

# THE ECLECTIC REPORT

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*Greetings,*

**Oh, boy, see the fabulous announcement on page 4!**

Praising the Lord for this wonderful news. My work with the NDHSA will end soon and I can't imagine having done anything else for the last 30 years. Bill and I have been blessed over and over.

I have been working for the past 3-4 years on writing *The History of Homeschooling in North Dakota* and this will now become my full-time duty. I hope to have review copies ready by the early Spring with publication late Spring 2022.

It is not a task I sought, but I believe it is the job God has given me to complete...and who ELSE has been around so long?!

When I first began working with the NDHSA in March 1991 my intent was to do some volunteer work ONLY. I had no idea what God had in store. No idea at all! I probably would not have picked this course. Boy! Would I have been wrong.

I am overwhelmed with the wonder of these more than 30 years and blessed by many homeschooling families. What a grand life I have led! Praise God ALONE.

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



One thing we know we can count on if we are human is that change will be a part of our life. As of September 1, both Gail and I will be stepping away from official positions with the NDHSA. I say "official" because I can't imagine not being involved with homeschooling. I suspect you will continue to see our faces in volunteer aspects of the NDHSA.

Beginning in July, I will start transitioning things to the new office administrator which will include updates and trainings. I plan on being available to her as support as long as she needs me. I will, at least for now, continue as the Eastern North Dakota Support Group coordinator. That means I can come and speak or help get a new group going in your area.

So what are my plans besides volunteering for the NDHSA? Well, many of you know I lost my younger brother to suicide in 2014. I have gotten very involved with suicide prevention in the Lake Region – helping start a support group for suicide loss survivors, co-chairing our annual Out of the Darkness Walk and being a board member for the Lake Region Suicide Prevention Coalition. I would like to continue with some education in this area to be better equipped, especially in the area of the faith community.

I also have grandkids that are homeschooled and live near me. I will be doing some tutoring and maybe "Gamma Fridays" with some of the kiddos to give their mommies a break. Hopefully I will offer some classes to our local homeschool group in the future as well.

My other hat is that of piano teacher which I plan on continuing if the Lord allows until the last grandchild graduates. (Grandkids get free lessons from Grandma)! I love the opportunity to teach and mentor my students from early years on through high school.

This lady will always be busy helping others as that is just in her blood. What an honor it has been to serve the homeschoolers of North Dakota. My life has been truly enriched! May God be praised!

# BOARD COLUMN

Forwarded by Melanie Joerger, board director

## Quiet Rest

By Deb Wuehler

Whether you call it a mental health day, a break for scheduling, or a teacher professional development day ... we all need a break every now and then. Don't feel guilty about this. Every professional educator has breaks like these scheduled; in-home educators need the same.

There are many benefits of taking a break from teaching: you are able to reevaluate your progress, reconstruct your schedule, and reignite your passion. These are all worthy reasons for a break. Besides that, your students will be super excited to have a day off while you regroup, and you will avoid burnout.

*But here's where the rubber of my day meets the gravelly road.* Some days I feel so far behind at the very minute I step foot out of bed that I already feel burnout creeping up into my foggy brain. So, in order to find peace for my soul, I must take a break right out of bed. Yes, that's me – taking a morning break from my morning before my morning even begins. Are you laughing yet? I know it's not that funny when it is your reality. But it is the exact relief we desperately need. It's what Jesus did and what He told His disciples to do. It's our spiritual and physical and emotional health. We must come away to pray whether that is in the morning or the evening or all day in between. Let's look at Jesus' lifestyle of rest in between the overwhelming demands of meeting needs all day.

Jesus went away to pray, on a mountain to pray, while it was still dark, very early, or late in the day (Luke 11:1-2, Luke 5:16, John 17:1, Hebrews 5:7; Luke 21:37, Matthew 14:23, Mark 6:46, Luke 6:12, Luke 9:28, Mark 1:35). He spent time with His Father so He could hear His voice and know how to proceed with life here on earth. Here is one of my favorite responses of Jesus to the disciples after a demanding day:

*“And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught. And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately” (Mark 6:30-32).*

Jesus invited them to go to a quiet place and rest. Day or night, we should pull away and pray to our Father and listen to His Word. He invites us there. It is where we will find the strength to make it through the demands of another day. Moms with little ones, you can't always get away to a quiet place, but your heart can become that quiet place as you focus on God's Word. He gently leads those with young. This is how you will avoid burnout: pour it all out before your Father and cast your cares on Him. You can do this **one more day!**

*Deborah Wuehler is the Senior Editor and Director of Production here at The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine. She would say she is a very ordinary homeschool mom—with one exception: she has an extra-ordinary God Who provides all she needs for life and homeschooling. She has eight children aged 11 to 29. Deborah's mission is this: to point other homeschoolers to the Lord in all they do, think, and feel—and to confirm that they, too, can find everything they need for life, godliness—and homeschooling—in their knowledge of Him (2 Peter 1:3, 4).*

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Jesus, Matthew 11:28

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](http://12th grade)! Science to language arts and everything in between, we've got you covered. Every subject, every grade, every student.

## Lost Topic or Still Charging Ahead?

Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.  
President, National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI)  
Get free homeschool research news at <https://www.nheri.org/connect/> Used with permission.

**I think that this is one of the most important topics that you can offer to both parents and teens at a homeschool conference – biblical worldview teaching.** A couple of decades ago, there were many sessions and presentations at conferences that addressed scriptural worldview. I think the homeschool movement was a big leader on this.

Where are the state organizations and conferences on this now? Where are the local support groups? The online social media groups? Still strong? Waxing? Waning? I sure pray that they are still strong on this. Why? See below an important research news item that I put in my daily Tidbits last week.

**I am convinced that one reason for the demise of freedom and anti-U.S. Constitutional thinking in the U.S.** is the indoctrination and lack of sound education in public/government schools K-12 and universities --- that is, **the lack of biblical teaching and lack of instruction in a biblical worldview (applying scripture to all areas of life).** Public schools (e.g., state-controlled curriculum, university professors who teach teachers, teachers' unions platforms/opinions), writ large, have presented a gradually-increasing and growing attack, over the course of 120 years, against scriptural and historical U.S. freedom-loving thought.

Homeschool leaders, church leaders, and Christians in general have a lot of work ahead of them. Also,

this article (below) might help Christians understand how to present the Word of God and the good news to Americans around them. It is likely that things are similar in the United Kingdom and Canada and most of the English-speaking world. In the article, "Stunning number of Americans don't hold a biblical worldview; Best described as irreconcilable collection of beliefs and behaviors," <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/stunning-number-americans-dont-hold-biblical-worldview/> you will read the following:

A new study by longtime evangelical Christian researcher George Barna finds that 94% of Americans do not hold a biblical worldview.

Barna said that recent concerns about the development of a worldview by youth have been driven by the heightened ideological battles dividing the nation.

The concern is a hopeful sign, he said, while cautioning that it will be an uphill battle.

"Our studies show that Americans are neither deep nor sophisticated thinkers," he said. "We've become selfish and emotion-driven, leaving logic behind."

Promoting "a way of life that pushes us to think more clearly, consistently, and purposefully will take time and considerable effort, and will be uncomfortable."

"Most people seem more interested in living a life of comfort and convenience," he noted. "The progress will be slow, but people who are willing to fight for a more reasonable way of thinking and acting can make a difference."

Christian parents must teach their children to evaluate all thought from a scriptural perspective, all the while modeling to their children and teaching them the good news of Christ, while praying that God will be merciful to save their children, bringing them into his marvelous light.

# ANNOUNCING!! New Office Administrator Hired by NDHSA

I feel humbled and blessed to have been offered the position of Office Administrator and Publications Editor. I know I have BIG shoes to fill, as I will be following in the footsteps of Theresa Deckert, who will continue to be involved in the NDHSA in many different ways.

I am a homeschool mom of three boys, ages 18, 14 and 9. I have been married to my wonderful husband, Dave, for 23 years and we live on a farm in Wing, ND.

I feel as though God placed a seed in my heart to encourage other homeschool families long ago. I remember back to my first "Encouragement for Homeschool Moms" support group in Fargo, led by Roxy Shorma. At the time, I had just begun homeschooling and had a first grader and a toddler. Roxy was one of my early homeschool-mom mentors, and she left a big impression on me. She made me want to encourage others in the way I have been encouraged.

Other mentor moms who left a big imprint on me (and continue to do so) are Joy Mehlhoff and Theresa Deckert. These moms who are a little bit ahead of me on this marathon have helped me in so many different ways as I navigate the sometimes difficult, and always joyful, homeschooling journey.

And, of course I cannot mention moms who made an impression on me without talking about my own mom, who was the catalyst for me to actually make the decision to homeschool. She encouraged me to homeschool when I was on the fence about sending my first child to school or homeschooling him. She helped me see the possibilities of what homeschooling could offer our family. I know not everyone is blessed to have the support of family, but we have been, and I am so thankful.

When I was a little girl and was asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, my reply was, "A cheerleader!" I believe God placed that desire on my heart to cheer others on who have chosen to homeschool. I believe in this lifestyle of homeschooling with all of my heart, and want to help others, and encourage them to believe they CAN homeschool, even when the world is telling them they cannot.

Looking forward to many wonderful and productive years ahead with you!

Your Cheerleader,  
Liz Buck

# PRAYER

## 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 [biliby@msn.com](mailto:biliby@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: [biliby@msn.com](mailto:biliby@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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### 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. Grael 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



- **PRAY for Ken & Llorra Knight & their whole family as they face daunting health issues for Ken. Send your ministering spirits, Lord. Please, send them now.**
- **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..
- **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. **Praise God for Dave & Liz Buck.**
- **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 your neighbors.
- **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.