

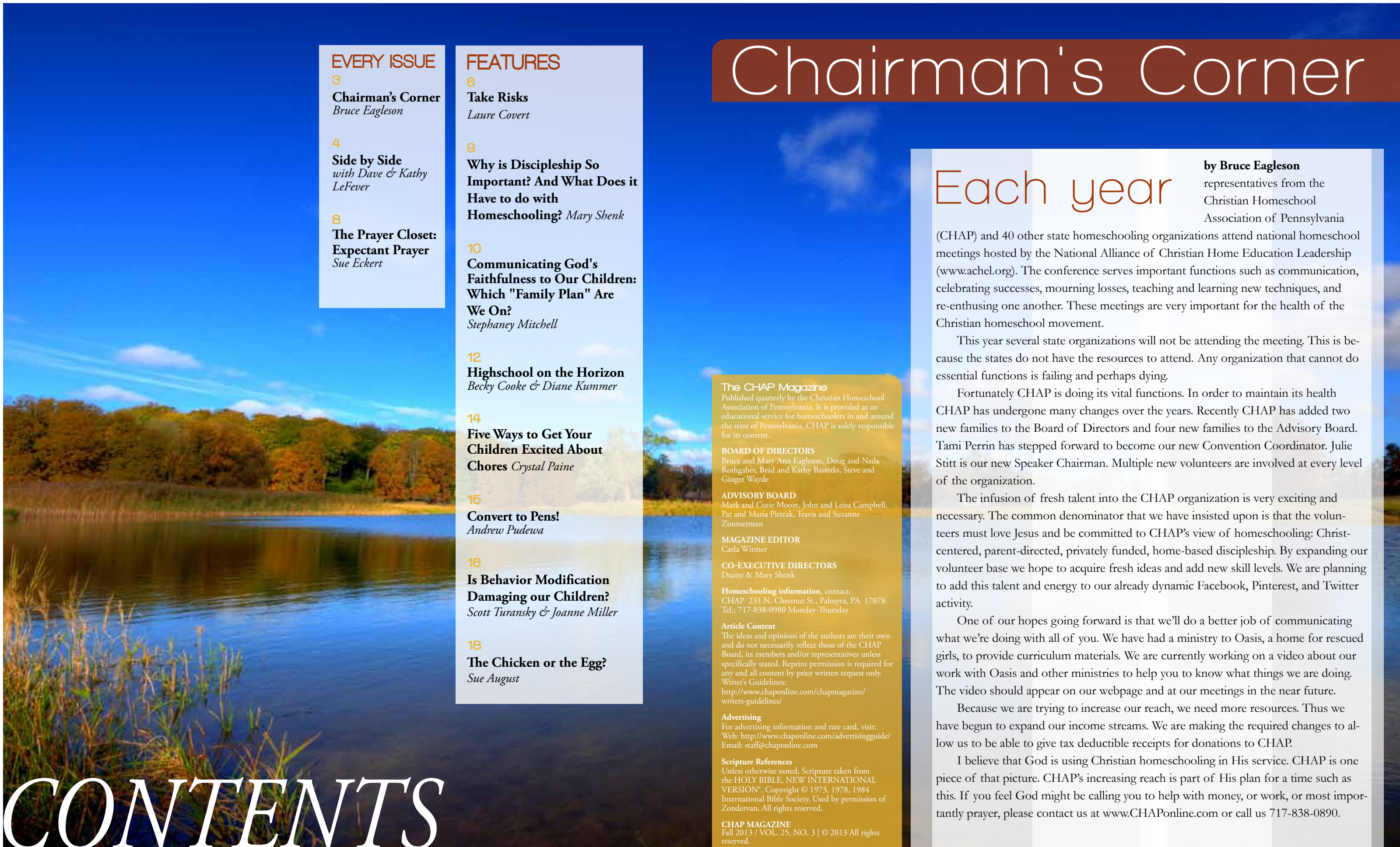
Fall 2013

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CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

FALL





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Chairman's Corner

Each year **by Bruce Eagleson**
representatives from the Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP) and 40 other state homeschooling organizations attend national homeschool meetings hosted by the National Alliance of Christian Home Education Leadership (www.achel.org). The conference serves important functions such as communication, celebrating successes, mourning losses, teaching and learning new techniques, and re-enthusing one another. These meetings are very important for the health of the Christian homeschool movement.

This year several state organizations will not be attending the meeting. This is because the states do not have the resources to attend. Any organization that cannot do essential functions is failing and perhaps dying.

Fortunately CHAP is doing its vital functions. In order to maintain its health CHAP has undergone many changes over the years. Recently CHAP has added two new families to the Board of Directors and four new families to the Advisory Board. Tami Perrin has stepped forward to become our new Convention Coordinator. Julie Stitt is our new Speaker Chairman. Multiple new volunteers are involved at every level of the organization.

The infusion of fresh talent into the CHAP organization is very exciting and necessary. The common denominator that we have insisted upon is that the volunteers must love Jesus and be committed to CHAP's view of homeschooling: Christ-centered, parent-directed, privately funded, home-based discipleship. By expanding our volunteer base we hope to acquire fresh ideas and add new skill levels. We are planning to add this talent and energy to our already dynamic Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter activity.

One of our hopes going forward is that we'll do a better job of communicating what we're doing with all of you. We have had a ministry to Oasis, a home for rescued girls, to provide curriculum materials. We are currently working on a video about our work with Oasis and other ministries to help you to know what things we are doing. The video should appear on our webpage and at our meetings in the near future.

Because we are trying to increase our reach, we need more resources. Thus we have begun to expand our income streams. We are making the required changes to allow us to be able to give tax deductible receipts for donations to CHAP.

I believe that God is using Christian homeschooling in His service. CHAP is one piece of that picture. CHAP's increasing reach is part of His plan for a time such as this. If you feel God might be calling you to help with money, or work, or most importantly prayer, please contact us at www.CHAPonline.com or call us 717-838-0890.

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.

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CHAP MAGAZINE
Fall 2013 / VOL. 25, NO. 3 | © 2013 All rights reserved.

Side by Side in Pennsylvania

Parents

Dave & Kathy LeFever

Children

Scott, Drew, Rachel

Hometown

Slippery Rock, PA

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

We have been homeschooling for eleven years. Homeschooling wasn't really on our radar when our children were very young, as neither of us had known anyone who homeschooled. Then it came time for our oldest child to go to school. While we weren't looking forward to that happening, it didn't occur to us that there was another way. However as God would have it, we met some families at church who had decided to homeschool, and we really liked what they had to say about it. We attended the CHAP Convention that May, and that sealed the deal for us.

What activities is your family involved in?

Most of our activities involve church or homeschooling, although our oldest son plays baseball for the local leagues, and Dave and the boys are hunters. We are involved in a gym class with our local homeschool group, and this year we will be involved with the Genesis Speech organization. Dave is involved with the men's ministry at our church, while Kathy is involved with the church

library. Also our two sons are involved in some amateur film-making with other kids from our homeschool group, and that has been loads of fun.

What have been your most helpful resources?

Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP), and the ministries we've been introduced to through the annual CHAP Convention, specifically the ministries of Answers in Genesis (AIG), Norm Wakefield, Rick Boyer, and Voddie Baucham have been a great blessing. And we can't forget the support and encouragement from the friends in our local homeschool group! The most helpful resource? Prayer!

What educational philosophy/curriculum do you follow?

We have used a mix of curriculum over the years, and each proved valuable for the time we used it. Our children are strongly encouraged to read for learning and pleasure, so we normally use a cur-

riculum that incorporates readers along with history. This year we're enjoying *America the Beautiful* and *Exploring World History* from the Notgrass Company and Teaching Textbooks for math. The Apologia science curriculums have always worked well for us, and we're currently using books from all three levels.

What has been one of the highlights in homeschooling your children?

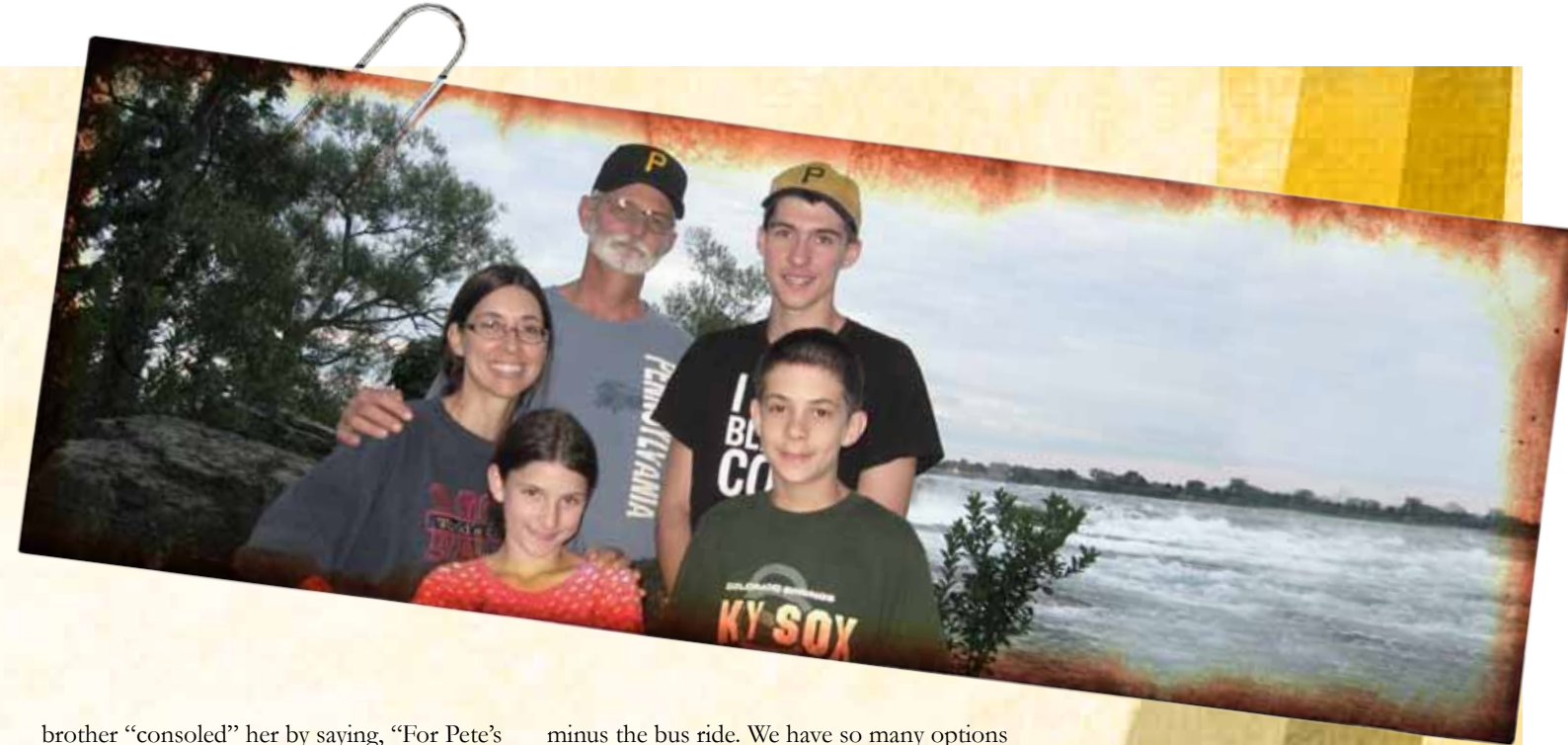
It has been wonderful to experience those "light bulb" moments in learning – when each of the kids realized they could read, when the math facts began to come easily, or when they'd read something from the Bible and we knew they understood it. Just being together as a family is a daily blessing, along with seeing the kids together as friends and enjoying one another's company.

What was your favorite field trip(s)?

Our favorites have been family trips to Gettysburg, Washington, D.C., the Creation Museum, and Niagara Falls.

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

Only one? It could be the time our daughter pulled a rubber snake from her older brother's mouth and pulled a tooth out with it; or the time our daughter was lamenting the demise of a baby moose to a grizzly bear and her oldest



brother "consoled" her by saying, "For Pete's sake, it's part of the food chain." Or maybe the time our second son was eating breakfast and then suddenly ran outside to shoot a pest squirrel off a tree branch – all in his pajamas! Our most recent funny moment came when we were waiting in line to go into the theater at the Niagara Falls Visitor Center. The sign said something like "be prepared to be amazed at what happened 12,000 years ago to form the Falls..." Our son said, "Well, this is going to be boring, God hadn't done anything yet."

What have you found to be challenging in homeschooling?

A big challenge for this homeschool mom is playing the comparison game. You see homeschool families in magazines and at conventions that appear to be perfect, while your own family is sadly lacking. Satan tries to undermine our homeschools with lies that we're not doing a good enough job, not using the right curriculum, etc. Our focus has to be on God and His plan for our families and not on what our pride is saying. The best tip for dealing with this? Pray often!

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

Since most of us were public-schooled, our idea of a school day often starts out looking like the day in the life of a public-schooler – complete with wooden desk, endless workbooks, and ½ hour lunch, but

minus the bus ride. We have so many options available to us (perhaps too many) that you really can tailor the school day to accommodate your family and child's needs. Also husbands and wives are in this together. Dad, offer your help and encouragement, and Mom, ask for help and don't assume Dad should already know. The best advice? Pray often!

Renew Conference '13

\$50/person

Single occupancy standard room

\$70/person

Single occupancy junior suite

\$40/person

Double occupancy standard room

\$60/person

Double occupancy junior suite

\$25/person

Local Resident - no hotel accommodations

The Renew Conference is returning this year once again on November 1-2, 2013! We are happy to have Doug Bartsch returning this year as our guest speaker. This is a weekend meant to equip you as homeschool leaders (past, present, and future). Those that attended last year were invigorated and encouraged by the sessions and by the time away.

(Your spouse is encouraged to attend the conference with you)

November 1-2, 2013 at the Best Western Plus Harrisburg Airport Inn

815 South Eisenhower Boulevard
Middletown, PA 17057

Guest speaker Doug Bartsch

Break out sessions, Q&A time and more

Registration open -

<https://chap.webconnex.com/renew2013>

Please no children with the exception of nursing infants.

www.chaponline.com/renew2013

Isaiah 40:28-31



TAKE RISKS

“So on the day of battle not a soldier with Saul and Jonathan had a sword or spear in his hand; only Saul and his son Jonathan had them.

Now a detachment of Philistines had gone out to the pass at Micmash. One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, “Come, let’s go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side.” But he did not tell his father.

On each side of the pass that Jonathan intended to cross to reach the Philistine outpost was a cliff... Jonathan said to his young armor bearer, “Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.”

“Do all that you have in mind,” his armor-bearer said. “Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul.” (1 Samuel 13:23-14:7 NIV)

by Laure Covert

Outgunned and outmanned, the Israelite army waits for a plan of attack. Meanwhile the king’s son, Jonathan, comes up with a daring idea and sneaks off to implement it. He has a sword and a loyal sidekick. The two young men scale cliffs, goad the enemy into attacking, and kill twenty men. What results is a rout – the enemy panics and “melts away in all directions.” (verse 16)

This amazing story possesses all the elements of a great action movie and has within it all we need to empower us to take risks in our own lives.

What is the risky idea that God has stirred up in your heart? Often we clearly see something, but hold back for fear of failure or others’ negative reaction.

We need God’s reassurance that our particular risky idea lines up with God’s heart and purpose. Todd Beamer asked the 911 responder to recite the Lord’s Prayer with him before he and the other passengers on Flight 93 tried to take back control of the airplane from the terrorists: “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Strength comes from realizing that often God’s design is for us to take the risk with others. We do not travel our path alone because God provides those faithful ones who say like Jonathan’s armor-bearer: “Do all that you have in mind. I am with you heart and soul.” (verse 7)

The most important element in taking any risk is the unshakeable trust that God will act in our behalf. Jonathan declares this truth before he starts climbing the cliff: “Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.” (verse 6)

It is not all about us – our abilities, our efforts. The stupid move on the part of the Philistine lookouts to come over to Jonathan, the panic that routed the larger army – all were sent from God who was fighting for Israel.

So what do we have to lose? Let’s go scale some cliffs!

Laure Covert is a freelance writer who blogs on literacy and inspiration for living: www.pineneedlesandpapertrails.com and <http://bluebirdsalwaysfly.wordpress.com>. Laure and her husband, Glenn, make their home in Harrisburg, PA. This year they are homeschooling just two teen girls, since their oldest has already graduated!

Expectant Prayer

by Sue Eckert

I was stunned this week when I read the purpose statement of a fairly new sister mission here in Niger: *“The LINK™ (Leading Innovatively Niger to the Kingdom) is an idea, a vision shared by a connected group of like-minded individuals from around the world dedicated to a common goal: seeing Niger, Africa, become a healthy, self-supporting, Christian nation.”*¹

Why was this so stunning to me? Well, according to the CIA, Niger’s nearly 17 million people are at least 80% Muslim.² The missiological researchers at the Joshua Project suggest that percentage is as high as 94.4%.³

Do our prayers demonstrate the expectant hope of the above LINK statement? Is there any reason why they shouldn’t? Or is this type of faith only meant for a few? What would our lives and homeschools look like if we had it? What are we hoping for anyway? These are questions I am asking myself.

A Baptist preacher named Amzi Clarence Dixon (1854-1925) said it better than I can in his sermon, “How to Pray.”⁴

“Thy kingdom come.’ Our Father is a King, and while we are permitted to be lovingly familiar, we must be loyally true. Disloyalty to the king is treason. The King came to earth and they rejected Him. The Church has its mission between the rejected King and the coming kingdom. At some time, perhaps soon, the King will return to set up His kingdom. It is our business to make ready for His return and welcome Him when He comes.

“It is said of a great general that he expressed his purpose to destroy all his enemies, but when he had captured the opposing army, he forgave them and sent them home to their families. When asked why he did not keep his word, he replied, ‘I have destroyed all my enemies; they are now my friends.’ God would destroy all His enemies by making them His friends by the power of His forgiving love in Jesus Christ.

“While we pray for the coming of our King in His glory, it is our duty and privilege to let Him come in His grace. Let us crown Him in the province of our hearts and lives. Christ must be enthroned in every department of my being – intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical. I would crown Him in the realm of religion, business, education, politics, and pleasure.”

If I understand my Bible correctly, to expectantly pray is to believe that a mountain will be moved from one place to another. (Matthew 17:20) Or is this just poetic? Or does it just apply to a few people who lived a long time ago? Or maybe we just lack courage?

If we receive this challenge, this expectancy in prayer, we will show it by the way we live. (James 2:18)

Dixon continues: *“Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.’ Heaven is here singular and evidently refers to the highest heaven, where God reigns in righteousness. In heaven the will of God is done perfectly and joyfully; there is no resistance. His will is law, and it is never violated. Such is the standard we should have before us, and we should be satisfied with nothing less. This spirit will make us foreign missionaries and send us with the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth. It will also make us home missionaries, sending us into the alleys and avenues wherever we can find a soul in rebellion against God.”*

LINK’s expectant vision statement stuns, yet excites me. I want to see it happen. But should I stop there? What else does expectant prayer mean to me and to my family? What does it mean to you and yours? Will this homeschool year reflect it? How?

Notes:

¹www.linkniger.com

²<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ng.html>

³<http://joshuaproject.net/countries.php?rog3=NG>

⁴Dixon, Amzi Clarence, “How to Pray,” from Wiersbe, W. W. (Ed.). (1987). *Classic Sermons on Prayer*. Grand Rapids, MI: Hendrickson Publishers.

Sue Eckert is wife to Tim and mom to seven precious children, four of whom are adults. The Eckerts want God to bless them through the challenges of serving Him in the country of Niger Republic. Sue’s e-book, Mamane’s Journey: An African Muslim Youth Learns of Christ, is available at <http://masterdesign.org/eckert.html> and makes a great family read-aloud.

Why Is Discipleship So Important? And What Does It Have To Do With Homeschooling?

by Mary Shenk

When we first started homeschooling our boys about 17 years ago, discipleship was the furthest thing from my mind. I was just trying to replicate what I saw happening in a preschool setting - learning letters and numbers, etc. We were learning Bible verses, but primarily because that was the good Christian thing to do.

Now don’t get me wrong, we wanted to instill godly values into their lives. We just hadn’t thought about discipleship on a family level. That came somewhat gradually. As we went along on our journey we learned that God had a grander plan for the family than what we at first thought.

Deuteronomy 6:4-8 became a pivotal piece of scripture in turning our understanding of what it is that God desires for us as families. “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.”

Do you see it in there? We are to be doing life very intentionally with our children. Teaching and instructing and living out what it is to love the Lord with all we have and are.

As we move into the New Testament we see Jesus relying not on a program to win souls to God, but rather the men that he poured himself into for three years. He walked, talked, ate with, grappled with their lack of faith, challenged them, encouraged, and equipped them. When He is ready to ascend back into heaven, He tells them to go out and do the same thing with others. The church is born out of obedience to that command. Being reconciled to God through salvation is the birthplace of discipleship.

Acts 18:24-28 gives a beautiful picture of discipleship. “Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.” What a beautiful picture of being brought under someone’s wing to be taught the way of Christ more fully.

Might I encourage you, mom and dad, that homeschooling has everything to do with discipling your children. You are with them through the hours of the day and night and are able to constantly train with both words and actions what a life surrendered to Christ looks like. You can lead them to a place of understanding the work of Christ. It will not be easy. It will require you to be in the Word, faithfully studying and rightly weaving it into their lives each day. It means responding and training carefully and intentionally in the good moments and the bad ones. Your children won’t be perfect (and neither will you) and you can’t force them to love God, but you can lay the foundation, being faithful to the One who has called you and trust Him to bring the harvest.

Mary is married to her best friend Duane, and both serve as co-executive directors of CHAP. 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, and granddaughter Skylar was born a year ago. Derek is heading into his junior year of high school in the fall. 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.

COMMUNICATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO OUR CHILDREN:

by Stephaney Mitchell

Choices in telecommunication plans abound. What do we choose – an emergency prepaid deal, an unlimited text/data/voice contract, or some monthly plan in between? It's enough to drive one crazy, but we muddle through all the options until we find the right one (at the right price) for our family. However when it comes to communicating God's faithfulness to our children, we have no options. God commands us to tell our children about Him. This past year during our family Bible time two contrasting passages of Scripture about passing on God's faithfulness jumped out at me – Judges 2:10 and Psalm 78:5-6.

Since the Fall we have all gone our own way. The Creator-God lovingly called out a people to Himself from a pagan family, even giving them His very own name. He protected them in Egypt while the plagues besieged the Egyptians, preceded them in a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night during the great Exodus, and miraculously provided for them in the wilderness prior to entering the Promised Land.

But time and time again many of the children of Israel turned from God and followed after and served idols. Joshua, the great leader after Moses, had to direct God's people (in Canaan) to remember the one, true and living God, calling each father to claim his household for the Lord (Joshua 24:1-15). In verse 31 of the same chapter, God's Word tells us, "And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel."

According to numerous Hebrew Old

Testament scholars, the word *know* contains "one of the most important Hebrew roots in the Old Testament. It expresses a broad variety of meanings about various types of knowledge which are gained through the senses."¹ Reading a little further in God's Word, we find almost an exact restatement of Joshua 24:31 with the addition of a few key words – one word that tells us exactly which sense caused the knowing. "And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had *seen* all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel." (Judges 2:7) Israel's knowledge of God was not just a philosophical knowledge based on legends, but it was a knowledge based on factual, eye-witness accounts.

Unfortunately things changed when Joshua died. "And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died...and also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: **and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.** And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD..." (Judges 2:8,10-11a) The new generation did not see the miraculous works of the Lord, so they had to depend on another sense; that of hearing. What happened? The older generation failed to communicate God's faithfulness to their children.

Not much further in scripture God gives us an example of a father (a priest who ministered to everyone else) who possibly failed to communicate God's faithfulness to his own sons Hophni and Phineas.² I Samuel 2:12 states, "Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD." Of course the rest of the Bible is replete with examples of the consequences of failing to communicate God's faithfulness to our children, hence the well-known commands in Deuteronomy 6 and Joshua 1:8 among many others.

God has to remind us (as He did the Israelites) to constantly communicate His faithfulness to our children. No matter what circumstances occur in our lives, we must choose to follow Psalm 78:1-7: "Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not

hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, **that they should make them known to their children:** that the generation might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments..."

So what family plan are you on – Judges 2 or Psalm 78? It's so easy for us to depend on the folks at church to do this job, but God clearly commands the parents (specifically the fathers) to communicate the faithfulness of Jesus Christ to our children. By the way texting our children while under the same roof cannot compare to "speaking eyeball to eyeball." Here are some practical ways you can communicate God's faithfulness to your children on a daily basis:

- Tell your children how God took you out of your "Egypt" (salvation), and how He is still taking the "Egypt" out of you (sanctification).
- Listen to the Bible together at home or while in the car. We use the Bible on DVD, so we can listen to it and read it at the same time.
- Pray together and praise the Lord

together when you hear the answer to a prayer. Allow your children to hear you pray throughout the day, sometimes even for the minute things.

- Verbalize to your children how the Holy Spirit has convicted you to repent of a sinful attitude or action you've displayed towards a family member.
- Share stories of how the Lord protected, provided, or pursued you while growing up. Our children love to hear stories of our childhood.
- Point out real-life, current illustrations of the "sowing and reaping" principle in your own lives or those in your community.
- Connect regularly with other godly people who will speak to your children.
- Keep a journal (even if you miss days or months here and there) where you pour out your heart to God.
- Introduce your children to courageous saints through great biographies.

"For Future Generations" is the Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania's theme for this year and the 28th annual CHAP Convention in May 2014. We not only work and meet throughout the year for you, but we also work on a daily basis to pass God's faithfulness onto our children (or grandchildren) – just like you're striving to do. Remember we have an enemy who would

love to mess up as many lives as possible, so let's encourage and pray for one another to: "teach this testimony and law to [our] children, so that the next generation would know it, so that the children not yet born would themselves arise and tell their own children, who could then put their confidence in God."

Notes:

¹Zodhiates, Spiros, ed., and Warren Baker, ed. The Complete Word Study Old Testament. Iowa Falls: AMG International, Inc. D/B/A AMG Publishers, 1994.

²Of course we don't know exactly why the sons turned out like they did- we can only make conjectures. Sometimes parents do all they can, and children still take major left turns. We are raising free-willed human beings, not radishes. For further reading on the example of Eli, Phinehas and Hophni, and how it relates to fathers, see: <http://www.unionchurch.com/archive/062198.html>, by Bruce Goettsche.

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Phil and Steph have been married for nineteen years. Although homeschooling two sons, working, and ministering to local people from international communities, Phil and Steph graciously have been reminded by God that they are each other's first ministry.



Do you know a
Widow
who needs help homeschooling?

Helping homeschoolers through hard times.

Contact the Home School Foundation to find out more about our Widows Fund: www.homeschoolfoundation.org | 540-338-8688



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HIGH SCHOOL

on the Horizon

by Becky Cooke and Diane Kummer,
HSLDA High School Consultants

Homeschool parents are a varied lot! Some of you have been teaching high school for many years, and as a veteran homeschooler in your circle of friends, many people come to you with questions. Or, you may be in the midst of homeschooling your first high schooler. Still others of you have yet to begin the high school adventure or you may have recently pulled a teen out of public or private school.

Regardless of your level of experience, we believe there is value for all of us to be reminded of the basics. Teaching high school at home does not need to be a daunting task, but can instead be a wonderful opportunity to educate and enjoy your teen.

Prepare for Teaching High School

You'll want to prepare for the task of teaching high school by picking up at least one resource book that lays a good foundation and provides many practical tips. These are but a few of the choices:

The High School Handbook: Junior and Senior High School at Home by Mary Schofield
Senior High: A Home Designed Form+U+La by Barbara Edt Shelton
Homeschooling High School: Planning Ahead for College Admission by Jeanne Gowen Dennis
Homeschooled and Headed for College by Denise Boiko

Information from these books will provide a helpful reference many times throughout the high school years. All of the authors were homeschool parents, so they know the questions you have, the concerns you think about, and the encouragement you need!

Take a Mom or Dad to Lunch

One thing we love about homeschooling parents is that most of them want to support and encourage others. Take time to develop a relationship with another homeschooling family who is currently teaching a teen or one who has already graduated one or more children. A free breakfast or lunch may be quite a lure! Inviting a homeschool mom or couple either to your home or to a restaurant will give you uninterrupted time for picking their brains. Potential questions may include:

- What do you see as the benefits of homeschooling high

school? (You may first want to ask if they are having a good day!)

- What curriculum has worked for you and why?
- What curriculum has not worked and why? (Both of the preceding questions are necessary so that you can compare/contrast curriculum that may best suit your teen.)
- What part of homeschooling high school did you find to be a challenge?
- How did you structure your day?
- Are there any tips that you want to pass on to someone just starting out?

Be an Excited Learner

In the same way you desire your teen to be excited about the learning experience, you'll want to set a good example by investigating and exploring the many aspects of teaching high school. Keep your eyes open for teaching seminars. We presented three high school symposiums for the Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania this summer that gave needed information, such as developing a high school plan, creating a transcript, staying on track during the high school years, keeping good records, and knowing about tests such as the SAT, ACT, PSAT, and others. Although it always takes a special effort to be away from home, the information you'll glean from these symposiums may save you hours of time trying to find the information on your own.

Become Spiritually Equipped

Teaching high school is serious business, but keep in mind that one of the most crucial aspects of homeschooling your teen is simply the opportunity to continue building a strong relationship with him. The teen years are pivotal ones, and you will see your child grow and mature in many ways. Do your best to keep the lines of communication open and carry on with the training you began many years ago. We recommend an excellent book on the spiritual training of teens called *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens* by Paul David Tripp.

Watch and Pray

Homeschooling during the high school years is a noble task that may meet resistance from others including your teen! When your decision to homeschool high school is challenged, it's a good time to remember the reasons you are homeschooling in the first place.

Especially during the high school years, pray about all aspects of your home education, including but not limited to: courses to teach, curriculum to use, activities to participate in, and perhaps even changes to the family's routine/schedule relating to mom's teaching responsibilities. Pray for your teen's spiritual growth and relationship with the Lord. Pray for your teen's relationships with friends and his character development. Pray about...everything!

As a precaution, although spiritual fruit is a wonderful bonus when homeschooling your teen, it should never be the reason that you homeschool. If it is, then the absence of spiritual fruit will lead to discouragement, weariness, and despair. Rather see your faithful obedience to the task of homeschooling as an opportunity to trust in the Lord's provision and power to take your meager sacrifice and accomplish His purposes in His timing and in His ways. Your focus will then rightly be on the Lord and His faithfulness, not on your child or on your teaching.

With high school on the horizon, you have an opportunity to engage your teen and have a front row seat watching as he meets new challenges, develops personal convictions, and matures into a young adult. A little preparation and planning will build your confidence and set you going in the right direction.

Adapted from High School on the Horizon originally published in 2009 by Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA). Used with permission.

Becky Cooke and Diane Kummer serve as High School Consultants for Home School Legal Defense Association's (HSLDA) Homeschooling Thru High School Program. They are nationally known speakers and authors on high school topics. They began homeschooling in the 1980's and their children (Diane's two and Becky's three children) are well into their careers. Diane and Becky created the high school section of HSLDA's website (www.hslda.org/highschool) where you'll find a wealth of helpful information to teach your teen at home, and where you may sign up to receive their free monthly high school email newsletter.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP) has a wonderful opportunity for students and parents alike. We are just beginning an internship program for students. We would like to provide an opportunity for your teens/young adults to learn the ins and outs of the different jobs that are necessary to pull together a large event like the Convention, as well as smaller scale events. We also have openings for media help, among others. We have short term opportunities and longer term opportunities. What a great way to learn new skills and be involved in an organization that supports the homeschooling family! If desired CHAP will be happy to write any recommendations needed upon the successful completion of the internship. Interested in this opportunity? Email Mary Shenk at mshenk@chaponline.com for more information.



5 WAYS TO GET YOUR CHILDREN EXCITED ABOUT CHORES

by Crystal Paine

1. Let Them Work Alongside You

Most children love to spend time with mom, no matter what it is you're doing. So take advantage of this and enthusiastically invite them to help you with whatever chore you're working on.

While you're working together, talk, sing, laugh, and praise them repeatedly for helping you. Let them see you working hard and enjoying it. Modeling a strong work ethic in front of your children can have a profound impact on their view of work - which could take them far in life!

Remember that young children often won't be able to do their chores anywhere near the level of perfection. But if you're patient and continue to work alongside them, praising them and helping them to get it right, they'll eventually be able to do the job well.

2. Make it Fun!

Who says housework has to be dull and difficult? Find ways to turn it into a fun activity and your children just might be begging to do more chores!

We love to turn on a fun CD, like one of the Wee Sing albums or this Children's Scripture Memory CD, to keep us moving at a fast pace. There's something about upbeat music that just lifts the mood and makes cleaning more enjoyable!

My friend, Stephanie, who blogs at Keeper of the Home shared this great idea:

"In the last few months, my kids and I have been having what we call 'cleaning parties.' We write up a list of things that need to be done on our kitchen whiteboard (color-coded for each person's duties), then we turn on lively music, set a timer for how long we estimate it will take us, and work like crazy! I usually give the little ones a few simple jobs to do on their own, plus some jobs that they do by my side. We always decide before we begin what our reward for our hard work will be (usually something like making chocolate milk or popcorn, watching a Little House or Planet Earth video together, doing a craft, etc.) I'm amazed at how well this positive approach to cleaning has been working for them!"

3. Have a Race

We often set the timer and have a race to see who can finish their chores first. Typically I'll offer an incentive to the winner: the first person done with their chores gets to have a snack or pick out which library books we're going to read.

Another thing that has worked well is to race against the clock instead of racing against each other. We'll see how many things we can collectively pick up and put away within ten minutes. When we all work together quickly, it's amazing how much we can get done in a short amount of time!

4. Get Child-Sized Brooms & Mops

One thing that helps my children enjoy cleaning more is using child-sized brooms, mops, and dusting cloths. Sure you have to invest a little money to purchase these, but the excitement they can generate is well worth it.

If you don't have the money in your budget, see if grandma and grandpa could get them as a birthday present. My children got mops for Christmas last year and it was, by far, the hit present. All the cousins spent the morning cleaning grandma and grandpa's kitchen tile after the presents were opened! And their enthusiasm for using them still hasn't waned!

5. Reward a Job Well Done

Working for a reward is always more motivating! Figure out what motivates your child, and then use that as a reward. If you want to have your child work toward a larger prize - say a toy or DVD or a date with mom - you could create a reward chart for them to track their progress on. Once they've successfully completed their chores for 20 days in a row (or whatever number you decide upon), then they get their reward.

Since our children are younger, we've found that instant rewards are more exciting right now. So we have a standing rule that once all of your chores and homework are finished for the afternoon, you can watch a movie or have 30 minutes of iPad time. The best thing about this set-up is that our house is usually clean by mid-afternoon since movie time is something none of the kids want to miss!

Crystal Paine is a wife, homeschool mom of three, and bestselling author of 21 Days to a More Disciplined Life. She is passionate about encouraging and challenging women to wisely steward their time and resources and live life on purpose. Visit her blog, www.MoneySavingMom.com, for high-value coupons, online bargains, freebies, and practical ideas, and inspiration to get your life and finances in order. Crystal Paine was a speaker at the 2013 CHAP Convention.

Convert to PENS!

by Andrew Pudewa

"First draft in pencil, final copy in pen," were the traditional instructions of our grade school teachers. However when we observe children using pencils during writing classes, it is occasionally humorous (at best) but mostly frustrating for several reasons. One bewildering phenomenon is the amazing amount of time spent on erasing; careful observation will show that it actually takes the average child longer to erase a complete sentence than to write one. Inevitably we will notice the child's continuous need to sharpen, sharpen, and sharpen that pencil down to a stub. To an inexperienced observer, this may seem like an excuse to get out of the chair (possible, but not likely), or a way to momentarily escape the purgatory of the mostly blank page (more probable, but still not the core reason). Finally, we wonder, why does the child complain of "tired hand syndrome" so consistently? Although not quite as obvious, this too may simply be another of the many pernicious problems which pencils promote. Is there a simple solution?

During *Excellence in Writing* student classes, we have a very strange rule: NO ERASING ALLOWED. Shocking to some and bewildering to others, this odd discipline, once accepted, has a remarkably liberating effect. When erasing is illegal (and first time perfection is never expected), neatness is no longer a burden. Messiness is okay. Thinking about how the words sound and not obsessing about how the paper looks, children are able to experiment with vocabulary freely. A change is only a strike mark away, and with a double spaced paper, there's plenty of room to work. Sometimes the real neatniks will have a hard time with this, hoping to get it perfect the first time. This is just lazy.

Nobody gets it perfect the first time. A final or typed copy must be the norm.

Clearly when children are freed from the necessity of being continuously careful and neat, their brains are freed up to think more about English composition, which is: putting ideas into words and words into sentences in a correct and logical order. And by just quickly crossing out what they do not want, they have more time to find and refine what they do want, something particularly important when using a stylistic techniques checklist. Try the NO ERASING ALLOWED rule in your home or classroom and move one step closer to the true way.

Sharpening also takes time. It eats the pencils. Kids do it constantly. Why? Although often it may be a form of procrastination, the more likely answer has to do with kinesthetic and tactile consistency. As a pencil wears, the drag on the paper rapidly changes. This is a disconcerting feeling to children, and even to some adults, demanding a sophisticated adjustment of pressure and speed. For a young child this may require additional brain activity which distracts him from the real task at hand, English composition. Additional variables such as desk surface and stack thickness can exacerbate the inconsistencies of pencil points on paper. A good quality pen has no such changeable nature. The tip is consistent; the ink flow is steady. Believing that problems of habitual sharpening can be easily solved with the use of mechanical pencils, some teachers and parents accept this more sophisticated form of heresy. However one final, convincing apologetic thrust remains...

"My hand is tired!" How often we have heard the whine. Another excuse? Perhaps, but when pens replace pencils, the tired hand syndrome gradually fades, as the bold black

or blue ink lines replace the weak gray of the traditional wood or mechanical #2. Young children, especially those with immature visual pathways, crave clear contrast on their paper. It's easier to see. While wondering why kids don't generally think to read what they've written, we might be oblivious to the fact that it's just hard to look at. In their need to see contrast while using a pencil, the young student presses hard on the paper. Although the lead may break, at least the line is darker. Sharpening (or clicking more lead down) doesn't really help. Only pressure makes a difference. Why then should we be surprised at complaints of cramps, and moans about tired finger muscles? The children are only doing what they need to do to overcome the added handicap which the use of a pencil imposes upon them.

By now the conclusion should be obvious. Erasing is a phenomenal waste of time, since there shouldn't be any such thing as a first and only draft of any composition. Check the original manuscript of any well-known author and you will find a mess of changes, additions, and deletions. Students must be free to think about what words to choose and how to best put them into sentences, not the shape of the letters or the look of the page. Using pens for composition, children will not only escape the temptation to erase, they will be liberated from the compelling need to sharpen, while the dark ink on white will provide the much needed visual contrast which the carbon-gray pencil does not provide. High quality, roller tip, dark ink pens will solve many problems. Relegate pencils - whether traditional or mechanical - to the worlds of art and arithmetic where they belong, but don't let them invade the hallowed halls of English composition. Although we may, when young and impressionable, have been strongly indoctrinated with the "first-draft-in-pencil" fallacy, it is time to see the truth, lead our children in light, and convert to the right way - pen!

This article first appeared in the Summer 2010 Arizona Home Education Journal. It is printed with permission of the author.

Andrew Pudewa is the director of the Institute for Excellence in Writing and a homeschooling father of seven. He and his beautiful, heroic wife Robin currently teach their two youngest children at home in Locust Grove, Oklahoma. www.IEW.com

IS BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION DAMAGING OUR CHILDREN?

by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN

When we emphasize rewards to change a child's behavior we enter some dangerous territory in the child's heart. Behavior modification works because it takes advantage of a child's selfishness. Too much behavior modification in a child's life actually increases that selfishness. Kids might do what we ask, but there's a deeper price we're paying that must be considered.

Let's step back a minute and see the science of how behavior modification developed. In the early 1900s Ivan Pavlov made an exciting discovery as

jump through short-term hoops, but it does little to build life skills in kids to handle the adult world. It's time to re-evaluate the heavy use of behavior modification throughout our culture because of its negative impact. Here's why.

A continual reliance on external motivators enhances a person's selfishness as it exchanges a little gratification for a desired behavior. Children raised in homes where external motivation dominated the leadership strategy ask different questions about life such as, "Are you going to pay me for this?" Not only does behavior modification encourage selfishness, but it also removes the moral motivations necessary for healthy and mature decision-making. Kids then tend to ask the question, "What's in it for me?" instead of "What's the right thing to do?"

Of course these children grow up to be

quick change, but lasting change takes place in the heart.

Behavior modification isn't wrong; it's just incomplete. And in the end it lacks the depth for long-term and lasting change. Even God uses reward and punishment to motivate people to follow him. However he calls us to greater motivations than the fear of hell or the reward of heaven. Love, gratefulness, and a sense of mission are inner motivations God gave to people in a different way than He does with other forms of animal life.

In both children and adults, moving toward a heart-based approach to change, instead of relying heavily on behavior modification, has several practical implications. For example, some people believe that the key to good parenting is consistency. The more consistent you are,

direction. I'm seeing more change in my kids with this new approach."

If you're training dogs in a laboratory, then consistency is essential. But if you're trying to raise children, then you want to build character, develop moral strength, and foster a heart that follows after God. Simply threatening children or offering rewards misses the mark.

The heart is where people hold their convictions. It's where they develop operating principles about life. Kids already have convictions, but many of those convictions are incomplete or erroneous. For example, a child may believe that if my brother is annoying then I have the right to punch him. Or if I'm unhappy with the situation then my bad attitude is justified. An attitude is fueled by beliefs. If a child believes that his job description of life is to have fun, then

GOD CREATED PEOPLE DIFFERENTLY THAN ANIMALS. HE GAVE EACH PERSON A SPIRITUAL "HEART," AND THAT HEART AFFECTS THE LEARNING PROCESS.

he worked with dogs. If he consistently rang a bell just before he fed the dogs, he could eventually train the dogs to salivate by simply ringing the bell even without the food. And over the next few years a complete system of behavior modification was born.

In the 1920s, John B. Watson began using the same strategies on people. In fact it wasn't long before behavior modification became a primary way to help people stop smoking, lose weight, and deal with a host of other behavioral issues. In time behavior modification influenced the public school classroom as well, and teachers used it to help children learn. By the 1950s behavior modification had also become the primary tool for parenting. Giving rewards and punishment to children worked quite well to modify their behavior.

However unbeknownst to many, a problem began to develop in the way people think. Attitudes of selfishness and entitlement often increase in the hearts of kids who are raised on heavy doses of behavior modification. Many of those kids take longer to grow up today because, in the end, behavior modification may get kids to

leaders in the culture, both inside the church and out. It may be time for a paradigm shift similar to the one experienced by Samuel when God said to him, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7 ESV)

The problem is that behavior modification embraces humanistic thinking, the belief that people are just a higher form of animals. If you're going to train dogs to salivate, then behavior modification works well. If you're trying to train a child to make right choices, then a whole different approach is far more effective. A biblical worldview leads to different conclusions.

God created people differently than animals. He gave each person a spiritual "heart," and that heart affects the learning process. The heart contains things such as emotions, desires, convictions, and passion. In short the heart is a wrestling place where decisions are made. A person's tendencies come from the heart. When a child lies to get out of trouble, that's a heart issue. If a man reacts with anger each time his co-worker is annoying, that's a heart issue too. Simply focusing on behavior may provide some

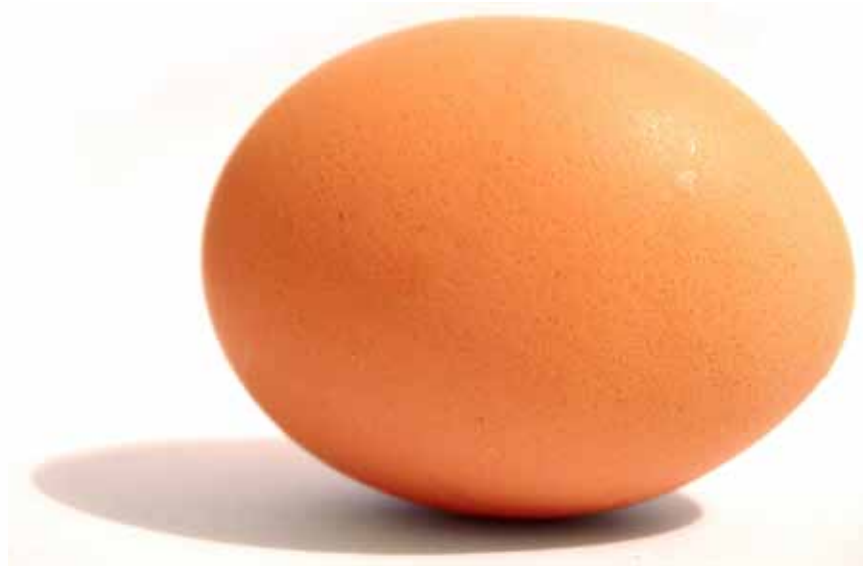
the faster you'll see change. The emphasis is on performance and can easily result in kids who look good on the outside while having significant problems on the inside. Consistency can teach kids to appear good, clean, and nice, but to help them change their hearts other strategies must be employed. In fact consistency isn't as important for heart change as is life experience, dialogue, and creativity.

As a homeschooling parent, Karla found a heart-based approach in parenting particularly helpful. "I used to feel guilty all the time because I couldn't be consistent. I have four kids to educate and a house to run. Invariably I'd have to sacrifice consistency in an area with one or more of my kids to accomplish my other tasks. When I realized that there's more to parenting than just being consistent, it freed me up to work on bigger goals with my kids. The consistency trap produced a lot of guilt in me. Now I feel freed up to use other tools as well. I'm continually asking questions about my children's hearts, and I'm learning a lot about how to mold and influence them to go in the right

work of any kind can be annoying. Simply rewarding kids for positive behavior may get them to perform for a time, but giving them a vision so that they understand right and wrong produces greater results. Kids are then more willing to put their hearts into their work and aren't dependent on the latest gimmick.

Too much emphasis on behavior modification encourages young people to become modern day Pharisees. Jesus brought a new message that spirituality is about the heart. We must get that message into our parenting and into our homeschool classrooms. We must become more interested in our own hearts as well, not just our actions. It's not about looking organized and orderly. It's about having a heart that follows after Jesus.

Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN are the authors of the new book entitled, The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life. Both the Millers and the Turanskys homeschooled their children who are all grown now.



The Chicken or the Egg?

by Sue August

I've been baffled by the issue of field trips for years now. We've been on some terrific ones, and we've been on excursions that have almost killed us. Our positive experiences kept me believing that field trips must serve some purpose. Field trips seem costly to me, mostly in terms of time rather than money, so I felt like I had to give the issue a thorough analysis. I was tired of running willy-nilly to every trip made available to us, being unsure of what kind of return we would get for our investment.

One of the questions I kept asking was: "Do we go on the field trip first, and if it sparks an interest, we'll follow up at home with additional information?" or "Do we introduce the topic at home before we head out the door?" Which comes first, the chicken or the egg?

I've come to the conclusion that, in most cases, it's best to introduce the topic at home first. This doesn't have to be drudgery, and it doesn't have to disrupt your preplanned curriculum. Our preference is to find a living book and read it aloud together. (A living book is one that has been authored by someone with a passion for the topic, as opposed to a textbook that has been written under contract.) There is nothing more rewarding than to be on a field trip and have your child say, "Look, Mom, this is exactly like the thing we read about!"


It seems like seeing a display of something we have read about validates the information we have received. I asked myself, "Why doesn't this process work the other way around? Can't we see the display first and then read about it in more depth later?" My husband helped me clarify my thoughts on the subject in this way.

If you walk into a museum without having any background

information, there is too much to see and no method for organizing the input you are receiving. It soon becomes either overwhelming or meaningless. If however you have read up on the topic beforehand, there is no great need to see exhibits in any particular order. You have already created a structure to make sense of what you are seeing.


Not too long ago we went on a tour of the army barracks in Trenton, New Jersey, that date back to the Revolutionary War. Our tour guides were wonderful, and information was given in a very organized manner. Although we had studied the Revolutionary War, we had never really focused on what had been going on in Trenton when Washington crossed the Delaware River. Even though I would count this field trip among the worthwhile ones, we just didn't have the framework to connect the pieces of information we were given. Recently we watched the movie, *The Crossing*, which gave us a very detailed picture of the Hessians occupying Trenton. My son Jack and I then tried to recall what we had seen on our field trip, and both of us wished we could go back and do the tour again now that we knew more about what we would be seeing.

A different type of field trip also comes to mind. We visited the kitchen of a Dunkin' Donuts store. It was fascinating to see exactly how all the different products are made. I would have thought that this trip was simple enough for Jack to enjoy without any preparation ahead of time; however I think Jack would have gained more if he had known some of the basic facts in advance. You can miss a lot of a tour guide's presentation if you have to scramble around to fill in the gaps. Jack didn't know that most doughnuts are fried. Even when he saw them get dumped in the hot oil, I think he still expected to see them get put into giant ovens. I bet it was confusing to think the



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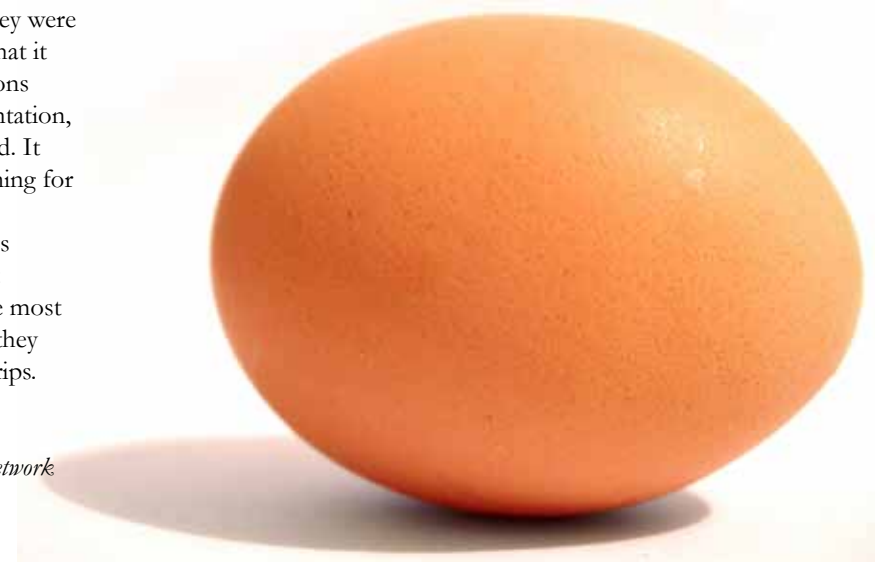
process wasn't finished when it really was. If we had taken just 15 minutes to check out the Dunkin' Donuts website before we left, Jack would have had the framework he needed.

As an adult have you ever been surprised when an entire group of students on a field trip have no questions to ask the guide? You probably had several that came to mind, and you wondered why none of the kids were asking what seemed to you like obvious questions. It's probable that you had more background information than your children. They were likely expending all their energy in trying to assimilate as much of the information as they could. They had no time left to wonder about anything that the guide didn't mention. They were just struggling to make sense of the whole thing. I'm thinking that it might be worthwhile for our children to think of several questions prior to our taking a trip. If they get answered during the presentation, fine. If not, they'll probably have a chance to ask them afterward. It may even help them to stay focused during a presentation, listening for the answers to their questions.

I've always had the idea that the more hands-on experiences my son has, the better off he'll be. I think I need to modify that philosophy a little by realizing that the hands-on experiences are most valuable when they follow the academic framework into which they fit. In the future I'll be more diligent about preparing for field trips. Hopefully I'll get a greater return on our investment.

This article first appeared in the January 2006 ENOCH (Education Network of Christian Homeschoolers) of New Jersey Newsletter. It is printed with permission of the author.

Mark & Sue August of Medford, NJ, are now retired homeschooling parents. They have, however, stayed active in their local church's homeschool group. Sue heads up a small group of retired homeschool moms who serve in a Titus 2 capacity coming alongside younger moms. Mark continues to teach high school math and science courses in the Sovereign Grace Church Homeschool Co-op.





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As a supporter of the Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP), you are well aware of the fight that goes on to preserve and protect your hard-won freedom to educate your children in the way that you see fit. However, that freedom is continually under attack, and the enemies of homeschooling are well funded.

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