

Greetings!

I am always invigorated when the winter doldrums pass and we can begin the outdoor work. It is the time of the year when I really would rather be in the warm sunshine, weeding in the garden, planting new flower beds, or just sitting on the deck watching the girls work with the horses.

Many parent educators are starting to think about winding down their school year and begin planning for summer activities. The learning doesn't cease; it simply uses another method. Truly, can one really learn about bugs unless you are catching them in the garden? Can learning from a book about God's great variety in birds possibly be anything like watching hummers at the feeder, the mountain bluebirds in the shrubs, or the iridescent tree swallows gathering twine and grass for their nests? I don't think so.

Learning inside four walls can be very different from learning under God's cerulean summer skies.

May our dear Lord Jesus be praised as we continue the education of our dear ones through the outdoor activities during these all too short spring and summer months.

Gail

www.ndhsa.org

Look for updated HS PKTs, ND Guide to Home School High School & NDCC Annotated posted at our site.



The View from My Window

Theresa Deckert, NDHSA office administrator



Many of us follow the public school calendar and will soon be winding down for this school year. Here are some tips as you finish up this year. First, if you have not ordered your curriculum for next year yet, try to do so by June. This gives you time to look over your materials during the summer and do some planning. You also avoid the typical ordering rush and will get your books sooner.

The North Dakota homeschool law states, "A parent supervising home education shall maintain an annual record of courses taken by the child and the child's academic progress assessments, including any standardized achievement test results. If the child transfers to a public school district, the parent shall furnish the record, upon request, to the school district superintendent or other administrator." This section of the homeschool law mandates that we keep records, but it is pretty vague on what those records should contain.

I feel that good records are important not only if for some reason your child has to enter public school, but also for helping you construct a high school transcript. Here are some suggestions for the sorts of things you might want to include in your child's academic file.

As stated in the law, we need to maintain a record of courses taken. I list the textbooks and grade levels that I use for each subject. I keep a copy of my annual statement of intent as well as any standardized test scores. I have chosen to keep my child's immunization records and height and weight charts in the file as well. You will want to keep some samples of the child's work in each subject area – possibly a sampling from each quarter. The point is you want to show your child is making progress. I include a list of all the books read by that child each year.

I put together one sheet listing the child's name, grade, subjects with texts used, attendance, a summary of the year and a line stating they are promoted to the next grade. This sheet is clipped to the front of all the other items for that school year and placed in the file. I make one file for grades K-6 and another one for grades 7-12. This method has served me well over the years and will maybe help take away the mystery of record keeping for you!

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

Free Live Event!
AnswersOutreach.org/Fargo16
Sunday, April 10

9:30 a.m. *Creation vs. Evolution: Why It Matters* (St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 1005 1st St., West Fargo, ND 58078)
12:30 p.m. *Creation vs. Evolution: Why It Matters* (Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1258 Broadway N., Fargo, ND 58102)
6:00 p.m. *Ape-men, Adam & the Gospel* (Grace Lutheran School, 1025 14th Ave S., Fargo, ND 58103)
7:30 p.m. *Noah's Flood: Washing Away Millions of Years* (Grace Lutheran School, 1025 14th Ave S., Fargo, ND 58103)

Monday, April 11

9:00 a.m. *The Seven C's of History* (Grades K-6) (Grace Lutheran School, 1025 14th Ave S., Fargo, ND 58103)
10:15 a.m. *How to Think About Origins* (Grades 7-12) (Grace Lutheran School, 1025 14th Ave S., Fargo, ND 58103)
7:00 p.m. *Dinosaurs: Have You Or Your Kids Been Brainwashed?* (Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1000 14th St. S., Moorhead, MN 56560)



About the Speaker

Terry Mortenson MDiv, PhD

Theologian, historian of geology, and author for **Answers in Genesis** with a PhD in the history of geology from the University of Coventry in England. Dr. Mortenson has been studying and speaking on the creation-evolution controversy worldwide since the 1970s. He also holds a Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL.

~Learn about the life-size *Noah's Ark* to open south of Cincinnati July 7, 2016! For more information visit ArkEncounter.com

~Because there are *multiple locations*, please check under each talk time to find the correct location.

DACHE Provides Resources, Encouragement and TEA!

Like many area support groups, the Dickinson Area Christian Home Educators group does an outstanding job of providing information, real-time support, assistance and confidence to homeschoolers in the area. I have been amazed by the monthly teas they host with inspiring speakers and opportunities to serve and be served. They offer used book sales, gym activities, swimming events, science club, children's theater contacts, testing helps, classical conversations, and the monthly tea. Wow! Way to go DACHE gals!

Here is a snippet from a recent tea devotional given by Mrs. Llorra Knight:

Love – Is it unconditional? Do you love your children no matter what?

Joy – Do you put Jesus first, yourself last, and others in-between?

Peace – Knowing your sins are forgiven do you live with peace in your hearts?

Long-suffering - Means patience. Do you exhibit this with your children when they have a bad day?

Gentleness - Means mild tempered, sweetness of disposition. An example to think about is how you treat a newborn baby. You cuddle that baby and are so gentle as you rock your baby and walk the floor with your baby. Is this how you treat your children when they're older?

Goodness – Means moral excellence, or admirableness. Do we show acts of kindness, charity, and benevolence?

Faith - Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Do we have faith in God and in our daily walk, in our financial troubles, or when bad things happen, etc.? Faith exercised is one of the things that will bring our children to the Lord.

Meekness – Means softness of temper. Everyone has pride. Some have more than others. Pride needs to be dealt with and your children need to learn how to deal with it as well. Encouragement is good, but don't let it go to far where they are puffed up. Pride can take over our lives.

Temperance - self-control. It covers every aspect of our life: what we eat, what we watch, what we do, what we wear, etc. In excess, these things can become wrong.

PATH of North Dakota is looking for families willing to open their hearts and homes to youth in **foster care**. In North Dakota, there are currently over 1,364 children in the foster care system. The need for foster parents continues to increase. Whether you are single or married, working or retired, have children or no children, you can help provide a nurturing and loving home to a child in need. PATH works with children ages 0-18, including sibling groups. If you are unable to provide full time care, PATH is also looking for respite care providers. Please call 800-766-9885 today to find out more about becoming a foster parent or respite care provider in your area or visit our website at www.pathnd.org.

(Editor's note: Feel free to ask about their rules on homeschooling foster children.)



Laurie Morstad is now collecting **Box Tops for Education** for the NDHSA. Send your clipped labels to her at: **Laurie Morstad, 9175 80th St. NE, Hampden, ND 58338. Be sure to check for an expiration date.**

Another reason to homeschool!

Only 8 Percent of U.S. Graduates Ready for College or Career

Weak guidance from adults fuels course-taking patterns that don't set students up for success in college or in work, the report from Education Trust says. [Read more.](#)

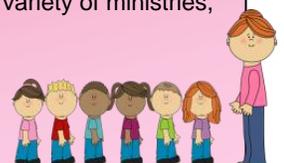
(From EdWeek UPDATE 4-5-16)

From CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP - CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN ACTION

Do you know a teen who wants to make a difference for eternity and make life-long friends while doing so? **Christian Youth in Action** (CYIA) is a perfect opportunity to do both! CYIA equips students, ages 13 and older, to serve as summer missionaries who share the Good News of Jesus Christ with kids right here in North Dakota.

CYIA begins with an intensive, 9-day training camp June 6-14. Students then take the Gospel to children through a variety of ministries, such as 5-Day Clubs, evangelistic fair ministries, and Camp Good News.

To learn more or to apply, please visit ndcef.com/cyia or contact Ben Vinje, Assistant State Director (ben@ndcef.com 701-340-4999).



Board Column

Support Groups?

By Llor Knight

This article is written, not from my position as a board member of the NDHSA, but rather as the western support group coordinator. Why do we need support group coordinators? For that matter, why do we need support groups? What is a support group? Are all support groups alike? Are support groups a necessity for successful homeschooling? I'd like to answer these questions.

Let's start with "What is a support group?" A support group is just what the name implies. A group of people, usually families, who gather to support (encourage, assist and edify) each other in the area of homeschooling. Because homeschooling is a lifestyle, that encouragement overflows into all aspects of life – not just school.

Next – "Are all support groups alike?" Definitely not! Support groups are as varied as the people who attend them. Some are very highly structured, requiring membership, dues and electing officers. Others are the exact opposite – allowing anyone to attend activities with different ladies taking turns to lead a meeting, etc. Most groups fall somewhere between these two extremes. Some may not have officers but separate coordinators for field trips, activities, testing, etc. Other groups have a steering committee of 3-7 that guide the group within specified policies.

Let's continue – "Are support groups a necessity for successful homeschooling?" No, many people have lived in areas where there were no support groups and still successfully homeschooled their children. On the other hand the access to a support group has encouraged many moms to persevere when they wanted desperately to quit.

Now – "Why do we need support groups?" Anyone who has ever homeschooled has had one of those days. You know the one I mean. It started off by your sleeping through the alarm, then you burnt breakfast, well, maybe not burnt, just scorched. The burnt smell sent you to the bathroom, throwing up with morning sickness and you didn't even know you were pregnant. Then the washing machine broke and spilled soapy water all over the floor which the dog (or cat) proceeded to walk through with muddy paws. The toddler, not enjoying her burnt oatmeal found a box of Cheerios and proceeded to pour it all over the dining room floor while you were mopping up the wash water and muddy paw prints. The 6-year-old twins decided to "get rid" of their burnt breakfast by flushing it down the toilet – only it didn't go down. The overflowing, plugged toilet added another hour to your clean-up while guilty consciences sent two boys to their room where they began building Legos.

In the meantime, your husband has called and left a message (you couldn't answer because you were still in clean-up mode) that his parents are coming to dinner. "Oh no, not today!" you think. The messes finally cleaned up, meat thawing for dinner, leftover soup heating in the croc-pot for lunch, the toddler playing with the dog (or cat) and the twins in their room, you realize you haven't seen 5-year-old Suzie since breakfast. Where is she? You rush to her bedroom – not there, the other bathroom – not there, the family room – she loves the puzzles – not there, where could she be? Just before you call 9-1-1 you check the classroom and there she is sitting quietly and looking at her newest reader. You let out a breath you didn't even know you were holding as you lift her in your arms for a reassuring hug and tell the others – "let's start school." And it's only 11 o'clock!

Most moms think once or twice on days like this – "Maybe I shouldn't homeschool," or "I'm not cut out to homeschool," or "Am I failing my kids?" This is where a call to another homeschool mom, perhaps your support group leader or one of the coordinators becomes imperative. They've been there; these veteran homeschoolers will be able to encourage you. Perhaps tomorrow there is a scheduled field trip or other activity. You weren't planning on attending, but now maybe you should. It will be good to talk with some other moms. You need that support group!

Last question – "Why do we need support group coordinators?" It is the job of the coordinators (among other things) to encourage the support group leaders, to share ideas for activities and fieldtrips, to help fledgling groups get established and to help start support groups in areas where there may be 2 or 3 families but no group close by.

So – help yourself, help others – attend your local support group. Don't have one? Call us!

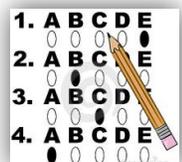
(Editor's note: If your support group publishes a newsletter or even infrequent updates, consider putting me on your mailing list. From suggestions offered at the convention I am planning to include more support group information in the newsletter. Put me on your list: billbiby@msn.com and let's share our ideas for support!)

Understanding standardized TESTS

Gain an understanding of testing for homeschoolers as required to meet state homeschool laws or monitor your child's academic progress.

Read more: [http://homeschooling.about.com/od/legal/fl/Standardized-Testing-for-](http://homeschooling.about.com/od/legal/fl/Standardized-Testing-for-Homeschoolers.htm?utm_content=20160313&utm_medium=email&utm_source=exp_nl&utm_campaign=list_homeschooling&utm_term=list_homeschooling)

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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. Pray that God will give the measure of health that will most glorify Him!

~**Praise** God for His mercies which are new every morning. Thank Him for His grace poured out without measure on His children.

~**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. **Continue to pray for our new HSLDA attorney contact Daniel Beasley.**

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

~**Pray** diligently for your Pastor. Ask God to make them students of the WORD and courageous speakers of the truth. Pray they will devote themselves to prayer. Pray for the unity of your church and the entire Body of Christ.

~**Pray** for homeschooling families that have lost loved ones recently. Ask for strength for the journey, comfort in the sorrow, and courage to do the hard things.

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 or billbiby@msn.com

From Elisabeth Elliot in *Secure in the Everlasting Arms*

Writing about anger toward God EE states the following reasons why she has not been tempted by anger toward Him:

1. God is my heavenly Father; He loves me with an everlasting love. The proof of that is the Cross. "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us," (1 John 3:16).
2. Our heavenly Father wants nothing but the best for any of us, and only He knows what that is, for He is All-wise, the Omniscient.
3. God knows not only what we need but *when* we need it . . . He will meet all our needs "according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus," (Phil.4:19). His time is always perfect.
4. Resentment makes us vulnerable to Satan, who is called the Destroyer. Think what a dangerous position we put ourselves in when we choose to be angry at God. In all the vast span of heaven or earth *there is no other refuge*. He is the Ruler of all. Shall we deliberately reject such a Refuge?



5. We have only this present moment. God does not usually give us previews of coming attractions. I can look back over many decades, remembering how worried I sometimes was, how bewildered at things God had permitted to happen, but now I see them all as a golden chain of mercies, gifts from a merciful Father. How thankful I am for God's withholdings, for His unfailing faithfulness.

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701.880.6126 knight_publishing@hotmail.com
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701.262.4446 kapkian@gondtc.com
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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 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 billbiby@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: billbiby@msn.com

NDHSA, P.O. Box 1066, Devils Lake, N.D.

58301 701.662.NDHS(6347)

www.ndhsa.org office@ndhsa.org

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

Office closed on Tuesday.

