



# The Eclectic Report

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June/July 2016

## Greetings!

Whoo hoo! Summer is here and I am out in the gardens--often--digging in the dirt, searching out interlopers of the weed variety, and whispering to my little plantlings as they push their little heads toward the sun. Yeah! Maybe I love summer so much because I can be outside everyday without bundling up. And I am able to soak up those much-needed Vitamins A and D after six or so months of the 'w' word. Whatever it is, I'm pretty sure there will be no 'w' in heaven and since that is my forever destiny, how can I not rejoice in the splendor of a North Dakota summer?

Most have completed their studies for the year though some continue on through the summer months (Truth is: we all continue on during the summer months as life is one long, splendid classroom!).

The next issue of *TER* will be the August back-to-school edition. Do you have something you would like covered? Let me know.

Happy, blessed, loving summer living! Our God reigns!

*Gail*

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

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

Our **NDHSA Office SUMMER hours** vary so be sure to leave your message and our nifty, talented and over-worked administrative assistant will get back to you.  
It's summer after all!



## The View from My Window

*Theresa Deckert, NDHSA office administrator*



I recently had the opportunity to attend our local homeschool group's graduation ceremony. The Lake Region Homeschoolers had three graduates this year. I have known two of them since they were born and the parents of all three since they were in their teens. What a joy to watch the completion of many years of homeschooling. Each has become a wonderful young woman who loves the Lord.

It was interesting watching the moms several days prior to the graduation as they planned for the ceremony and meal to follow. Each one showed a bit of anxiety . . . you see all three families were graduating their firstborn. I visited with one mom afterward and she commented that she never thought this day would get here and now she sees how very quickly the time went.

It is always a little unnerving sending our children into adulthood, but maybe the homeschool parent wonders if they have prepared their children adequately. I think these thoughts are something most of us have with our oldest. I assured these ladies that the other children will seem much easier because they know with the help of the Lord that homeschooling through high school is a doable task!

Congratulations to all the homeschool graduates of 2016 and especially to their parents. You did it!

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

## The 2016 Kingdom Series/Wars of the Realm Video & Art Contest!

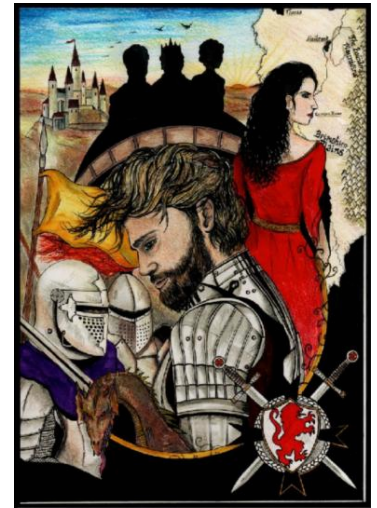
### Video Contest Prizes:

- 1st Place- \$125 credit on our website!
- 2nd Place- \$75 credit on our website!
- 3rd Place- \$50 credit on our website!

### Art Contest Prizes:

- 1st Place- \$50 credit on our website!
- 2nd Place- \$25 credit on our website!
- Prizes awarded for each of three categories (Ages 6-11, 12-15, 16+)

Yea, for Chuck! *The Kingdom Series* is listed in the recent HSLDA *Court Report* on the list of the author's family favorite book series.



2015 Entry Submitted by M.K. Brotherton

Do you have a favorite scene or character from Chuck Black's books? Create a short video or artwork from ANY book written by Chuck Black and enter our contests to win FREE products on our website! See details for the contests [HERE](#). See last year's winners [HERE](#). **Deadline for entry submission is September 30, 2016.**

## Common Core - Summer Reading?

### [Common Core and the Centralization of American Education \\*](#)

\*For additional information on the quality of Common Core's standards, which have been critiqued since 2010 by R. James Milgram (professor of mathematics emeritus, Stanford University) and Sandra Stotsky (professor of education emerita, University of Arkansas), see:

- *Common Core Math: How Lowering the Bar Fails to Prepare Students for STEM*  
<http://pioneerinstitute.org/news/lowering-the-bar-how-common-core-math-fails-to-prepare-students-for-stem/> and
- *Drilling through the Core: Why Common Core is Bad for American Education*  
<http://pioneerinstitute.org/drilling-through-the-core/>.

## Some GREAT Articles from Dr. Christian Seberino

"A Major Missing Ingredient In Homeschool Math & Science"

[https://philfour.com/static/misc/missing\\_ingredient.pdf](https://philfour.com/static/misc/missing_ingredient.pdf)

"Studies On Studying: How To Do Your Best On Math & Science Exams"

<https://philfour.com/static/misc/studying.pdf>

"What To Expect From The Math Sections Of The New SAT"

[https://philfour.com/static/misc/new\\_sat\\_math.pdf](https://philfour.com/static/misc/new_sat_math.pdf)

"Dr. Christian Seberino is a college professor and a long time homeschooler. He serves the homeschool community by providing free and paid online math and physics classes year around at <http://philfour.com>. He also provides affordable used microscopes to homeschoolers at <http://homeschoolscopes.com>. He can be reached via email at [cs@philfour.com](mailto:cs@philfour.com).

## Let's Calculate a Grade Point Average

by Carol Becker and Diane Kummer

Closing out another school year also gives you the opportunity to update your records such as course descriptions, the extracurricular activities sheet, and the high school transcript. When updating the transcript with the current year's courses, final grades, and credits, you'll want to calculate a grade point average (GPA).

[What is a GPA and how is it calculated?](#)

## FAMILY FUN DAYS with the Sips

It's time to make final details for **Family Fun Days 2016**. Several have already signed up for camp, but we're now sending out a notice that this **Friday, June 3 is our deadline** for sign-up. We need this two week final notice so we can start preparing food and game activities. If your plans change last minute, give us a call and we'll work something out I'm sure. **PLEASE - DO NOT sign-up on Facebook** without sending an email notifying us that you are coming, as I do NOT have Facebook and do not check there.

We'll send out a more detailed note about directions, etc. For questions or comments contact us at: 1-218-784-4804 or [wbsip@loretel.net](mailto:wbsip@loretel.net)

Looking forward to seeing many of you in less than 3 weeks!

*The Wendell and Beth Sip Family*

*Box Tops for Education* needed for the NDHSA.

Send your clipped labels to:

Laurie Morstad

9175 80<sup>th</sup> St. NE,

Hampden, ND 58338.

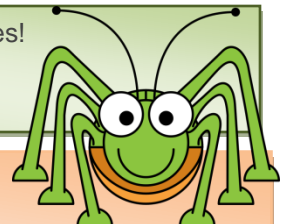
*Check for an expiration date. UPDATE: More than \$150 received to date!*



**CONGRATULATIONS** to all the homeschool graduates!

Way to go Mom and Dad . . . and young people, too.

May God be praised!



**Live in the Dickinson Area? Love bugs?** Here's another idea for your support group:

The DACHE group is heading out to the Schnell Rec. Area at 10:00 a.m. THIS FRIDAY. Goal: identify insects; look at pond water microscopically (Oooh, done that! YIKES! One of the best science classes we ever had though.) The event includes hiking (phys. ed.), insect IDing with magnifying glasses (Careful! It can be a bit unsettling to see those big insect eyes.) They suggest bringing your bug-ID books. Doesn't this sound like something for your group? In the area? Want to go? Contact Rebekah M. at [huggermugger.joy@gmail.com](mailto:huggermugger.joy@gmail.com)

Editor's note: Our guest columnist this month is **Pas. Jeff Hoverson** who sits on the Testing Assessment Task Force, representing the NDHSA. Brave man!

# Board Column

## Spread the *Magic*

By Pas. Jeff Hoverson

I really don't like the term "magic", but I am from Minot! I hope you can understand it the way I am using it. What I mean is home education uniquely positions parents to get God's Word and His teachings into every aspect of their lives.

Yesterday, I bought a new Pro-dyne pitcher for pouring water. It has a "natural fruit infusion rod" in the center of the pitcher. So, you can put lemons or limes in this rod and the juices will infuse every part of the water. This turns the water from regular, stale tasting to a healthier, vibrant flavor with nutrients. However, it won't do this unless I put the lemons into the infusion rod.

Home education is not the Gospel, but it is like an "infusion rod" that can bring the Word of God into every part of life. Neither public nor private schools can do this. Yes, those types of schools do have great Christian teachers, staff and students. Teachers that can teach well, pray with kids, encourage them. But by design, there is little room for infusion. Only an open-cover.

Does this mean home education will automatically do this? No! Like lemons and limes, the parent still needs to put the Word of God (especially the Gospel) into the infusion rod of home education. We, too, can fall into the segregated mold of doing reading, biology, math, geology, history, economics, basketball, mechanics, chicken chores, kitchen cleaning, food preparation, driving, etc. WITHOUT slicing key passages from the Bible to insert in the rod. This makes our children's lives move from regular and stale to vibrant and healthy. Ephesians 6:4 states, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead train them up in the instruction of the Lord." See also Deut 6:4-7 and Psalm 78.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, (Proverbs 1:7). This *fear of the Lord* truly is magical. Why? It is what increases their capacity to learn. In a segregated (conveyor belt) model of public education, the focus is heavily on the curriculum and the teacher. But when we simply follow God's design, we infuse more than curriculum. We greatly enhance our children's appetite and love for learning. We get to focus on our children's individual gifts rather than *grouping* them toward some arbitrary standard. We get the privilege and responsibility to discern *when* they are ready to learn what we value.

This is why I call it "magic." It is truly magical (a blessing) isn't it? To watch our children learn right before our eyes. This is more valuable than a genie in a bottle granting three wishes. These *wishes* are like trying to come up with better programs or better teaching methods. This is all well and good, but really not much in terms of infusion.

SO NOW, what about spreading this "magic" to other parts of our world? Where we live, work, worship and socialize?

I have been on the testing task force for ND DPI, along with 32 other stakeholders for ND public education. Our purpose is to make recommendations regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium's standardized testing which correlates with Common Core. Only 6-8 of us on the task force are against Common Core.

But if we can turn their focus to the child's capacity to learn, to point out the great impact of the parent's discernment and involvement, and yes, the huge difference the fear of the Lord makes in a child's learning, haven't we spread the "magic"? Aren't we all better off if our neighbors and our schools move away from this *open container conveyor belt* methodology toward building some level of infusion?

For me, on this task force, it is sometimes by using my voice to slow down the standardization of children. Sometimes I do get a chance to speak to an educator or parent about the benefits of home education: of individualizing rather than standardizing; and of the power of the role of the parent, especially fathers.

I was a public school teacher. I was never anti-homeschooling, but when my wife said she wanted to try homeschooling, I am sure I looked like a confused puppy with my head turned side-ways. "Huh, how are you going to do that?" Long story short, this year we are graduating our first of six children.

God has put many experienced parents in our path. Parents who really understand that it is not about being a perfect teacher, or having perfect curriculums, or even having the right lay out in your home. The true "magic" is all about what and how we *infuse* our children with what we value the most. Can this be done by sending them away all day every day? No.

The second most important thing for me (next to spreading the Gospel) is spreading the magic.

I hope we can do this together.

Jeff Hoverson – called to be a homeschool dad!

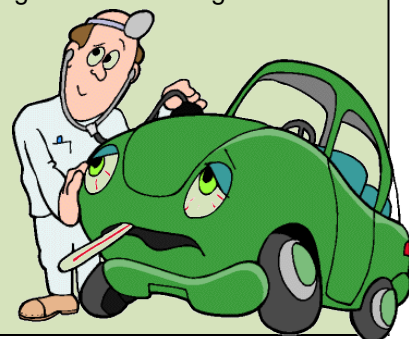
## Minot Support Group Gears Up for Engine Class

Pas. Jeff has found a qualified instructor for a mechanics mini-course in July, possibly four mornings with a certified mechanic. The mechanic has the shop, hoist and tools to make the event more than just watching someone change a tire. The class will involve engines and may include textbook learning, too.

The mechanic is willing and able to take 4--6 for the class and even willing to add an additional class if it generates great interest. If more than one class is scheduled then, guess what?, they're going to serve lunch in the middle. Of course, there will be a cost, but imagine the great experience this will be for your users.

Now isn't that a great idea? Maybe you live up in the Minot area and would like to participate. Contact Pas. Jeff Hoverson at 1.701.340.8237.

This is a splendid activity for your local support group which can provide hands-on experience in auto mechanics.



# Pray without ceasing...



Thousands pray with Franklin Graham at ND State Capitol.

- ~**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** moms (and dads) this summer as parents plan for the 2016/17 school year.
- ~**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 the privilege to vote. Study the issues. Then vote!
- ~**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.

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

## From Elisabeth Elliot in *The Music of His Promises*

There are certainly many different kinds of suffering and degrees of intensity, but the one we happen to be facing *now* always seems particularly severe. Never mind. Even if it is a fiery ordeal, Peter reminds us that there is nothing "extraordinary" about it. We often refer to the "mystery" of suffering and talk as though God has provided no clues whatsoever to His purposes--if He *has* a purpose. He has. And His book gives a number of clues. "It gives you a share in Christ's suffering, and that is cause for joy" (1 Pet. 4:13).

Is your suffering physical? Christ knows about that.  
Has a friend betrayed you? Christ knows about that.  
Did someone you love break your heart? Christ knows about that.  
Have you suffered a serious loss? Christ knows about that.

Is it false accusation, misrepresentation, the refusal to believe in your love? Christ knows very well what *that* is like.

Then in all of these things, you enter a little bit deeper into the knowledge of Christ and the fellowship of His sufferings. What are those privileges worth to you? Be joyful, then! Be thankful! Alleluia!

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

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**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS VARY**  
**Leave a message; Mrs. Deckert will get back to you.**

