

# THE ECLECTIC REPORT

North Dakota Home School Association P.O. Box 1066 Devils Lake, N.D. 59301 701.662.6347 [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

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## Greetings.

The 67th Legislature came to an end just after midnight on April 29. What a ride those 4 months were and what a collection of bills and problems and mischief. I have been involved with legislative issues since 1991 and have published the *Legislative WATCH* since 1997. I have never been so saddened by *some* actions and words of *some* legislators and I have never been so encouraged by the honorable, honest, diligent actions of others. I admit my rose-colored glasses were fogged many times during the assembly. I watched dozens of committee hearings, all of the House floor sessions live and many of the Senate floor sessions via video. It was grueling at times. Didn't they know we were watching?

I have learned a few things (yes, even in old age!). There really are folks who run for office identifying as one party and then vote quite consistently as the other party. Yes, some seem to have an on-and-off-again disdain for the electorate. And, praise the

Lord, there are those who care what the voters think and what they need to prosper in North Dakota. I was shocked by the cavalier manner in which obscene amounts of money (let's face it, most of the money from the feds is phoney-baloney fiat money!) were appropriated here and there. So many with their hands out for more. And no tax relief for the common Joe.

I prayed for all generally; 30 specifically, and several diligently and often. Has it tarnished my view on politics? Yes, yes it has. Will I cease all involvement. No, I can't. We can't. I want my grandchildren to enjoy the freedom and prosperity I have been blessed to know. And yet I say, "May God's will be done." It may be better for us and more glorifying to the Sovereign Lord if America finally gets some of the judgment it deserves ... and yet I will pray for grace and mercy from our God.

Grace and peace,

*Gail*



The NDHSA is a 501c3 non-profit.  
We rely on memberships  
and donations to keep operating.

## The View From My Window



Last month I wrote about website updates. I just want to let all our NDHSA members to know that the following discounts are now available for our members: Home School Legal Defense Association, Institute for Excellence in Writing, Monarch, Schoolhouseteachers.com and Patriot Academy. Click on the icon and use the code if required,

If are a NDHSA member, but not a web member, you can sign up simply by clicking the "Request Membership" tab and filling out the information. When you get to the section that asks how you will pay just check the box, "I am a current member" and I will approve you.

Not a member yet? You can fill out the "request membership" form and either use PayPal on the site or send a check for \$35 to: NDHSA, PO Box 1066, Devils Lake, ND 58301

**Your membership is good for one full year.**

As you finish up the current school year, please **remember**: **Keep good records** of what your student has accomplished for the year. If you want to know more about record keeping you can contact me at the office either by emailing [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) or calling 701-662-6347. My summer hours vary so it might be easier to contact me via email and we can set up a time to talk on the phone.

Finally, I did a Face Book Live last year on record keeping. I have pinned that post to the top of our Face Book page so you and watch it for some record keeping suggestions. You can find our Face Book page at North Dakota Home School Association – NDHSA.

**And her children will rise up and call her blessed!**



Have a great summer!

# GUEST COLUMN



From the editor: Have your graduate read this article. Some really great advice and deep encouragement.

## Take Courage, Graduate

By Abigail Rehmert

**My congratulations, graduates!** Aren't you relieved, excited, and terrified? So was I.

Maybe you — like it's etched on your heart — know exactly how you want to serve and grow in this big world. I admire and appreciate you. But maybe you feel like everyone owns a 5-year plan, life verse, and scholarship except for you. Perhaps you fear someone jumping out from behind the grad cake table, quizzing you on your weakest subject and sending you back to high school. Your friends are moving on, and so is childhood. You wish you had pomp for your circumstance.

### Be encouraged.

Graduate, the reason you feel overwhelmed, though you might not know it, is not because now is when you must decide the rest of your life — it's simply the first time you have to decide what to do with the next part of your life. When I ask my graduate friends their next steps, I try to phrase it, "What does your summer look like?" or "What is something you're interested in learning more about?" Because I remember the pressure and hearing questions as, "Do you even have a plan?" and wanting to hide because I had no clue.

Know that however the questions at your grad party are framed, they're well-meaning. As part of the local church, we're interested in how we can relate to you and support you.

And we know God is sovereign, and He is the only One who knows the future.

Can you imagine our grandparents...graduating from high school and people asking about their life plans? Do you think they ever could have dreamt of their twists, and moves, and you, their grandchild? They had no idea! But God did.

Here's the unique reality of graduating high school: ahead lies a stretch of segments linked together, reaching into who knows how many years, until you are settled into the work, place, or community you hope for.

Hard and beautiful transitions will become familiar, times between different jobs, semesters, spaces, and seasons.

Decisions. You could be a nanny in Ecuador or you could take a general math class. No wonder you feel stumped at the crossroad with a million opportunities. How does one carry the weight of such decisions?

**Take courage; your next steps will be worthy ones if you offer them to God.**

### The Identity Foundation — Who You Are in Christ

During one such in-between season, I grew discouraged. I had just spent a year at a Bible college with the word "undeclared major" on my forehead. I achieved a random collection of credits and now needed a summer job. Not even McDonald's called me back for an interview. I remember laying on my bedroom carpet with my Bible, praying and shedding a tear or three.

Somewhere in the middle of Philippians 4, where comfort and conviction tangled, I saw a key truth. After all the beautiful commands in the chapter — about supplication, rejoicing, and even thinking — were the words: "Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen."

I started breathing in relief. Why was on I earth? To bring glory to God. He would equip me for such a purpose He declared Himself for me. The burdens tumbled off when I gazed at the eternal picture. It's not about me, it's about Him. I'm just a sojourner here.

It can be challenging when you don't have a label, platform, or job title. I'd always like to have SOME kind of verbiage to make me sound like I have a general direction or fallback career. But, ultimately, we're His, defined by incredible titles in Ephesians 1 like: predestined, adopted, chosen, redeemed. Recipients of grace and an inheritance. The power which raised Christ from the dead resides in us.

Instead of being identified with words like "transitioning," remember we're transforming into His likeness. Instead of "between," take comfort we're becoming like Him by beholding Him. This brings glory to His Name.

### The Practical Foundation — How You Live in Christ

Hopefully, your heart is full of worship right now, at the thought of our gracious Lord, who pursues glory for Himself, using ordinary us!

But . . . what do we do? What does it look like to be obedient next? Do we apply for a passport or pay for the math class or what?

A dear friend loaned me Kevin DeYoung's book *Just Do Something*, an excellent read. Caught between worlds, this book helped me realize I shouldn't freeze up because I don't know what decision to make. "Perhaps our inactivity is not so much waiting on God as it is an expression of the fear of man, the love of the praise of man, and disbelief in God's providence." --Kevin DeYoung, *Just Do Something*

Someone wise in my life said something like, "God can't steer a parked car." Yes, of course God can do anything. But the point is, we need to be mobilized! "The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps." (Proverbs 16:9) It's not what you do as much as it is HOW you do it for God.

So my humble advice? Fill the tool belt with skills! Knock on doors. Serve the church until it's clear what your spiritual gifts are. Shoot an application out there. Say YES to out-of-your-comfort zone ventures! Pursue community. Clean your room if it's messy. Save money for a car, or wedding, or mission trip or a house or give it away! Channel your interests and passions into a plan that makes sense for who God made you to be. Chase after knowledge, either academically or informally. Use this time to implement the spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible study, etc.), to carry with you in your next chapter. He who is faithful in little will be faithful in much (Luke 16:10).

### Not Alone

Your church is cheering for you, too — especially in this weird time in history when the way forward seems blurry! We're here to try to be gracious like He is, give you wise counsel, and serve with you. Many times, your church family will have insight into your gifts and a network of ideas for you. Ask a wise mentor out for coffee and ask them your questions. "Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed" (Proverbs 15:22).

One thing is for certain. God doesn't hide His will for us — it's in the Scripture. He desires us to bring Him glory.

So, take courage; your next steps will be worthy ones if you offer them to God. And He will sovereignly guide you as you acknowledge Him (Proverbs 3:6).

Abigail Rehmert graduated from homeschool in 2011 and grows more and more excited to educate her own future children someday. She works as an editor at MAF, and she and her husband Luke enjoy investing in their church and family together. Abigail writes at [abigailrehmert.com](http://abigailrehmert.com)

Here is a perk to our NDHSA members. There is a **FREE homeschool planner** on the member portion of our website. You can download as many as you want.

Find a support group near you at: [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)  
Click on support groups.

Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS for Education:**  
**Laurie Morstad**  
9175 80<sup>th</sup> St. NE,  
Hampden, ND 58338  
Check expiration dates.



**Memberships, donations and convention income is what keeps the NDHSA operational. If God so leads, a year-end gift will be greatly appreciated and carefully used on behalf of ND parent educators.**

For legal assistance JOIN  
Home School Legal Defense Association. [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

With [SchoolhouseTeachers.com](http://SchoolhouseTeachers.com), you don't need anything else. We offer [Preschool Playground](http://Preschool Playground) for the littles, and many options for the rest of your children all the way through **12<sup>th</sup> grade!** Science to language arts and everything in between, we've got you covered. Every subject, every grade, every student.

Check this out for summer activities. Go to <https://www.homeschool.com/articles/50-free-summer-homeschooling-printable-activities-for-kids/>

Here are few of the possibilities:

- Outdoor Scavenger Hunt
- A Fun Summer Reading Log for Kids
- Summer Screen Time Rules
- Boredom Buster Jars
- Summer-Themed I Spy Coloring Pages
- Pre-K Summer Packet
- Flower Potato Stamping Craft
- Kids Activity Sheets
- Tracing Worksheets for Preschoolers
- Water Safety
- Rainy Day Ideas
- 65 Indoor Activities
- Family Night Ideas
- REMEMBER these are all FREE and printable.



(Snatched online from Midwest Parent Educators)

## 7 Light Summer Schedule Ideas For Your Homeschool

By Shanxi Omoniyi

Shanxi has some easy to implement, general ideas on how to keep the homeschooling moving forward while enjoying the summer months.

Briefly, here are some of her suggestions:

Switch to a **lighter summer schedule** with pursuits in just one or two subjects. Maybe pick some that adapt well to summer, like reading or Bible study.

Use a **quota system**, e.g. set number of minutes to read; one math review per day etc.

Don't forget the value of **summer camps** and other clubs. Bible Camps can change a child's life. How about getting involved in a Trail Life USA Troop?

Plan for the **unexpected**. Stuff happens: illnesses, accidents, visitors. Use picnics and other outside adventures to inspire reading and writing.

Institute **half days**. Keep lessons short.

Her final suggestion is to make room for **rote learning**. It is absolutely essential to learn the timetables, the rules of language and spelling. Summertime review can take place in the backyard or in a tent.

## Summer Reading Suggestions

*From the editor: Here are some of my suggestions for summer reading. These are books I have enjoyed and/or learned from over the years. Some I have read several times. In no particular order and mostly without comment otherwise this would have ended up a very lengthy piece. Interested in why I listed one? Email me and ask - [billbibi@msn.com](mailto:billbibi@msn.com)*

### Children

- Teddy's Button by Amy LeFeuvre (Lamplighter)
- Probable Sons by Amy LeFeuvre (Lamplighter)
- Boys of Grit: Who Became Men of Honor; Who Changed the World; Who Never Gave Up (Lamplighter)
- Mary Slessor - Heroine of Calabar by Basil Miller; Mary Slessor -Queen of Calabar (Heroes of the Faith Series); Trial by Poison (Mary Slessor) by Dave & Neta Jackson
- Any of the YWAM books. Any of the Trailblazer books. Read about the lives of Amy Carmichael, Gladys Aylward, J. Hudson Taylor, Jim Elliot, & more.

Lots of GREAT Lamplighter books for all ages!

### Teens

- Self Raised and Ishmael by E.D.E.N. Southworth (Lamplighter)
- The Hidden Hand by E.D.E.N. Southworth (Lamplighter)
- Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton
- Watership Down by Richard Adams
- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- Chuck Black's books (I loved them!)
- The Light and the Glory and From Sea to Shining Sea by Marshall & Manuel
- Passion and Purity by Elisabeth Elliot

### Adults

- Fake Evidence by Ron Milliner (Evolutionary 'evidence' in court cases from

Scopes to Kitzmiller.)

- How a Man Prepares His Daughters for Life by Michael Farris
- Call to Arms--The Guts and Glory of Courageous Fatherhood by Chuck Black
- The Gulag Archipelago by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
- What Your Doctor May Not Tell You About Children's Vaccinations by Dr. Stephanie Cave
- Miller's Review of Critical Vaccine Studies by Neil Z. Miller
- Dissolving Illusions by Dr. Suzanne Humphries
- The Boys From Brazil by Ira Levin
- The Moth in the Iron Lung by Forrest Maready (Polio history)
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot (Immortal cell line)
- Are We Good Enough for Liberty? by Lawrence W. Reed
- Grand Illusions - The Legacy of Planned Parenthood by George Grant
- For the Glory of God by Rodney Stark (So deeply thought provoking!)
- Les Miserables by Victor Hugo
- Come Before Winter by Charles Swindoll
- Stepping Heavenward by Mrs. E. Prentiss
- Facts, Not Fear-Teaching Children About the Environment by Sanera & Shaw
- The Screwtape Letters, The Great Divorce, and Mere Christianity by C.S.Lewis
- Dumbing Us Down by John Taylor Gatto
- Trusting God and The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges
- Ben Hur - A Tale of the Christ by Lew Wallace
- The Attributes of God by A.W.Pink
- A Chance to Die, Be Still My Soul, and Secure in the Everlasting Arms, Keep a Quiet Heart, and The Shaping of a Christian Family by Elisabeth Elliot
- Won't Let You Go Until You Bless Me, Normal Kingdom Business, and We Shall Have Spring Again by Andree Seu Peterson

The NDHSA is seeking a **part time office administrator/editor**.

Duties would include answering the phone, emails and mail, keeping the website up-to-date, maintaining the QuickBooks database, doing a monthly e-newsletter and editing other NDHSA publications.

Contact Theresa at the office (701-662-6347) if you are interested or have questions.

Special Needs? Questions on I.D.E.A.?

[https://hsllda.org/post/the-inside-scoop-on-idea-s-child-find-and-homeschoolers?utm\\_source=HSLDA&utm\\_medium=WU&utm\\_campaign=5-5-2021](https://hsllda.org/post/the-inside-scoop-on-idea-s-child-find-and-homeschoolers?utm_source=HSLDA&utm_medium=WU&utm_campaign=5-5-2021)

**O LORD, HOW ENTIRELY NEEDFUL  
IS THY GRACE FOR ME,  
TO BEGIN ANY GOOD WORK,  
TO GO ON WITH IT,  
AND TO ACCOMPLISH IT.**

**FOR WITHOUT THAT GRACE,  
I CAN DO NOTHING,  
BUT IN THEE I CAN DO ALL THINGS,  
WHEN THY GRACE DOTHT STRENGTHEN ME.**

Thomas A Kempis, *Imitation of Christ*

### 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 almost 30 years. She has served on the advisory board for Lamplighter Publishing, writes a 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: [billbiby@msn.com](mailto:billbiby@msn.com) She is blessed beyond measure and once had a very long bucket list. She now prefers buckets of June berries.

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[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) Instagram link: <https://www.instagram.com/ndhsassociation/>

#### North Dakota Home School Hall of Fame Inductees

- 2014 Rev. Clinton & Judi Birst, Mark & Lynette Dagley, Dr. Ray & Rita Larsen, Gerald & Sheryl Lund
- 2015 Neil and Chris Toman, Dr. Graef Gannon, Rev. Edward and Sue Huntington
- 2016 Michael Farris J.D., Rev. Thomas & Peggy Patzer
- 2017 Bill & Gail Biby, Morris & Jackie Conklin, Allen & Barb Entzel
- 2018 Linus & Anna Evinger
- 2019 Dr. Brian Ray, the Sack-Headed Anonymous HSer
- 2020 Leroy and Ann Nelson, Greg Lange, esq.
- 2021 Marvin & Connie Wolf, Doug and Ruth Berntson



# PRAYER

- **PRAY** for those struggling with even their activities of daily living. Grace, Lord, grace.
- **ASK GOD** to make us wise.
- **REMEMBER** the lost. THEY ARE LOST!
- **INTERCEDE** for your spouse, your pastor and family. Pray to be faithful, obedient, willing to throw away all excuses that keep us from denying self, taking up our crosses, and following Jesus.
- **PRAY** for Christians in Africa; much persecution; many difficulties.
- **ASK GOD** to stay the hand of the evil ones. Oh, God, please don't leave America to its own devices!
- **PRAY REGULARLY** for the NDHSA board of directors as they continue to provide vision and wisdom. For the person of God's choosing for the positions opening this summer.
- **PRAISE GOD** for Home School Legal Defense Association; for Daniel Beasley, HSLDA rep for ND; for their continued careful monitoring of federal and state legislation.
- **PRAY** for courage to stand when standing is difficult, even dangerous.
- **INTERCEDE** for all in authority.
- **PRAY** for Gail Biby as she continues work on *The History of Homeschooling in North Dakota*.

**BLESS** the Lord at all times. May His praise be continually in our mouths.