



The Eclectic Report

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Greetings!

Well, we pray the old year out and the New Year in. We pray infrequently/frequently, selfishly/selflessly, randomly/orderly, inanely/wisely, lazily/with vigor. And let's admit, we often pray easy prayers; are we afraid to ask our dear Father for the hard things? Following is a suggestion on wise praying from Amy Carmichael's *Whispers of His Power*, written by a Dr. Way, taken from Colossians 1:9-11. I am incorporating it into my prayer life, Maybe you will want to also.

I ask God that you may have in full measure that perfect knowledge of His will which is essential of all true wisdom, of all spiritual intelligence.

I ask Him that you may pass through life in a manner worthy of our Lord, so as to please Him entirely.

I ask that in every good work you may, as trees of His planting, still be bearing fruit, still growing higher, in the perfect knowledge of God.

I ask Him that with all His strength you may be strengthened, even to the measure of the might of His divine majesty, till you attain to all-enduring patience and forbearance, which exults under suffering.

I ask that you may ever render thanksgiving to the Father, who has made us fit to have a share in the inheritance of His consecrated ones who walk in light.

Praying these things for you as you continue your homeschool journey. It is truly worth it.

Grace and peace,
Gail

www.ndhsa.org

Look for HS PKTs, ND Guide to Home School High School & NDCC Annotated.

For all kinds of information:

www.hslda.org

NDHSA Convention

February 23-25, 2017

Bismarck

**Homeschool Day at the
Capitol**

February 23, 2017

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



The View from My Window

Theresa Deckert, NDHSA office administrator

The election is over and now we will wait and see how our new president will deliver on his campaign promises. I have had a number of interesting discussions in regard to some of President-elect Trump's educational proposals. Many homeschoolers are excited about the possibility of education dollars following students.

I would like to share a few of my thoughts based on observations I have made. This is not intended to invoke controversy or even debate, but rather to throw out some things to ponder as well as to share some of those observations with my concerns.

First, I would encourage all to exercise caution when federal dollars are mentioned. These dollars rarely come without strings attached. Oh yes, you may get money for curriculum, but that curriculum may have to come "from a state-approved list" so as to ensure no "religious bias". In conversation it quickly becomes apparent, that yes, some are willing to give up some freedom, if they can have dollars to help with homeschooling.

I remember sitting on the floor of the North Dakota House one time with my representatives. A bill came up that would require public schools to provide curriculum to homeschoolers upon request. My representative leaned over to me and said, "You homeschoolers don't want this. There are always strings attached." I appreciated his honesty and agreed with him.

Secondly, I have seen over and over how people do not value things which cost them nothing. Home education is valued in North Dakota because it was hard won. I have to admit however, that as our laws have become less strict the conviction to homeschool has become weaker and the convenience carries more weight. This leads to putting children in public school and then withdrawing them when a parent doesn't like something. Then when they see homeschooling takes a lot of work, they enroll the child back into public school. There are times when this may be necessary, but making a cycle of enrolling and withdrawing is not good for any one! Yes, we tend to place more value on things that are costlier.

Again, we will have to wait and see how education policy changes, but I will stand firm in my conviction that I would rather homeschool in freedom without state control than to have these education dollars! It is something to ponder and to weigh!

As soon as children arrive at the period of life when reason begins to assume the reigns, every word that is said to them should go to inspire a love of truth, and an abhorrence for all dishonesty. Thus we should never make use of any scheme or trick to appease them, or persuade them to do what we wish, for by this we would teach them a sort of cunning and finesse, which they never forget. We ought to lead them, as much as possible, only by reason.

The Wisdom of Fenelon - Education of a Child



Mercy Every Minute

*Deborah Wuehler, TOS Senior Editor
(The Old Schoolhouse magazine. Used with permission.)*

Thankful? Occasionally, I feel far from it. I am not thankful for what I have or who I have. Ever felt that way? Hard things come our way, and we lose focus. Hard people come our way, and we lose courage. Hard times come our way, and we lose faith. We are so far from thankful that we are almost ungrateful.

We have our family feasts, but our hearts have forgotten true thankfulness, and we have become like the nine lepers who never returned to Jesus. Those ten lepers looked for pity because, **like us**, they were diseased, alone, and ailing. And although they were completely healed, only one thought to return to the Healer.

I believe losing a thankful heart is just as crippling a disease as leprosy--it's a kind of leprosy of the soul. It causes men and women to go through the motions, but forget to return to their Healer.

After looking at reasons for thanksgiving in the Scriptures, I have come to the conclusion that I am far from truly thankful. Look at these:

"The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation. It is God that . . . bringeth me forth from mine enemies . . . thou hast delivered me . . . Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD" (2 Samuel 22:47-50).

The Lord is our Rock, our Salvation, our Deliverer. This is not just about the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the spouse we have--it is being thankful for Who the Lord is. How has He delivered you?

"Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people . . . talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD" (1 Chronicles 16:8-12).

We are exhorted here to thank God for what He has done for us and to declare to others His marvelous deeds. Who better than to those of our own household? Have we shared His goodness today?

Chronicles also says, ***"Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually. Remember his marvelous works that he hath done" (1 Chronicles 16:11-12).*** Is my **continual** habit to seek Him and His strength? I believe the reason I become unthankful is because seeking Him has stopped being my continual habit.

"O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever" (1 Chronicles 16: 34).

No matter my ailing feelings or circumstances, do I think about giving thanks for His goodness and mercy? How about for His holiness: ***"Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness" (Psalm 30: 4).***

The angels in heaven around God's throne continue day and night in praise of His Holiness. Should we do less? How often do we give God thanks and praise? Every day of every year of our short lives should be spent in thanksgiving and praise. I desire to be closer to that goal.

"Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day" (Psalm 71:8).

"Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws" (Psalm 119:164).

"At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments" (Psalm 119:62).

Instead of being like those lepers who never returned to the Healer, let's join those around the throne of God and worship Him for the beauty of His Holiness and enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.

And, the next time you run across folks who have something to complain about, whether it is their spouses or their children or their lot in life (and they may even be at your own Thanksgiving table), remind them of the beauty of the Lord. Maybe even print off these Scriptures and more (there are tons), and have each person read one or two. Maybe even read that parable of the ten lepers!

~Deborah

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Ingratitude is becoming an attitude I am growing to really hate. Yes, hate. When I think about all we have to be grateful for, I can hardly tolerate the whining, carping, grumbling, blaming, finger pointing, self seeking . . . you get the picture. So when I read this article I contacted the author and asked for permission to reprint. Here it is. I wept when I read it because of my own thanklessness. Then Pas. Jack preached on the 10 lepers and I knew, this was for me!

2017 Homeschool Graduates

The NDHSA is offering an opportunity for homeschool graduates to be recognized at our upcoming convention February 23-25, 2017. Send us a photo and *short* bio including what you have enjoyed about homeschooling, your future plans, your parents' names, where you're from, etc. Please include this info and \$10 (payable to NDHSA) and we will publish it on a **2017 Graduates** page in our convention book. Send to kapklan@gondtc.com or mail to Karol Kapelle, 2443 91st Ave. NE, Tolna, ND 58380. **DO IT ASAP!**

After your tithes and offerings to your local church, and if God should so lead you, why not send a little something to the NDHSA as a year-end thank you for the work our board does? It will be used frugally and with gratitude.
NDHSA
P.O. Box 1066
Devils Lake, ND 58301

From Mary Pride's Practical Homeschooling magazine

VOTE: Open Now: Tell us what you think of the INTERACTIVE curriculum you have used, & maybe win a prize worth hundreds of dollars! It's time again to cast your vote for the best educational products for homeschoolers!

This time, we're asking about INTERACTIVE products - computer-based software and online curriculum.

To entice you to take the time to fill out and send in this ballot, we are offering a fabulous prize. We've enjoyed this DVD-based course ourselves - any parent or teen child should, too! (If your children are younger, just watch it yourself and amaze them with your knowledge!)

But [vote soon](#) - all ballots must be completed and received before December 31, 2016! Vote by clicking [here](#).

NDHSA Convention Feb. 23-25, 2017

FUNDRAISING THOUGHTS

The NDHSA encourages support groups to hold fundraisers at their local Pizza Ranch restaurants until convention. Do one a week or one a month ... whatever the restaurant allows. Groups are raising money for the *children's special events and teen's (GenJ) program* held during the annual event (in case the business asks for the specific need for which the money will be used). These activities make for additional costs, but are useful, well-attended, and are becoming a highlight of the convention.

Send monies to the NDHSA office specified as *NDHSA FUNDRAISER*. Other fundraising opportunities may be available in your community. Be creative. For more information, check with the Devils Lake support group at: kapklan@gondtc.com Don't forget: this is to raise money for the NDHSA convention...*not* local support groups. We really need to make some money now that we have to rent these big facilities!

For Dad

<http://www.crosswalk.com/home-page/todays-features/12-ways-to-love-your-homeschooling-wife.html>

NDHSA Board President Expects All Homeschool Families to Get Involved in Public Education

By Ken Knight

Now before you break out the torches and pitchforks give me the benefit of the doubt and read the article.

Christmas time we are focused on others. We give gifts to others, (my wife would consider herself a failure if each of our 27 grandchildren didn't receive a gift made with her own two hands), and we will stand in the snow and sing carols while bearing decorative plates of sugar-coated delights. We donate to charities and give special "Birthday presents for Jesus" to our local church. We go to Christmas pageants with little shepherds and angels singing "Away in a Manger" and may even put a "Jesus is the reason for the season" bumper sticker on our car.

At the risk of being labeled as a heretic I would submit that Jesus is *not* the reason for the season but rather *the way to the reason*.

Let me explain. When we give a gift it is with the expectation that that gift will be joyously received and put to practical use. As homeschoolers that's easy. Bobby's book in his stocking just happens to be the first literature assignment for the spring semester, and the first thing we expect Tammy to build with her new Lego set is a molecular model of sugar with the red ones representing covalent bonds. The latest infomercial doohickey that gets put on a shelf and never put to use really doesn't qualify as a gift at all, and when we consider the importance of the gift of Christmas, it requires more than putting the name of Jesus out there and thinking we've done our job.

John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son," but it doesn't stop there. It says "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We as God's children need to tell the world that they cannot just acknowledge the existence or concept of Jesus but by faith to repent of their sins and believe in their heart that Jesus died to redeem them that they might have everlasting life.

Here is where my headline comes into play. As homeschoolers we teach every minute of every day. School never dismisses and our kids know it. It would behoove us to open our enrollment to accommodate the public at large. We have a curriculum that will give, not a diploma, but everlasting life, lessons that will give godliness with contentment. Our teaching style may be handing out Gospel tracts, street preaching, knocking on doors, turning everyday conversations toward the Gospel or visiting folks in nursing homes. The wonderful thing is that at this time of year our hearts and minds should be focused on the issues that make our witnessing sincere and effectual, and the lost world around us is more receptive than at any other time.

It is high time to tell the world that there is a Divine purpose to our lives, and that they too may be partakers of the salvation that is in Christ Jesus. Are there people we might offend? Absolutely. Will we face disappointment because many will not listen? That is a given. But as homeschoolers we're used to that so, let's be obedient to God's word and as Acts 1:8 says, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."



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 wisdom regarding all issues of board governance and 2017 convention preparations.

~Pray for moms (and dads) as they continue the 2016/17 school year. Ask God to grant them wisdom. And strength. And joy!

~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. Yes, you!

~Pray for Neal and Erica Anderson, Fargo/Moorhead area homeschoolers. Arlyn (7 years old) went into spontaneous liver failure, had transplant with host of continuing life-threatening complications. Pray for strength, endurance, grace and the Lord's mercy. Erica gave birth to their baby girl after they were already at Children's Hospital with Arlyn. Pray for this devout family as they live triumphantly in the face of great trials.

~Pray for Christians in countries all over the world where they are persecuted and murdered. Never weary of praying for our Christian brothers and sisters.

~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 HSLDA attorney *Daniel Beasley*. Praise God for the wealth of knowledge and continuing assistance offered by HSLDA to member families and the NDHSA.

~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.

~Ask God to give wisdom to homeschooling fathers. Praise God for them!

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

Box Tops for Education needed for the NDHSA. Send your clipped labels to:

Laurie Morstad
9175 80th St. NE,

Hampden, ND 58338. Check for expiration date. **More than \$150 received to date!**



Tips for Dads from Chuck Black's *Call to Arms* (What a great book!)

- Drive in a stake and make a stand--make an oath to God and to your family
- Pray that God will give you a heart to fulfill your responsibility as a father and as a husband
- Commit to loving your wife
- Raise your sons to be men and leaders
- Protect and equip your daughters
- Find another man or group of men to hold you accountable
- Choose God's will over all others

Use **Amazon Smile** when doing online shopping. They will donate a portion of each sale to the NDHSA if the buyer chooses us as their charity! An easy way to earn extra for the convention...especially with all of the Christmas shopping going on. The buyer must logon to:

<http://smile.amazon.com>

and choose the North Dakota Home School Association.



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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

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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

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