

Winter 2012

Follow us:  

CHAP



CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

FOCUS ON...

3
**Chairman's
Corner**
Bruce Eagleson

7
**Seasons of
Growth**
*Duane &
Mary Shenk*

18
Home Invasion
Julie Hiramine

20
**Child Protective
Services
Investigations
of Homeschool
Families: Are You
Next?**
Dewitt Black

FEATURES

4
Side by Side in Pennsylvania
with James & Jaslyn Black

6
Use Your Voice
Laure Covert

8
Worldview Test
Israel Wayne

10
Fear Not
Deanna Rabe

12
Unclicking the Clique
Tess Warrell

13
What is ACHEL?
Mary Ann Eagleson

14
Consider Jesus
Mary Shenk

16
**Our Help on the Back Side
of the Wall**
Sue Eckert

22
Graduation Announcement

23
**2013 CHAP
Homeschool Convention**
Poster

The Team

"No man is more important than The Team. No coach is more important than The Team. The Team, The Team, The Team, and if we think that way, all of us, everything that you do, you take into consideration what effect does it have on my Team? ...we're going to play as a team, better than anybody else in this conference, we're going to play together as a team." -Bo Schembechler, University of Michigan head football coach 1969-89

The Christian Homeschooling Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP) board of directors (our team) has had a renewed vision of what CHAP needs to look like in the coming years. The mission of CHAP is to support all homeschoolers, but to do so from our uniquely Christian viewpoint. We are dedicated to a view of homeschooling that is God focused, parent directed, private, and rooted in home based discipleship.

I am convinced that more than ever we need to get our message as widely disseminated as possible. If that is our goal, how are we to accomplish it? For years CHAP was a small tightly held team, but this approach has limited our reach. We are trying to complete a transformation of how CHAP works over the next year (or two). We want to be a broader based organization with many more of you involved in spreading the message and in serving other homeschoolers.

We have begun this process with the convention team. Over the last few years we expanded the number of people involved. By doing that we have increased the number of things we can do and made a much more robust team. We have added many new things to the convention because of the increasing strength of the team. We are now looking to expand the team for the rest of the areas of CHAP to increase the ministry's reach and robustness. This is all coming down to saying what some of you have heard before: "Uncle Bruce Wants You!"

If you continue to watch our publications you'll see many options to help CHAP in its outreach. Would you please ask God if He would like you to be part of the CHAP team? We are on a major recruiting project, and we need help. By volunteering to help with CHAP you will be working on a team that God is using to raise up His next generations of disciples. We exist to make the path straight and level for those who are coming after us. Thank you for your consideration.

I want to note one of our recent volunteers, Carla Witmer, who has taken on editing the CHAP Magazine and doing an amazing job already. She hails from Denver, PA, is married to Michael and has three little children who she homeschools. She was editor of her school yearbook and also edited a tourist publication for a couple years right out of college, where she was a marketing major. She also currently completes two monthly e-newsletters in Constant Contact for two business customers. We are blessed to have her volunteer for this important position.

We'd like to add your name to Carla's on our list of volunteer's on the CHAP Team. Contact the CHAP office at 717-838-0980 or staff@chaponline.com

Thank you,
Bruce Eagleson

The CHAP Magazine

Published quarterly by the Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania. It is provided as an educational service for homeschoolers in and around the state of Pennsylvania. CHAP is solely responsible for its content.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Bruce and Mary Ann Eagleson, Doug and Nada Rothgaber, Brad and Kathy Bastedo

Subscription Rates

\$25.00/year includes: CHAP Membership, CHAP Magazine and discounts on convention fees, HSLDA membership, and more. \$10.00/year includes: Magazine subscription only.

Subscribe online:
www.chaponline.com/about/membership

Homeschooling information, contact:

CHAP 231 N. Chestnut St., Palmyra, PA 17078
Tel.: 717-838-0980 Monday-Thursday

Article Content

The ideas and opinions of the authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the CHAP Board, its members and/or representatives unless specifically stated.

Reprint permission is required for any and all content by prior written request only.

Writer's Guidelines:

www.chaponline.com/media/chap-magazine/writers-guidelines

Advertising

For advertising information and rate card, visit:
Web: www.chapmag.com/ads
Email: ads@chapmag.com

Scripture References

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

CHAP MAGAZINE

Winter 2012 / VOL. 24, NO. 4 | © 2012 All rights reserved.

CONTENTS

Side by Side in Pennsylvania

Parents

James & Jaslyn Black

Children

Jacob, Ben, Dan, Elias,
Nathanael, Liel, Elyse

Hometown

Lebanon



Activities

We have a full plate! We are involved in serving in our local church with the tech team, cleanup team, and preschool Sunday School. Our older boys are involved with youth group. Friends and family play an important role in our family. All five boys are involved in soccer as well.

How long have you been homeschooling and what was one of the main reasons that you chose to homeschool?

We have been homeschooling for 10 years. At the time we began, James and I wanted family time with our kids as we were both working as second-shift workers. The reasons have changed a lot since then, but that's what got us started.

What have been your most helpful resources?

Good friends who have gone before us and mentored us along the way.

What educational philosophy/ curriculum do you follow?

We are very eclectic. We are always changing things up for the one who might learn differently or needs another approach.

What has been one of your highlights in homeschooling?

We love our freedom to do things as a family like going to our church and stocking the food bank together that could not have occurred if our kids were in school. Also the ease of switching between working with different children in different subjects and sharing teaching /bonding times with our children. For instance, this morning I was reading with three of my children about Gladys Aylward and then we moved into reading about birds with two of my children. This led to a discussion about bird's nest soup in Asia. My husband proceeded to tell them that he has had the privilege of eating such soup. We ended up getting a bird's nest that was on our drainpipe of our garage and studying that. Within minutes of all that fun, I was working with my oldest on pre-calculus, which strangely led into a discussion on water filtration with my second oldest and finding different countries that use that for water safety. I love the fact that I, and not someone else, am getting to share all these moments with my children. We are all learning, sharing, and growing together.

What was your favorite field trip?

Washington, DC ranks right up at the top – seeing Arlington Cemetery, the Air and Space Museum, and more. Living history sites are among our favorites as well.

What was one of the funniest things that have happened during a homeschool day?

We had this chemistry experiment where we needed to add ingredients and then put a balloon over a bottle. This was supposed to result in the balloon blowing up. All of us were gathered around in great anticipation, waiting to see this balloon blow and anti-climatically it did nothing. While probably not funny to my kids, it struck me as comical watching my family gathered around waiting to see what would happen and nothing did.

What have you found to be challenging in homeschooling?

Keeping a good flow in my day so that each one gets the attention that they need based on their different levels of where they are. This is tricky with therapy, diaper changes, attitudes, and academic needs. I want the fruit of the Spirit to be evident in our lives, but sometimes it is easy to lose focus when these issues loom in our path. So some days are better than others.



What advice would you give to someone who has just begun homeschooling?

Hang tight and keep the main thing, the main thing. It is not quick and easy, but remember what it's for, and do not forget that God is the strength in our weakness. If we forget that we are sunk.

Use Your Voice

••••• The Benefits of Reading Aloud •••••

by **Laure Covert**

“Next to being hugged, reading aloud is probably the longest-lasting experience of childhood.” Jim Trelease, author of *The Read-Aloud Handbook*

My maternal grandfather read faithfully to us when we were young. He owned the complete set of Beatrix Potter tales in old green-cloth hardbacks. At bedtime I was given the privilege of choosing which one we would read. I can still remember the joy of running to the miniature bookshelf in the upstairs hallway which housed the treasures, and the closeness I felt leaning against my grandfather as he read to us.

Good literature is a pleasure to read aloud. It rolls off the tongue and provides a wonderful opportunity for children to hear the English language used artistically. “The little rabbits smiled sweetly in their sleep under the shower of grass; they did not awake because the lettuces had been so *soporific*.” (Italics added to this excerpt from *The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies* by Beatrix Potter.)

Years ago when my children became independent readers, I was inspired by the words of author Gladys Hunt to continue reading aloud. “What most parents do... is stop sharing books as soon as a child can read alone. That makes reading a solitary happening, with no chance to talk about a book or discuss what it is saying.” Steve Demme, an inspirational homeschool speaker and founder of Math-U-See curriculum, read at night to his four sons by positioning a chair in the hallway within earshot of his boys’ rooms and reading from there.

It is important to share your favorite childhood stories with your

children. Let the younger ones participate and experience literature above their own reading level when you read something for the older children. Trips, vacations, and sick days are all wonderful times to put in extra reading moments. When family members read something independently, take time to share excerpts with one another which you feel most impacted by - whether it be humorous, serious, or touching.

Recently during a school break, I pulled our family together to read aloud, a practice we had neglected. Our teen daughters participated, with some foot-dragging. It was well worth it when my 14 year old said to her father, “Daddy, I love the sound of your reading voice.”

Use your voice to create that unique closeness with those you love.

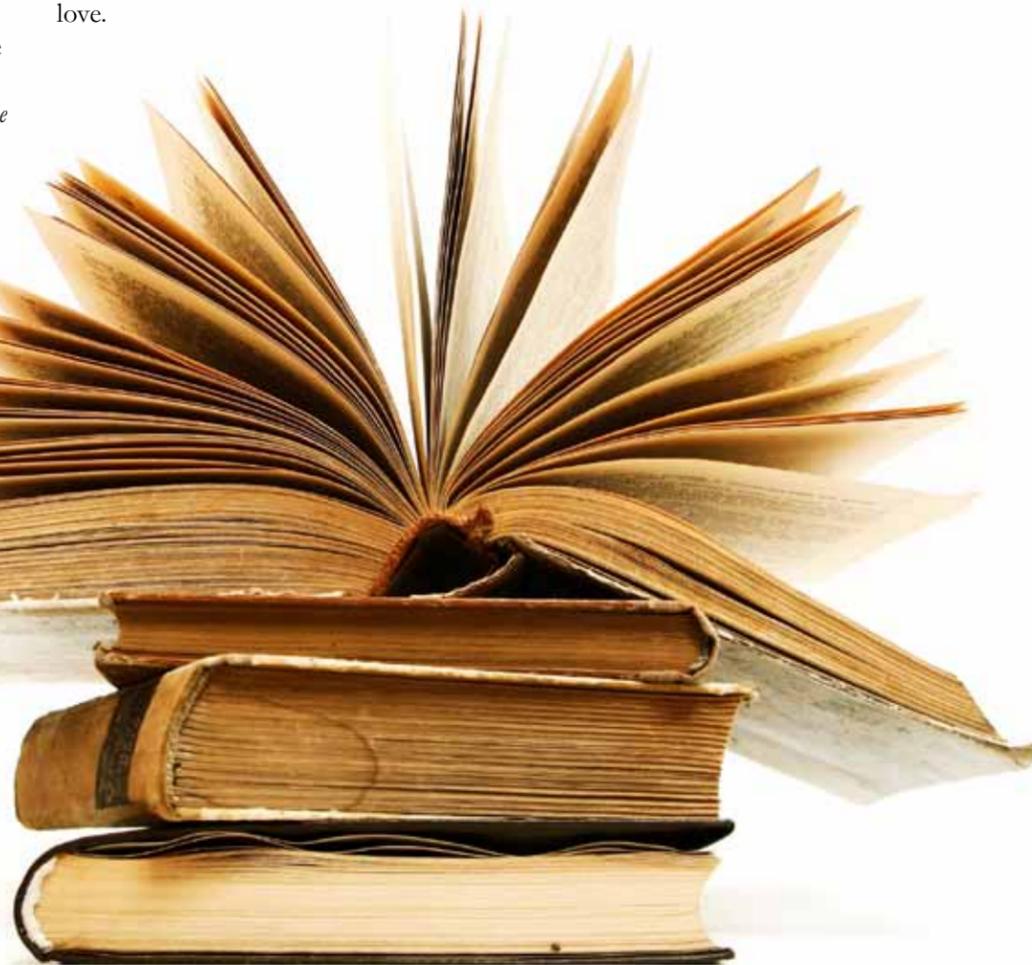
Read-Aloud Resources:

Hunt, Gladys M.. *Honey for a Child’s Heart: The Imaginative Use of Books in Family Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

Hunt, Gladys M., and Barbara Hampton. *Honey for a Teen’s Heart: Using Books to Communicate with Teens*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

Trelease, Jim. *The Read-aloud Handbook*. Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England: Penguin, 1982.

Laure Covert is a long-time resident of Harrisburg, PA. She is a proud member of CHAP and has homeschooled her three children for 12 years. Recently Laure experienced the joy of graduating her oldest son. Her vision is to see people of all ages become lifelong readers. Read more about “finding hidden treasures in books” on her blog: www.pineneedlesandpapertrails.com



by **Duane & Mary Shenk**

As certain as the changing of seasons is the surety of change in our lives, in our homes, in our churches, and in organizations. The Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP) has been in the midst of much transition and many things have been shifting within its structure. The board has been seeking God’s guidance in how best to move the organization in a forward direction of growth. CHAP exists to support homeschooling families in Pennsylvania. It is the goal to be more intentional in that endeavor. To this end CHAP has hired us, Duane and Mary Shenk, to serve in a part-time capacity as Executive Directors.

What is the purpose of this position? We will be putting into action the board’s vision for CHAP. This will be organization wide and not just for the convention. We will be working to bring all areas of CHAP into the strongest position possible. This will include the area of politics, networking, events, fundraising, yearlong support of homeschool families, recruitment of volunteers, and more. This past summer and fall we held a High School at Home event and a

Leader’s Conference. We hope to do more of these things in an effort to encourage and strengthen the homeschool family.

What does this mean for each of you? We trust that you will embrace the vision that is being cast. We realize that you are already working hard to disciple and educate your children. That is an awesome task and responsibility. Would you help us help others? We are always looking for volunteers. If you have a skill or talent or even just a willingness to help, we would love to have you on our team. It will be through the help of all homeschoolers that we will find our strength as an organization. Do you see an area that we are completely missing? Please let us know about it - more than likely it has not touched our lives, and we just haven’t thought about it. We want to hear from you.

In the coming months you will be seeing stories of each other in the magazine, on Facebook, on a new blog, on Twitter, and on Pinterest. You can help create awareness by liking us (and our posts) and by sharing, repining, and tweeting. Our goal is to further not our own personal interests, but rather God’s

purposes by using the tools available to us. Above all please be in prayer for us as we seek to have a godly influence in our culture. We certainly live in a time that is desperate for God’s grace and mercy.

We are so excited to see what new areas of growth God has in store for CHAP. We look forward to partnering with you in the coming days for His honor and glory.

In His Strength,
Duane & Mary Shenk

Duane and Mary Shenk have been married for over 20 years. They have two sons; both have been homeschooled from the beginning. Their oldest is married to a wonderful young lady, and they have just welcomed their first little baby girl into their home. Duane and Mary are enjoying grandparenting very much. They also love the outdoors, gardening, working on projects together, and riding motorcycle together. They have served in camping ministries for many years and with kids at risk. They are so thankful for God’s grace and mercy in their lives.

Worldview Test

by Israel Wayne

Are your children equipped to face the “Real World”? When children finish their home training and “leave the nest” into the secular culture around them, will they be truly prepared to embark on such a journey. Now is the time to begin thinking about the competing ideological forces at war for the souls of your children. While you can still influence their beliefs, you must begin dialoguing with them regarding the important issues of life. There is much more to equipping your child than simply giving them “head knowledge.”

You must win their heart by establishing a loving relationship of trust and open communication. Character building and discipleship must be central. You must encourage them to love God with all their being, and train them to be ministry minded. We must always strive to maintain a godly balance, aiming for the head and the heart.

Simply getting “all the right answers” on a worldview test will not redeem a child. Just because your child has a biblical worldview does not mean that he will necessarily live according to what he knows to be true. We aren’t trying to create intellectually superior students, but rather Spirit-filled Christian youth who can live out the truth in love, and win their hearers to Christ.

What Is A Worldview and Why Is It Important?

A worldview is a comprehensive set of foundational beliefs regarding all of life and reality. There are truth claims that we accept as valid, and based on these presuppositions we build our philosophy of life. We need to base our entire belief system on the truth of God’s Word. Our worldview needs to be scripturally sound if we intend to please God and obey His commands.

What Are Some Essential Components of a Biblical Worldview?

The following are questions you can use to encourage dialogue with your

homeschooled students. As you discuss these issues with your teenagers or older children, you may be surprised to learn how they respond. The purpose of a worldview test is not to evaluate what your child knows, but rather what they believe. As much as possible insist on scriptural references for the positions various members of your family take on these issues.

The Arts

How do we know if a certain art form pleases God? Which is more important, the content or the form of Art? Does scripture give us permission to be entertained? Do the Arts usually glorify God or man? Why is this?

Economics

How do you define money? How much of our wealth is ours and how much belongs to God? Who should fund social programs like welfare, health care, child-care, education, etc.?

Education

To whom did God give the responsibility to teach children? Can a parent send their child to a Christian or government school and still fulfill their obligation to be in charge of their child’s education? What is the primary purpose of an education?

Ethics

Does a human being ever have the right to take another human life? Are there some moral truths that are absolute in all cultures and nations, regardless of whether or not they are believed and accepted by the majority of people? Is it right for us to impose our morality on other people?

Family

Are married women to be submissive to their husbands in everything? Are birth control and family planning scripturally supported? Why did God create families and not merely individuals? What constitutes a family according to scripture?

History

How do you determine which historical events are worth studying and which are not? Is it possible to read historical truth that isn’t tainted by the bias of the author? Has God directed all historical events, or have some been beyond His control or will? What is the most important reason to study history?

Language Arts

Why do we desire to communicate with others?

Why did God confuse our ability to dialogue with each other people? (Genesis 11:7) Why do you suppose God has revealed Himself to us as the *logos* or Word, (John 1:1) and what does this tell us about His nature?

Literature

What are the biblical principles we should use to determine the spiritual value of “great books” and classic literature? How does reading fantasy literature affect your view of reality? What is the main purpose of story-telling?

Math

Can there be such a thing as Christian or secular math? What does mathematics reveal to us about the nature and character of God? If the earth was created by chaos, why do we see logical consistency in math?

Religion

Is there such a thing as one true religion? Is it possible to have many paths to God (i.e. each person follows his or her own heart)? If religion is so good, why have so many people been killed in the name of religion? What makes the gospel of Jesus unique among other religions? How do we know the Bible is true? How do we know that God exists, since we can’t see Him?

Science

What are the substantial differences between biblical creationism and Darwin’s evolutionary model? Is a belief in a literal six-day creation important? Do mutations and variations within a species prove Darwin’s theory of natural selection? Is it true that science is fact and religion is faith?

Social Studies

What are some examples of fundamental, God-given rights that apply to all people? Are some cultures or people groups viewed as more important than others in God’s eyes? How tolerant should we be of other people’s lifestyles and choices?

Become Worldview-Minded

I hope this article will encourage you to discuss important issues together as a family. The most important thing is not having all the right answers, but learning how to search God’s Word for answers to the questions that probe the mind. God cares infinitely about the process, as well as the end result. Relationships are built by talking together and listening to the ideas of those you love. Don’t miss the chance to give an answer for the hope that lies within you, even if it is to your own children. But, remember, do it with meekness and fear! (1 Peter. 3:15)

Israel Wayne was home educated and currently serves as Marketing Director for the national publication Home School Digest. He is the author of the book, Homeschooling From A Biblical Worldview, published by Wisdom’s Gate and site editor for www.ChristianWorldview.net Israel and his wife Brook (also a homeschool graduate) reside in Michigan with their seven young children. Write to: Wisdom’s Gate, P.O. Box 374, Covert, MI 49043. 1-800-343-1943, www.WisdomsGate.org



Many Hands

making a difference
in your homeschool community

HSF Ambassadors help families homeschool through hard times.

www.homeschoolfoundation.org/volunteer





Fear Not

by Deanna Rabe

Our home education journey began in California back when I was in my late teens in the early 1980s. My mentor began to teach her second grader and kindergartner at home. This was a brave endeavor as the law was not so clear in those days; she would not allow her children to play in the backyard until the local public school was out for the day, nor would she run errands or go to appointments during school hours.

I would come to their house often and sometimes I would help her boys with their math or reading. I saw that this was a wonderful environment to learn in without the distractions of peer pressure, and that your child could learn at his own pace. I knew that I would have loved to be home educated instead of having gone to public school. I had caught the vision!

When I married and had children, I knew I wanted to home educate them. I wanted to be their primary influence and to disciple them. So we began our journey. That was 17 years ago, and we still have 10 years to go!

I got involved in a co-op quickly and became a part of the leadership team. I also served as the chairperson of our co-op for five years. During those years, as I came alongside home educating mothers I began to notice a huge problem that was common to all. FEAR.

I would hear it in their voices. "I really want to homeschool our children, but my husband thinks that I can't teach them everything they need to know." "I just don't know what I'll do about high school."

I saw parents enroll their children in two or even three co-ops a year, running them several days a week to take classes from other people. I saw families that were never home, because of classes, music lessons, sports teams, youth group, or missions trips. I wondered when they managed to actually do any work at home.

I would encourage them. "You can do this. How hard is kindergarten?" "Don't worry about high school when your child is in third grade. You'll have what you need from the Lord when you need it."

I began to wonder - Why all the fear? God tells us "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)

In Joshua 1:9 (ESV) He also says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

This is my encouragement to you, also. Do not fear. Do not believe the lie that you cannot possibly give your child what they need to know. Will they have holes in their education? Yes. Did you have holes in your education? Yes. No one can possibly give every ounce

of knowledge to their children. But you can teach them how to learn. You can teach them to think and be discerning.

Please do not think you must duplicate a school classroom at home. In my early years of home education I heard of families with classrooms in the home. I heard of families where the children had to call their own Mother "Mrs.____" while they were in "school."

This is craziness. Why do we think that the public school is the Gold Standard that we must follow? It is because we have fear. Oh we may not recognize it as that, but that is what it is.

When we were trying to get the home education law changed here in Pennsylvania in 2002, I had a very close friend, a fellow home educating mother say to me, "We need oversight. If we didn't have it, some people might not really teach their kids." I asked her, "Why should the majority be penalized because a very small number of people might not educate their children?" She didn't know what to say to that, but she truly believed that we had to have oversight. I believe it was because of fear.

Why do we think that the public school is the Gold Standard that we must follow?

It is because we have fear.

"If I don't have an 'expert' to look at my kids' school work, how will I know if I am doing a good job?" Isn't this the same as saying that we really can't do this home educating thing without professionals?

What would your home education look like if you didn't have fear?

I know that feeling of "I have to have stuff for the portfolio!" And yes, we really do have to have a portfolio of a sampling of their work. If you have a good evaluator, your children can do what mine did and bring their turtles and frogs to show the evaluator. We did a different science program that year, but she and I were wise enough to recognize that real education had taken place in the most natural way. Because the children were curious they taught themselves about these creatures found on our property.

We are at that time of year where we are past the initial excitement of starting a new year, the holidays are over, and the winter doldrums have set in. We begin to wonder if we are doing enough, or how we will ever get through all this material, etc.

I would ask that you pray. Seek God's direction and be prepared that He may lead you to make changes! God has given these children to you to raise and disciple; He will equip you with everything you need to do the job. I have three children whom we home educated through high school and three more that we are still educating at home. God has been faithful to us, and He will be faithful to you!

Deanna Rabe is in her 18th year of home education - all of them in Pennsylvania. She and her husband Tim have six children ages 23 - 7 and one granddaughter. They are a part of a wonderful family integrated church in Quarryville, PA, called Sunrise Christian Fellowship. She and her family reside in New Providence.

**They are there for us;
now we want to be
here for them.**

**Helping military families
homeschool through hard times**

Home School Foundation
giving... the heart of homeschooling.
www.homeschoolfoundation.org

CFC #10535 ECFA MEMBER HSLDA

Unclicking the Clique

by Tess Worrell

"I don't think we're going to be part of the co-op next year," a mom shared over coffee one morning.

Seeing the hurt in her eyes, I asked, "What's going on? Is there a problem?"

"Well . . . the kids just don't feel included. The popular kids don't give our girls the time of day. They joined to find friends--that's just not happening."

Again. A great idea for fellowship and relationship - spoiled by cliques. I have to admit, I didn't expect this in our homeschooling group. This was supposed to be a public school issue. Turns out homeschoolers are just as likely to form cliques. And the hurt strikes just as deeply.

Whether it's public school, home school groups, church youth groups, or any group where kids band together, the tendency exists to form cliques. Somehow one group becomes the "in" crowd with others looking on hoping to be included, hurt when they are not.

As parents we spend a lot of our time either complaining about cliques, comforting our excluded children, or encouraging our included children to welcome others. Perhaps we need a different focus.

Focus on the heart issue.

God cares about two things: right relationship with Him and right relationship with others. To ensure we would pursue this right relationship with others, he put in us a longing for connection.

Cliques are a perversion of this longing. Instead of a right relationship with others, we pursue the kind of relationship that gains its value from exclusion of others. God's desires lived out in a completely ungodly way.

Instead of addressing the clique issue, perhaps we would do well to shift the focus to the relationship issue. Helping our children see that God put a desire to relate deeply to others within them, but that He also instructs how those relationships are to be lived out. When our children gain God's perspective they can get past their own desire to be "in the clique" and begin to see the value of relationship coming from getting to know, encourage, and serve God with other people.

Give our children these relational skills. The beauty of homeschooling is that we truly use every moment to learn how to live life in a godly way. With their siblings or other people in their lives, our children can practice the right kinds of relational skills. They begin to see their time together as a way of getting to know, encourage, and serve God with the people in their lives.

We train our children to respond to situations by "putting up" with a relative's perhaps irritating but not harmful idiosyncrasies, by "encouraging" a brother in his math test, by "serving one another" by cleaning up sister's lunch dishes while she catches up on her language. In short, as we put the "one anothers" of scripture into practice each day, our children gain a right vision for relationships both at home and in groups. They no longer view others through a lens of "will I be more popular when with them?" They see others as the people God put in their lives to minister

to, relate to, and value because they are both growing in Christ.

The conversation with the mom happened in my kitchen several years ago. Her daughter longed to be part of the clique; my son was on the inside. We began talking to our children about the damage that was happening and a better vision for relationships at co-op. Today some parents drive an hour to be part of the group because "my children feel so connected here." We can make a change. Children who know how to relate to others in a godly way don't just have better co-ops, they make a better world.

This article first appeared on the Indiana Association of Home Educators Blog on October 13, 2012. <http://inhomeeducators.blogspot.com/>

Tess Worrell writes and speaks to groups regarding issues of family life and living as a godly woman. She and husband Mike Worrell live in Madison, Indiana, where they are in their 14th year of homeschooling. To find out more about Tess as a speaker, go to YourFamilyMatterstous.com or write her at tess@YourFamilyMatterstous.com.

What is NACHEL?

by Mary Ann Eagleson

The National Alliance for Christian Home Education Leadership (NACHEL- referred to as the Alliance) is a non-profit group that supports leaders serving leaders in the homeschooling community. Ten years ago it assumed its present name. The individuals associated with this group have met for over 20 years at an annual conference to share their expertise and insight on conducting homeschool conferences, running state organizations, and discussing the many issues homeschoolers face year round.

The Alliance

The Alliance represents 48 affiliate organizations from 45 states, Canada, and Mexico, and has over 1,000 years of cumulative homeschooling experience. Frequently leaders from other nations participate in our yearly conference and in other affiliate events. In addition the affiliates are well connected throughout the year. These are all fully Christian statewide organizations that have a statement of faith and bylaws that ensure perpetual Christian leadership for these groups. In fact these are requirements for organizations to affiliate with the Alliance. However anyone may attend any of the state conventions as no membership is required to do this.

These groups have quietly served the homeschooling communities in their locales for many years, bringing wonderful conferences to the homeschooling community. The proceeds of these non-profit state conferences are used to serve the people in their locales after the conferences are over. The boards of these organizations have diverted very little if any money to marketing. Instead they use the proceeds to help support groups, assist with efforts to keep homeschooling freedoms alive and well, and support the homeschooling community with viable information about homeschooling in their locales and beyond.

American Home Education and Discipleship Conferences (AHEAD)

Homeschooling has grown so much that it is now a viable market. As the winds of change have brought homeschooling to the marketplace, we have seen the advent of for-personal-profit homeschooling conventions. As you might expect, these have had an adverse effect on many of the non-

profit conferences associated with the non-profit state homeschool organizations. God alone knows what is in store for any of these organizations, but without the support of the homeschooling community in their states, there is some risk that their ministry to homeschoolers will diminish, as it has in some cases, or be lost altogether. The for-personal-profit conference organizers leave once the vendor hall is empty. The state specific Christian organizations are just beginning their work to assist homeschoolers in their locales when their conferences end. As you choose a conference to explore homeschooling and purchase curriculum, we hope you will consider the long-range questions of homeschooling and support the non-profit, specifically Christian conferences associated with the Alliance. They are called the American Home Education and Discipleship Conferences (AHEAD).

These conferences seek to honor their stated Christian beliefs by having vendors and speakers that reflect those convictions. AHEAD Conference organizers see the call to Christian Education as one of their highest values and leave the question of alternative belief systems in the hands of parents, rather than in the vendor hall per se. Though there is great variety, most of the vendor hall choices are Christian in orientation.

Very early in the spring of 2010, the Alliance announced to the public its collective name for these 48 loosely associated, but solidly Christian, homeschooling conferences, as mentioned above: American Home Education and Discipleship Conferences. As we already exist and have been serving the homeschooling community as a collective group for roughly 20-25 years, we have decided to make our history known and work together to educate the homeschooling community and others about one of the best known secrets in the realm of educating and discipling children at home.

Mary Ann Eagleson and her husband Bruce taught their four now adult and graduated children at home. She serves on the CHAP and the Alliance (The National Alliance of Christian Home Education Leadership) Boards, is a mentor for her church's Moms Connect group, and writes and speaks for various Christian organizations as time allows. You can learn more about her at <http://tellitpub.com>. To find out more about AHEAD Conferences visit <http://www.americanhomeeducation.org/>.

CONSIDER



JESUS

by Mary Shenk

I JUST LOVE JESUS.

I've been reading through the Gospels lately and most recently the book of John. Jesus is just so, so real. I love how He deals with the cynical, the fearful, the one lacking faith, the Pharisees, the blind, the needy, and yes, even His betrayer. There is no beating around the bush – He just calls it like it is. He is focused on doing the Father's will, and nothing deters Him from that path. His compassion and love are relentless as is His ability to bring truth and clarity to moments of confusion and deception.

Sounds a lot like what we need in this world, doesn't it? It's easy to lose sight of what we are here on earth for. So many things crowd in for our attention. There are so many good things...but are they the things that help us to bring glory to God? I'm noting some things about Jesus as I am reading through the Gospels that I haven't necessarily thought of before.

JESUS IS BUSY.

You don't see a lot of down time for Jesus. He is always about his Father's business, redeeming the time because the days are evil. And not just busy doing. He spends a great amount of time in prayer. I find it interesting that before every major movement in His ministry He spends the night in prayer. He is up praying all night before picking His disciples; He is off praying just before He is betrayed and many other instances in between. He is spending a lot of time with His Father. If Jesus needed that time with God, how much more do we need it? What would happen if we spent large amounts of time with God and His Word?

JESUS IS

INTENTIONAL. He really doesn't waste any words, thoughts, or actions. He is so compassionate. He is forgiving. He is convicting. He is truth and light. He is instructive and disciples those 12 men with everything He has. Someone once gave me this thought on parenting: Love your kids as if they won't be here a year from now, and train them as if you won't be here a year from now. That's intentionality, and Jesus had it. What if we were intentional in denying ourselves,

taking up our cross, and following Him daily whatever the cost?

JESUS IS CLEAR.

He doesn't leave a lot for the imagination. It's true that not everyone understands what He is saying, but that's because they don't yet have ears to hear or eyes to see what it is that God is saying through Jesus. But there is no doubt that Jesus brings clarity to the moment. Arguments or subtleties do not throw Him off. Do you struggle to maintain clarity when disunity abounds or when confusion strikes? What if we all turned back to the Bible as our standard and guide?

JESUS KNOWS

OPPORTUNITY. His disciples saw the problems: the financial, the logistical, the common sense, and the expectations of others. Jesus saw only opportunity to do and say what His Father had told Him. Think of the instance where Jesus feeds the 5,000 in Mark 6. Jesus and the disciples had been trying to get away to a quiet place, and instead they are met with thousands of people. Jesus has compassion on them and starts teaching. The disciples, I'm sure, are less than thrilled and are probably waiting to send them away at supper. But what the disciples saw as frustration and an impossibility, Jesus saw as an opportunity to showcase God's glory. How often do we grow weary with the demands of toddlers and teens and everything in between? Are these areas for us to see God's glory as well?

I just finished reading John 12 today, and two things really stood out to me (even though I've read these verses many other times). Verses 24–26 and 42–43 describe two different types of people. As you read through the verses below may you too be impacted by the words of Jesus.

“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father

will honor the one who serves me.” John 12:24–26

“Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human praise more than praise from God.” John 12:42–43

I don't know about you, but I want to be in the first group, intentional and focused, not on myself and my accomplishments, but on Christ. Denying myself and following Him with all I have.

Mary is married to her best friend Duane. They have homeschooled both of their sons (Jeremy and Derek) since the beginning in the style of Charlotte Mason. Jeremy is now married to his sweet wife Amanda! Granddaughter Skylar was born this past June. Derek is a sophomore this year. Spending time with family and friends, working with kids, being outdoors, traveling and riding motorcycles are some of their favorite pastimes. Mary enjoys helping and mentoring moms on their homeschool journey.



TUTORING SERVICES

- English/Language Arts
- SAT Reading and Writing

DR. IRWIN H. SIEGEL

Phone: 717.273.1256 Email: isiegel53@aol.com
424 Clays Crossing, Lebanon, PA 17042

* Retired College Professor * Certified Teacher

“Happy to work with Homeschoolers”

Our Help

on the Backside of the Wall

by Sue Eckert

The LORD is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? Psalm 118:6; Hebrews 13:6

From his Bedford prison cell, the British preacher John Bunyan penned *The Pilgrim's Progress* in 1678. It's one of my favorite books, rich in biblical allusion and stirring in sustained determination to live wholly for Jesus Christ, to keep seeking "the things above, where Christ is..." (Colossians 3:1).

Christian, the "Pilgrim," stops at the home of Interpreter, who teaches him truths that will help him on his journey from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. We pick up the story as Interpreter leads his guest around the house: "Then I saw in my dream that the Interpreter took Christian by the hand, and led him into a place where was a fire burning against a wall, and one standing by it, always casting much water upon it to quench it; yet did the fire burn higher and hotter."

A mysterious fire, burning higher and hotter, unabated despite someone's efforts to extinguish it! What's it all about? Back to the story:

"The Interpreter answered, this fire is the work of grace that is wrought in the heart; he that casts water upon it to extinguish and put it out is the devil;"

A-ha! The spoiler is revealed and is none other than the arch-villain himself, Satan. The object of his dirty dealings happens to be the heart of the believer which burns with the grace of God. Once again:

"but in that thou seest the fire, notwithstanding, burn higher and hotter, thou shalt also see the reason of that. So he had him about to the backside of the wall, where he saw a man with a vessel of oil in his hand, of the which he did also continually cast (but secretly) into the fire."

The part that gives me goosebumps. The reason that the fire keeps burning, even burning higher and hotter,

has everything to do with this valiant man who stands guard at the backside of the wall and makes sure the supply of fuel is enough – no, more than enough – to withstand the rogue's incessant attempts to douse the flames.

"Then said Christian, 'What means this?' 'The Interpreter answered, 'This is Christ, who continually, with the oil of His grace, maintains the work already begun in the heart; by the means of which, notwithstanding what the devil can do, the souls of His people prove gracious still. And in that thou sawest that the man stood behind the wall to maintain the fire: this is to teach thee, that it is hard for the tempted to see how this work of grace is maintained in the soul.'"

Oh, this stubborn love! This God-Man is living to make intercession for us. He is our Rescuer who hears our cries when our ship feels like it's sinking. We who have nothing to impress Him with have "found mercy and grace to help

in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:16) Jacob-like, we wrestle with God and won't let Him go until He blesses us. Does this offend Him? No, look at the continual supply of grace poured out on us richly in Christ Jesus. He delights to fill us again and again, and makes hope rise within us. (Romans 15:13)

Here is our comfort for the hard work and no pay of homeschooling. The greater good, the long-term benefit, causes us to say, "No," to the myriad of other "useful" things we could be filling our days with. The hope that our children will adore and serve this Man with the vessel of oil in His hand compels us to call our children to the table again, to search for the keys to help our struggling learners, to pray and not give up when the buckets of water threaten to quench our flames. All the while, imperceptibly, secretly, at the backside of the wall, is our Christ. His supply is even now meeting our need. Do we believe it? We see

ourselves as the widow of Nain, whose jar of oil stayed as full as she needed it to be for the day. And guess what? There'll be enough for tomorrow when tomorrow comes.

Such is the work of our Help on the backside of the wall. Be comforted with the sufficient – no, extravagant – grace being poured continually into us through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sue Eckert and her husband Tim are temporarily living in Hummelstown, PA, while they wait on the Lord to direct them back to Niger Republic where they lived for 15+ years among the Wodaabe Fulani people. They have been homeschooling since 1994. Three of their seven children are still students in the Eckert Family Home School. Sue's ebook, Maman's Journey: An African Muslim Youth Learns of Christ, is available at <http://masterdesign.org/leckert.html>.



HOMIE INVASION



by Julie Hiramine

I remember when a skunk died in our garage when I was a kid. That wasn't the worst of it either. My dad, in his hurry to get to work, didn't realize that this creature had breathed his last right behind the tire of his vehicle. Yes, you guessed it. He then backed over the skunk in our garage. It smelled disgusting for months!

The world sometimes has a way of sneaking into our homes as well. We might realize that there is a bad odor around somewhere in our homes. We catch the scent of something that is not pleasant. This might manifest itself in our children's attitudes or actions. Like when we can't get our son to come to dinner because he just "has to" conquer the next level in that game he plays online. Or when our daughter looks like her thumbs might fall off because she is texting that boy she likes. This is the scent of an invader in your home.

This is not to say that technology is a bad thing. I believe that it has the power to reach the ends of the earth with the Lord Jesus Christ, if it is used with a motive to advance God's Kingdom and not a teenager's own little empire of self by putting their face all over Facebook. For us parents managing technology in our homes is critical. If we don't, it will become the skunk in the garage!

Our kids are natives to the tech world, while we parents are immigrants to this new land. We as parents can make our "immigration" worse by spoiling our kids with all the "toys" and privileges we shower on them as they grow older into their tween and teen years. The new computer games, movies, iPods, iPhones, i-anythings... It's bad enough that the gadgets available through technology have left a foul smell in our homes, but then we as parents are just like my dad - running over the skunk - because of our tech ignorance!

Without our realizing it we make the problem worse, because we don't know how to keep up with what our kids are doing. It gains more and more control of the hearts and minds of our children. We send our kids mixed messages when we give them access to technology without setting guidelines and boundaries. We hand them the latest gadget, and then get frustrated when it's dinner or family night and we can't pull them away from it.

This is where I see parents losing the battle with their kids every day. They won't take the time to invest in this virtual world where their kids live. Parents say all the time that they don't understand all the gadgets their kids have and then give up the healthy mentoring process that needs to take place.

2 Corinthians 2:15 says, "For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing." How do we get rid of the stench of the world that insidiously sneaks into our homes and be that fragrance of Christ not only to those around us, but to our families as well? We have to be aware that the world, especially in the form of all the technological gadgets, has a way of intruding into our homes like an unwelcome visitor unless we as parents have healthy boundaries and guidelines to keep them in check.

There is a destiny at stake in each of our children.

What I see so often are things like pornography, unhealthy relationships, and bullying tripping kids up. They need us to be their guardians and protect them in this cyber world. So what does diving into this world look like for us as parents? First if we don't know how these things work, we find someone who does. Perhaps a godly college student at your church could help you. Second here are some basic tips on monitoring your kids' technology influences:

- Have some kind of filtering or monitoring software installed on ALL computers kids have access to in your home.
- Don't give your kids any kind of phone, iPod, or other device that you can't or don't sufficiently monitor.
- Always have their passwords.
- Make sure that virtual friends are individuals they have met face to face.

These tips will help you sniff out the dead skunk before you experience the misfortune of running over it. Visit www.generationsofvirtue.org/techtips for more tips.

Julie Hiramine is the Founder and Executive Director of the ministry Generations of Virtue (www.generationsofvirtue.org) that equips parents to empower their children for purity in our world today. As an internationally noted speaker, author and Christian leader, Julie has encouraged and impacted parents and teens both in the US and internationally through her speaking and written materials. Julie is based with her husband, Kay, and family in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and at their other home in Conesus, New York. Julie homeschools her five daughters: Brianna, Stacia, Alissa, Hana and Mikayla.



Child Protective Services Investigations of Homeschooling Families: Are You Next?



by Dewitt T. Black, III
Senior Counsel

According to data collected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), a total of 2.8 million referrals concerning approximately 5 million children were made to child protective services (CPS) agencies in 2000. Of the investigations conducted, only 28% were substantiated as child abuse or neglect. The remaining 72% were placed in categories not warranting any legal action against the alleged perpetrators.

Ten years later in 2010, the most recent year with available data, CPS received an estimated 3.3 million referrals involving the alleged maltreatment of approximately 5.9 million children. Of those cases investigated, only 22% were substantiated. Seventy-eight percent of the reports investigated were found to be without merit. According to HHS figures, there were fewer substantiated child abuse and neglect cases in 2010 than ten years earlier in 2000.

Contrary to the impression given by the news media, actual maltreatment of children is not increasing in America. Instead, reports to CPS are increasing, and over three-fourths of these reports are baseless.

What about homeschoolers? Where do they fit into these statistics? The type of education chosen by parents for their children is not included in the HHS annual reports on abuse and neglect. But Home School Legal Defense Association's records of assisting our member families shed some light on this subject. In the year 2009, HSLDA assisted 783 homeschooling families undergoing CPS investigations. Just two years later in 2011, this number had increased to 982—a 25% increase in investigations during a time when HSLDA's membership actually declined. That's almost three HSLDA member families a day being contacted by CPS. And when you consider that only 10% of homeschooling families across the nation are members of HSLDA, this troubling trend becomes very apparent.

Whereas HSLDA records indicate a 25% increase in the investigation of our member families during the two-year period between 2009 and 2011, reports to CPS for the general population increased by only 17% during the ten-year period between 2000 and 2010. What is obvious is that CPS investigations of homeschooling families are increasing at a rate much higher than for the general population.

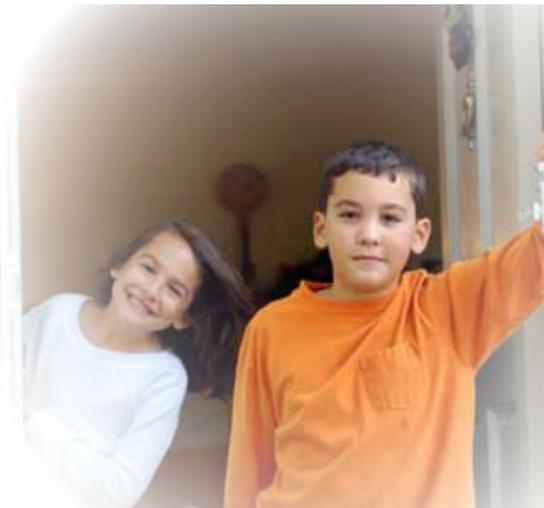
The fact that the vast majority of hotline reports to CPS are later deemed unwarranted is little comfort to the nearly 2 million families who each year experience the trauma of being investigated by social workers for allegedly abusing or neglecting their children. A parent's worst fear is that her children will be taken away by a social worker and placed in a stranger's home, and social workers readily use this threat to coerce families into cooperating with an investigation. Regardless of the nature of the report giving rise to the investigation, CPS routinely looks into areas of family life that have nothing to do with what was in the report. For example, an allegation that a child was left unsupervised in the yard may very well result in an investigation about the condition of the home, the manner in which child discipline is administered by the parents, and the qualifications of the parents to homeschool their children. Social workers usually insist on interviewing the children outside the presence of their parents.

So what's a parent to do? As the old saying goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This is certainly true when it comes to an unnerving CPS investigation. Here are some dos and don'ts that will help you avoid a report being made against your family.

Dos and Don'ts in Your Home:

1. Do maintain your home in a safe and sanitary condition. Believe it or not, failure to do this is the most frequent complaint against HSLDA member families.
2. Do teach your children diligently. Obviously, when children are not taught, they don't learn, and this can become known to those outside the family.

3. Do comply with your state's homeschool law and maintain records of instruction. Compliance with state law may not be required for parents whose sincerely held religious convictions prevent them from doing so, but all families should be able to produce evidence that instruction is taking place.
4. Do supervise your younger children and don't leave them home alone.
5. Don't engage in inappropriate child discipline, e.g. depriving a child of food or shelter or striking a child (other than reasonable spanking).



Dos and Don'ts outside Your Home:

1. Do be a good neighbor. Get to know your neighbors and practice Christ's love toward them.
2. Do have a good relationship with the family physician who treats your children.
3. Don't isolate yourself from friends and extended family.
4. Don't discipline your children in public.
5. Don't leave your younger children alone in the car.

What should you do if there's a knock at the door and you find yourself face to face with a social worker or police officer responding to a report of abuse or neglect of your children? How should you respond if the official states that he needs to come into your home and interview all of the family members?

Here are some tips for dealing with investigators:

1. Get the business card of the social worker or police officer.
2. Find out what allegations have been made and how the official intends to proceed with the investigation.
3. Call HSLDA. The attorney for your state will discuss your options with you and assist you in making decisions about how to proceed with the investigation.
4. Let the police officer or social worker see your children at the front door. This will remove any concern that your children are suffering from maltreatment.
5. Generally speaking, don't let the social worker or police officer into your home without a court order. However, sometimes the best strategy for quickly resolving an investigation is to consent to entry. HSLDA will help you decide what is best in your particular situation.
6. As a general rule, don't let the social worker or police officer talk with your children alone without a court order. Again, this is your call, depending on the nature of the allegations in the report against your family and the ages and maturity levels of your children.
7. Tell the social worker that you will contact him after you have talked with your attorney.
8. Don't lose your temper. Getting angry is not helpful in resolving the matter and will probably result in more officials being called to the scene. Instead, be courteous and respectful.
9. Don't physically resist a police officer. You will not win this fight — you will likely be arrested and taken to jail.
10. If possible, make an audio or video recording of your exchange at the front door. Most civil rights cases levied against police officers for unreasonable search and seizure are decided based on whether or not the homeowner consented to the officer's entry.

HSLDA attorneys are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to assist our member families who encounter CPS contacts. While we do not normally undertake representation in legal matters unrelated to homeschooling, we are available to advise families of their constitutional rights and help them make decisions during the course of the investigation. If you are not a member of HSLDA and would like to join, you may do so at www.hslda.org.

2013

May 10 at 7:00 PM 3rd Annual graduation

The Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce that it will be providing our Third Annual Graduation Ceremony during the 2013 CHAP Convention. Sign up begins October 15th and ends February 1, 2013. Cost is \$50.00 per graduate which includes the use of cap and gown, and other incidentals. E-mail chapgrad@comcast.net for further information.

An invitation is extended to all 2013 Pennsylvania Homeschool Graduates who will complete the Pennsylvania educational requirements during the 2013 school year. Please be aware that the ceremony is provided to honor the students for their achievements, but CHAP does not take the responsibility of verifying that the requirements for the state law have been met. This is the sole responsibility of the parent(s).

Caps and gowns will be worn, and parents will present certificates of participation during the ceremony. So spread the word and keep your eyes open for updates in the CHAP Magazine, the CHAP eNews, or on the CHAP website! Remember the deadline for registering to participate in the graduation will be set for February 1, 2013.



You are cordially invited to experience the best in Christian Homeschooling at the **27th Annual CHAP Homeschool Convention**

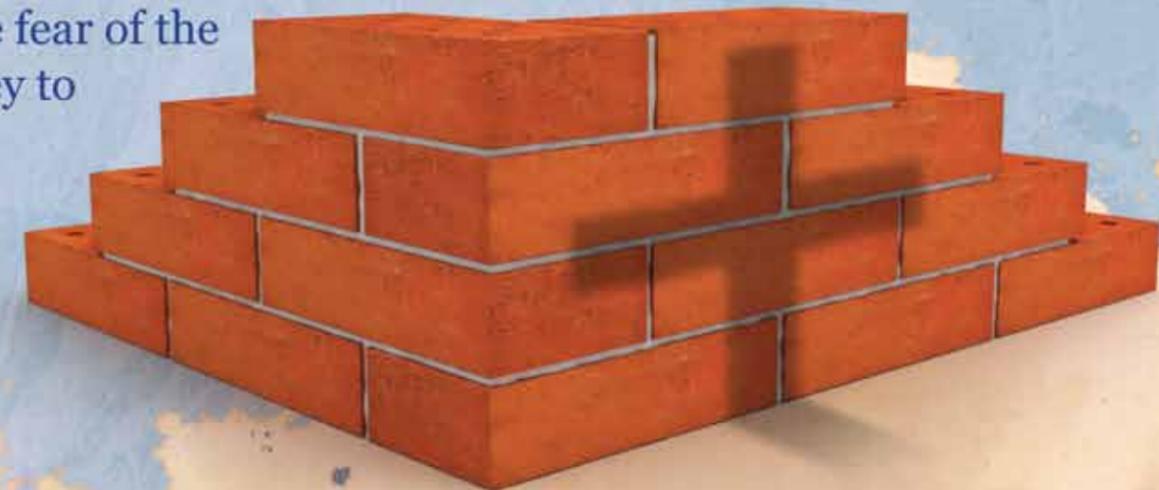
Friday and Saturday, May 10 -11, 2013

www.CHAPconvention.com

A Sure Foundation

He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.

Isaiah 33:6 (NIV)



CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA
Pennsylvania's trusted advocate for Christ-centered homeschooling

TWO MOUNTAINS ONES NOW PASS

30 trails 16 lifts 16 snow tubing chutes



- ➔ groups **consist** of 15+ people
- ➔ flexible **check-in** procedures
- ➔ 24 **hour** advanced **reservations** required
- ➔ no **deposit** needed
- ➔ special **rates & deals** field **trips** after school
- ➔ group **rates** valid **families** school **programs**
recreation **groups** youth **scout**

PO BOX 1539 BLAKESLEE PA 18610
570.443.8425 EXT 2070 GROUPSALES@JFBB.COM



CHAP

Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania
Serving homeschool families all year long!

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Lancaster, PA
Permit #1746

CHAP Magazine

231 N. Chestnut St., Palmyra, PA 17078



How can I help my child with special needs to **thrive**?



Whether your child has been diagnosed with autism, ADD/ADHD, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, or other learning or developmental challenges, we can help. The Family Hope Center has trained hundreds of parents like you to follow a program that helps restore your child's brain function. At our upcoming 3-day Parent Training Conference, you'll learn:

The source of your child's difficulty . . . the brain.

When the affected areas of the brain are successfully treated, many of the symptoms begin to disappear. You will learn which areas of the brain can be treated to address your child's specific needs.

How to heal that part of the brain.

As parents, you're uniquely qualified to provide treatment. We'll show you how nutrition, oxygen, and consistent focus on developing sensory pathways will improve their learning, coordination, mobility, and social success.

Learn more about this unique and proactive approach at our upcoming training program:

Tuesday
October
30

Wednesday
October
31

Thursday
November
1

Where Hope
Comes Home.

After 18 months of searching for help, it was the first time we had HOPE in our quest to help Parker. I take nothing for granted and feel blessed every day when I see him so happy.

I truly could never imagine the child that you first met would be the child he is today! Thank you Family Hope Center, for giving our family Hope when we desperately needed it! We love you all!

Jenn and Tim D., California

Call us for details!

(610) 397-1737

FamilyHopeCenter.com

