wanted to be the primary influence in my kids’ lives. I wanted to raise them to love and honor the Lord. And I wanted them to have the best education possible that fit with their personalities and with their strengths and weaknesses. Karen Osborne, “A Learning Lifestyle”, *The Home School Court Report*, 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2015.
- The family is meant to be a place of grace. We were created to interact heart to heart, and mind to mind, knowing each other, caring about each other, being involved, and encouraging one another. Authority is used to bring up and nurture and support the weak among us, our children. Mary Pride, “Home as a Prepared Environment”, *Complete Guide to Getting Started in Homeschooling*.

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From *ANSWERS* magazine  
Vol.11 No.1, Jan.-March 2016

### SURPRISE!

Amazing Finds Secular Scientists Never Predicted . . .

#### Survival of Soft Dinosaur Tissue

Blood and DNA should break down quickly, but scientists found red blood cells in a dinosaur bone in 2005.

#### Function of ‘Junk’ DNA

Most DNA was once considered useless evolutionary leftovers, but several papers in 2012 showed it’s functional.

#### Few Craters on Pluto

Pluto should be covered with craters after 4.5 billion years, but *New Horizon* found very few in its 2015 flyby.

#### Dual-duty Genes

After scientists mapped the human genome, they discovered that some genes produce multiple proteins. That’s more complex than anyone imagined!

#### Useful ‘Vestigial’ Organs

Doctors used to remove the appendix because it was considered an evolutionary leftover, but scientists are now learning how it helps regulate bacteria in the body.

#### Bacteria Unchanged for ‘1.8 Billion Years’

In 2015 scientists announced the discovery of bacteria in some ‘ancient’ Australian rock layers that match modern bacteria.

## Why attend the NDHSA Christian Home Educators’ Convention?

Here’s a word from Mike Smith, HSLDA president.

I want to take a moment to highlight the importance of the annual state conventions. These conventions raise revenue for the state organizations which helps pay for the other activities [of the state association]. While some state organizations also receive revenue from memberships and donations, many offer their services to the homeschooling community for free--so the annual convention usually serves as the state organization’s biggest revenue source. These conventions provide exhibit halls, used book exchanges, free informational sessions for new homeschoolers, practical workshops, graduation ceremonies, and inspiring speakers on many different topics. A great way to support your state organization--and the many benefits it provides is to participate in its annual conference.

# BOARD NOTES from our NOTABLE BOARD

Karol Kapelle, NDHSA convention coordinator

In last month's *Eclectic Report*, I mentioned some of the workshops planned for the upcoming convention. I'd like to also introduce you to a few of the talented speakers who will be presenting those workshops. We have several speakers coming to the ND convention for the first time, so we are excited to offer these "fresh" voices to our lineup.

## From California

**Forrest and Beth Nora** are coming all the way from California to be with us. They are a fun-loving couple full of humor and a wealth of information. Beth's zeal for your family's success will fill your heart and charge you up to face the next year of homeschooling with confidence and passion. Forrest is a hoot! His heart is to provide encouragement to Christian men to serve the Lord by living with no regrets, providing leadership to their families, and finding true fulfillment in their marriages, families, and personal lives. Check them out at [www.heretohelplearning.com](http://www.heretohelplearning.com).

## Doorposts Founders

In 1991, with four kids (two more to come) and a deep love for books, **Pam Forster** and her husband started "Doorposts" in the attic of their small house in Clackamas, Oregon. Pam homeschooled six kids while writing Doorposts' first books and charts, and today she continues to share her passion for helping families apply God's Word. Her oldest son, **Daniel**, is the company's manager. He is married and raising four little ones and writes and speaks from "in the trenches." ([www.doorposts.com](http://www.doorposts.com))

## Institute on the Constitution

**Jake MacAulay** hails from Maryland and serves as the CEO of the Institute on the Constitution (IOTC), an educational outreach that presents the founders' "American View" of law and government. IOTC has produced thousands of graduates in all 50 states with a full understanding of the Biblical principles on which America's founding documents are based.

The former co-host of the syndicated talk show, *The Sons of Liberty*, he is an ordained minister and has spoken to audiences nationwide, and has established the American Club, a constitutional study group in public and private schools. ([www.theamericanview.com](http://www.theamericanview.com))

## And More

Other first time speakers include Kris Cox, Patrick Nurre, Kathy Waldorf, Andrew Bartlett and Becky Fischer (she has a "must hear" session). Returning favorites are Nancy Bjorkman, Brian Geiger, Theresa Deckert and Beth Sip.

## And a Wise Suggestion

I know many of you have been coming to the convention for years and may feel that you aren't really interested in attending the workshops. You may be more interested in fellowshipping with friends or you have been homeschooling so long, you have hit your "stride" and don't think you need anyone else's advice or information. May I respectfully ask you to reconsider? I'd like to encourage you to attend at least a few of the workshops. What a great way to show our children that we are never too old to learn new things! Our speakers spend a lot of time researching and planning each workshop and they desire to bring you fresh, new ideas as well as tried and true techniques. There is also the chance that you may sit down next to an overwhelmed new homeschooling mom that just needs someone to say, "Hello! How are you doing?" It's so easy to get caught up in our own plans that we forget to reach out to those around us. Yes, I want you to enjoy catching up with your friends! Yes, I want you to have time to yourself to peruse the vendor hall! Yes, I want you to feel free to do NOTHING if that's what you'd like to do! But, please consider attending some workshops and gaining as much knowledge and encouragement as you can in this short weekend. You won't regret it and our speakers will thank you for acknowledging the efforts they have put into preparing their sessions.

**NEEDED:** If you live in the Bismarck and area and would like to share your home with another family during the convention, contact our convention coordinator: [kapklan@gondtc.com](mailto:kapklan@gondtc.com) This is *housing only*, no meals or driving (unless the host family wishes).

**ALSO:** Israel Wayne, keynote speaker, is looking for a church to preach in on Sunday morning after the convention and will do so for a 'free will' offering. Contact Karol: [kapklan@gondtc.com](mailto:kapklan@gondtc.com)

*Don't forget: The convention is a month earlier this year so get your registrations and room reservations in pronto!*

# 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. Help them if you are able.

~Continue to Pray for those with health challenges.

~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 our new HSLDA attorney contact Daniel Beasley. Daniel grew up in Nebraska, worked with HSLDA 2008-2012, worked in private practice for 3+ years, is married to Bethany. They have two children, Arianna and Caden. We welcome you, Daniel.**

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

## Foreign Language Apps Anyone?

From *Practical Homeschooling* magazine  
[www.home-school.com](http://www.home-school.com)

(Here's just a listing of those reviewed; go online and find out more.)

- *Babbel*
- *ChineseSkill*
- *Duolingo*
- *Language Coach*
- *Learn French Easy*
- *Mango*
- *Memrise*
- *Mindsnacks*
- *Random House Living Language Courses*
- *Rosetta Stone*
- *Russian in a Month*
- *Endless Spanish*
- *Kids Learn Mandarin Free*
- *Kids Learn Spanish with Busuu*
- *Learn Japanese with Tako*
- *Minki Chinese Class*



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Troy Durham, conv. vendor hall coordinator & Kristin Durham, conv. art exhibit director

701.298.3414 [tkdurham@ideacone.net](mailto:tkdurham@ideacone.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 M. 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 and memberships 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 Daniel Beasley, Home School Legal Defense Association attorney of reference for North Dakota, 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 25 years. She serves on the advisory board for Lamplighter Publishing, writes a women's newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry and Metropolitan Prison Pen Pals Ministry. She lives a modestly agrarian lifestyle in the Red River Valley of the North with a prince of a man, her husband Bill. Contact her at: [billboby@msn.com](mailto:billboby@msn.com)

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

Office closed on Tuesday.

NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention

**Feb. 25-27, 2016**

**Bismarck Civic Center**

**Keynote speaker: Israel Wayne**

**[www.familyrenewal.org](http://www.familyrenewal.org)**

*Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths.*

*Psalms 25:4*