

Happy New Year!



The View From My Window

From our office administrator, Mrs. Theresa Deckert

One thing in life that is certain is that it will always bring change. Some of that is good and some not so good, but still inevitable. With all the changes in technology, it is necessary for us old timers to try to keep up too. That can be a challenge!

I have been working on the **website** the last few months trying to make it **more compatible with mobile devices**. Our web provider has made some significant changes and was running a recent special for other updates. The board decided to take advantage of this offer and had the entire website gone through for old code plus a new look. Be sure to check it out. The new look **goes live on January 1**. Now that is a great thing for a new year!

Karol and I may have a few glitches to work out once it goes live so please be patient with us. Overall I think you will like the new look. Web members note that the special web resources for members and the HSLDA discount number will have a prominent position on the private side of the website in the form of a widget. Do you know what a widget is? I did not until a few months ago, but **new features** from our provider let us easily create them.

One thing that has not changed is the fact that the **2018 convention promises to be a wonderful event**. Your convention brochures should be in the mail any day so keep an eye out for them. You can also access convention information on the website as well as register online this year thanks to the Grand Forks Convention and Visitors Bureau.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in a few short weeks!

Editor's Musings:

Summer of 2017 marked 50 years since I graduated from high school. The older I get the less I know for sure, but what I know for sure, I really know for sure. I am less confident about anything unrelated to the Scriptures and death-defyingly confident about what the Scriptures say. This past year I actually had someone chastise me for quoting the Bible because they considered the language aggressive. Sadly, like an old Virginia Slims ad once stated, "We've come a long way, baby!" And I would add: it's the wrong way.

As 2018 dawns I wonder if we wouldn't all be better off espousing 'aggressive Biblical speech' and less yapping about the economy, Pres. Trump, that whiney gal who lost the election, impending doom and roof-top theology, our weight and exercise goals, meddling in affairs that are none of our business, and well, I guess the list could go on and on.

If you (if I) fail to take seriously what Scripture teaches and write off the hard sayings of Jesus as though they are cultural or don't apply to me then we are in trouble. I am in trouble.

How easy the command from our dear Lord Jesus; how very difficult to implement: **Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Me**. After more than 50 years of the Christian life, I have forgotten much of what I learned in school, but I have a banquet of truth everyday in the Scriptures. And I am confident of the end.

Slouching, stumbling, limping on crippled feet; heading for the High Places!

Gail M. Biby



Don't Forget!

Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS for Education** to:

Laurie Morstad
9175 80th St. NE,
Hampden, ND
58338



Check for expiration dates.

NDHSDA Homeschool Convention

Feb. 15-17, 2018

Alerus Center

Grand Forks, ND

Workshops, keynotes, art contest, children's sessions, TEENS stuff!, silent auction, fun, frivolities, conversations, used book sale and an all around good time!

www.ndhsa.org office@ndhsa.org 701.662-6347

The North Dakota Home School Association has been assisting parent educators since 1985.

CONVENTION NEWS!

From convention coordinator Karol Kapelle
kaplan@gondtc.com

Take a moment to check out **ONLINE CONVENTION REGISTRATION**? We are so excited to offer this new service provided by the Grand Forks Convention and visitors Bureau. It is being offered at no extra charge to you or the NDHSA. So there will be **no added fees**.

To use this service simply log on to <https://visitgrandforks.com/meeting/participants>. Find "2018 North Dakota Home School Convention" in the drop-down box. Then enter the **Username: HomeSchool** and the **Password: 2018**. This will take you to the registration page. Fill out the information and pay via credit card. It is as easy as that! Notice several of the field questions require an answer even if they don't apply to you. Just enter the "\$0 None" selection.

Online registration is **open immediately**. If you choose to register via paper and snail mail, registration forms will be on the NDHSA website soon (www.ndhsa.org) and will also be available in the pre-conference booklet that will be mailed in early January.

Also please consider booking your hotel rooms EARLY. Grand Forks area hotels fill quickly due to a myriad of sports activities in the area. There are **blocks of rooms** for the NDHSA at the Canad Inn, Sleep Inn and My Place hotels. Information is available at www.ndhsa.org

We look forward to a great convention. **Please spread the word** (via social media, too!) and invite other homeschoolers ... especially those new to the convention. Thanks so much for helping us to assist, equip and encourage families in our homeschooling community.

CONVENTION SPEAKER CONSULTATIONS

Pamela Gates will be speaking at the NDHSA convention February 15-17, 2018 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. Her focus is on teaching parents how to work successfully with their bright, but struggling learners. She and her daughter, Breanna Stewart, are co-owners of **CONNECT Education** in

Denver, Colorado. They follow the *Dianne Craft Learning System* to make leaps in academics, rather than slow, painful progress.

CONSULTATIONS OFFERED: Following the 2018 convention, Pamela and Breanna will be offering **two consultation appointments here in Grand Forks**. The first consultation is available **Sunday afternoon (February 18th)** and the second is **Monday morning (February 19th)**.

This four hour consultation includes:

- (1) Informal testing and assessment of your primary concerns;
- (2) Developing an individualized plan specific to your child's needs; and
- (3) Teaching you, step-by-step how to implement the plan.

They will come alongside you and partner with you for the entire school year.

For more information, please contact Pamela Gates or Breanna Stewart at 303.680.5551 or info@connectededucationco.com. More information about CONNECT Education can be found at www.connectededucationco.com.

From Well Planned Gal

P.O. Box 681173, Franklin, TN 37068-1173
newsletter@wellplannedgal.com

[CLICK HERE TO READ THESE ARTICLES:](#)

- Top 10 Homeschooling Mistakes
- College Professor Critiques Homeschoolers
- Thoughts on Daughters...and Sons
- Cadaver Lab - Three Stories
- 14 Homeschool Science Mistakes and How to Avoid Them
- The Truth About College Sports Scholarships for Homeschooled Students

JOIN!

The NDHSA depends upon the gifts and memberships of interested parties to maintain their current staff and services. Membership allows you access to member-only sections of www.ndhsa.org and discounted convention fees. Go to the website and join today.

Yes, it matters.

By Mrs. Llora Knight

As the Christmas season passes and the New Year rings in, some look back and evaluate how the last year transpired. Others set goals for the coming year, while some do both. It is my intent to encourage you to teach something to your children in the coming year and years.

As a homeschooler, it is always our goal to teach our children, to guide them in acquiring knowledge. What is the definition of knowledge? According to Webster's 1828 dictionary, knowledge is:

1. A clear and certain perception of that which exists, or of truth and fact;
2. Learning, illumination of the mind;
3. Skill;
4. Information, power of knowing.

So, yes, we want to teach them knowledge. I'm sure each of you has had the joy of watching your children when the *light comes on*, when they have that *Ah-ha!* moment. The question mark on their face turns to an exclamation mark! What joy and satisfaction it brings to you, the teacher.

But is knowledge enough? I charge that it is not. Knowledge is good, knowledge should be desired, knowledge is necessary to do anything that is not a natural involuntary action – like the beating of the heart or taking a breath. We must teach knowledge, but beyond knowledge, we must teach wisdom. Webster's declares that wisdom is:

1. The right use or exercise of knowledge;
2. The choice of laudable ends and of the best means to accomplish them,
3. The faculty of discerning or judging what is most just, proper and useful;
4. Exercise of sound judgment either in avoiding evils or attempting good.

*We must teach knowledge,
but beyond knowledge,
we must teach wisdom.*

The word wisdom (231 times) is found more often in the Bible than knowledge (169 times). I don't believe that is an accident. Throughout the book of Proverbs, Solomon refers to, personifies, and instructs about wisdom. He promises his son that wisdom will strengthen him, lengthen his days, reward him, provide stability, and bring him happiness, honor, understanding and commendation. Further, Proverbs also commands us to:

1. Keep sound wisdom,
2. Get wisdom (pursue it!), and
3. Understand wisdom.

Other statements about wisdom include: Wisdom is better than rubies and gold. Fools die for want of wisdom. Wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord. Fools despise wisdom. Wisdom is not for scorners. Wisdom rests in the heart of him that hath understanding. Lack of wisdom brings folly.

How do we teach wisdom – incrementally. Just like all of the other subjects. Our homeschool experience is an incremental journey into knowledge. As toddlers we taught our children their shapes and colors and how to count. As they began the process of reading, they first recognized the shape of a letter, then its name, followed by its sound. That led to blends, words, sentences, paragraphs and chapters. I clearly remember my children's joy when they graduated to "Chapter Books!"

This incremental process was the same in mathematics. First counting, then recognizing and writing the numbers associated with the amounts. That is followed by the simple processes of addition and subtraction which are then compounded with multiplication and division. Those principles lead to the more complicated concepts of algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus.

Even in the arts, this incremental process is followed. I taught an art curriculum once which began with an exercise of drawing lines – just straight lines, then circles – big circles, little circles, concentric circles. This was followed by a study of color – the three primary colors, the three secondary colors, tertiary colors, complimentary colors, blending colors and everything in between. Knowledge is acquired through this incremental method. Everything we learn, every subject in every area or field of study starts with some basics which are necessary but often quickly left behind in pursuit of more.

As knowledge increases, we need to be sure our children are learning wisdom. We need to provide them with situations which allow them to practice or exercise wisdom, not just spout knowledge.

ENJOY THE WINTER ISSUE of the Old Schoolhouse Magazine THREE WAYS

Read the magazine on the go with the free mobile app available at www.TOSApps.com or read it on your computer or laptop at www.TOSMagazine.com.

READ IN PRINT - BUY IT NOW

Many a questioning, many a fear,
Many a doubt hath its quieting here.
Moment by moment, let down from heaven,
Time, opportunity, guidance are given.
Fear not tomorrows, child of the King--
Trust them with Jesus. Do the next thing!

Quoted in *Secure in the Everlasting Arms* by Elisabeth Elliot

Six Ingredients of a Successful Homeschool

From Debra Bell's *The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling*

1. Family Relationships are Healthy
2. Your Home is Educationally Stimulating
3. You Have a Biblical Conviction that God has Called You to Homeschool
4. You Have Initiative and Discipline
5. A Support System is Available to You
6. You Are Willing to Seek Help

To read the entire chapter purchase her book; check out abebooks.com where you can get books of all varieties CHEAP; ask to borrow it from someone; or visit www.debrabell.com and see if she has it posted. Why? Because this list is incomplete without the explanations that accompany them. After all, who in the world can say their family is always in concord, or who doesn't lack initiative and discipline at times? But you can ALWAYS have a support system in place and you can always be willing to seek help.

Where can you find help? **THE NDHSA CONVENTION,
FEBRUARY 15-17, 2018, ALERUS CENTER,
GRAND FORKS, ND.**

NDHSA Board of Directors

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knight_publishing@hotmail.com
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- ~Troy Durham, conv. vendor hall coordinator & Kristin Durham, conv. art exhibit director 701.730.4159 tkdurham@centurylink.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 billbivy@msn.com.

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 26 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 and her husband Bill are recipients of the 2017 NDHSA Homeschool Pioneer Award. Contact her at: billbivy@msn.com She has been blessed beyond measurability and once had a very long bucket list.

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Visit us at:

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Prayer Reminders:

ASK God to continue to give wisdom in all governance affairs of the NDHSA to our board of directors: **Ken & Llorra Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham.** Pray they will be strengthened and encouraged by the Lord to continue faithfully in the work God has given them.

PRAY for those with health issues that we may realize that God will grant to each the measure of health that will bring Him the most glory.

SUPPORT your local support group in prayer.

PRAY for NDHSA finances. God has provided for decades, He is providing, He will provide. Ask Him if He wants to use you.

INTERCEDE for those experiencing indescribable loss of a loved one. God alone is the Answer for all Comfort!

PRAISE God for Home School Legal Defense Association and for our attorney, **Daniel Beasley.**

REMEMBER those still outside the fold.

PRAISE the LORD for good friends ... and be one!

PRAY for your Pastor and his family. Encourage, support, and assist them as the Lord leads. Imagine having to oversee such an unruly mob of sheep!

INTERCEDE for homeschooling dads, that God will strengthen their resolve and show them how to lead and participate with devotion and grace.

REMEMBER these words of Jesus, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." John 7:37-38

PRAY for those in prison. It is a hard life for Christians.

PRAY for the Magnus family as they learn to go on without husband, father, brother Warren.

Lord! When I am in sorrow, I think on Thee. Listen to the cry of my heart, and my sorrowful complaint. Yet, O Father, I would not prescribe to Thee when and how Thy help should come. I will willingly tarry for the hour which Thou thyself has appointed for my relief. Meanwhile strengthen me by Thy Holy Spirit; strengthen my faith, my hope, my trust; give me patience and resolution to bear my trouble; and let me at last behold the time when Thou wilt make me glad with Thy grace. Ah, my Father! Never yet hast Thou forsaken Thy children, forsake not me. Ever dost Thou give gladness unto the sorrowful, O give it now unto me. Unto Thy wisdom, love, and goodness, I leave it utterly. Amen.

(J.F. Starck, 1680-1756)