

Summer 2014

# CHAP

CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA







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# On Board with CHAP

## Without a clue. Hopelessly unaware. Naïve. Oblivious.

The first year I attended the Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP) Convention I was - without a doubt - all of these things. You may be assuming that I am talking about homeschooling, but I'm not. Because the second year and the third year I attended the Convention, I was still pretty much in the dark.

I thought the CHAP Convention was, well...it. I had no idea CHAP was much more than a convention - but it *is* the Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania, not the Christian Homeschool Convention of Pennsylvania.

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Did you know that besides the annual Convention, CHAP provides support for homeschooling families? We regularly receive email inquiries and phone calls asking about homeschooling laws, homeschool services such as portfolio evaluators, and information on specialty resources such as special-needs homeschooling, co-op locations, and more.

CHAP's volunteer Field Trip Coordinators have arranged field trips to several locations in Pennsylvania, including the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum, the Ephrata Cloister, the Pennsylvania Military Museum, and a trip to Valley Forge.

CHAP provides a free e-newsletter and print magazine providing Pennsylvania homeschoolers with valuable information and encouragement on a regular basis. These publications are written, laid out, and edited by volunteers.

For the past year CHAP's Legislative Coordinators have spent countless volunteer hours coordinating activities to aggressively pursue bringing HB 1013 to a vote in Harrisburg. This is a bill which would alleviate some of the heavy homeschooling burdens currently placed on Pennsylvania homeschooling families.

Behind the scenes CHAP's Executive and Advisory Board volunteers regularly discuss, pray, and make hundreds of decisions which affect CHAP and homeschoolers throughout the year. From carefully deciding where each dollar of our small budget would most benefit Pennsylvania homeschoolers, to taking vacation time from full-time jobs in order to attend the Alliance Conference to learn what challenges other Christian homeschool organizations are facing and how to best overcome those issues, and everything in between, board members are in contact on nearly a daily basis to handle developments as they arise.

Although I've skipped over much of what goes on throughout the year, I must address all of the work that is poured into putting on the annual Convention. A huge majority of this work is undertaken by volunteers, many

of whom work year-round to bring to you one of the largest homeschool conventions in the Northeast - which by the time you are reading this will have wrapped up its 28<sup>th</sup> year!

Have you ever thought about what it takes to pull together a convention?

- ☐ Coordinate volunteers
- ☐ Run, test, and troubleshoot audio/visual equipment and computers
- ☐ Put together thousands of "welcome" bags for the attendees
- ☐ Set up the used curriculum sale
- ☐ Solicit, pick up, and arrange all of the products and goods for the silent auction
- ☐ Set up booths, tables, bunting, and signs (and everything else!)
- ☐ Tear it all down on Saturday night

That's just the tip of the iceberg of what our volunteers do for the CHAP Convention!

If you've noticed two things in this article, I hope it is this: CHAP is much more than a convention and most of our undertakings are handled by volunteers. We covet your prayers for a successful Convention each year, but we also would appreciate your help and assistance throughout the year! We need YOU to take an active role in supporting Christian homeschooling in Pennsylvania. Whether that is by volunteering at the Convention, attending a rally in Harrisburg, proofreading CHAP publications, or offering support as a mentor to new homeschooling families, we need *you* to help CHAP as we help others. Please prayerfully consider where you might offer assistance, whether on a regular basis or once-a-year at the annual CHAP Convention, then contact us at [www.CHAPonline.com](http://www.CHAPonline.com) or call us at 717-838-0890.

*Leisa Campbell and her husband John live in Northeastern Pennsylvania with their two sons, Ethan and Aidan, whom they have been homeschooling for the past three years. The Campbell family also includes three cats, five chickens, two turtles, and several hermit crabs. John and Leisa have served as CHAP Advisory Board members since July 2013.*



# Side by Side in Pennsylvania

## Parents

Wayne & Karen Morgan

## Children

Querida, Taylor, Joshua

## Hometown

Dallas, PA

## How long have you been homeschooling?

This is our sixth year of homeschooling. We started when our oldest, Querida Hope, was in kindergarten.

## Why do we homeschool?

For us it was just an extension of the same intentional parenting philosophy that led us to prioritize having Karen be a stay-at-home mom. We wanted to impart spiritual truth into our kids' lives on a constant basis. Wayne jokes that as a youth pastor he wanted the chance to start with a clean slate on his own kids, and whatever the result of our parenting turned out to be, it was our product and no one else's! Our goal is to do whatever it takes to raise our children to be Christ-following leaders who impact their world for His glory.

On a more tangible level our decision to homeschool was influenced by circumstances. When our two biological kids were preschoolers, Wayne survived a serious cancer diagnosis, having been given a 40% chance of survival.

We were forced to recognize what was *really* important to us, and that was our faith and our family. After a two year battle Wayne was miraculously declared "cancer-free" just five days before Querida would have started kindergarten. We wanted to spend as much time together as possible.

## In what activities does your family participate?

Our daughter takes piano lessons and horse lessons. Both older kids love art classes and play basketball through the Upward Sports Program, which Wayne coaches. Taylor and Wayne take karate class together. We all enjoy hiking, swimming, boating, and water sports together. Wayne often speaks at summer camps and winter retreats, and we try to attend as a family as much as possible.

## What have been your most helpful resources?

Prayer! Our own prayers and the prayers of others support us along the way. Karen's mom taught two of her kids at home for five years and is a valuable resource. Friends who homeschool and share the same struggles and joys have been priceless for keeping us focused.

## What educational philosophy/curriculum do you follow?

After five years of following a very traditional, Christian-school curriculum, Karen spent more time praying over curriculum last year than ever before. God led us to the perfect curriculum for our

current ages, interests, and lifestyle. For most subjects we use My Father's World (a classical, unit-study approach for multi-age level, family learning). We use Math-U-See for arithmetic and Emma Serls for language. We've found resources from Voice of the Martyrs to be powerful in helping us develop an others-focused worldview. We also make full use of our public library as well as the Good News Library, which is run by our local Christian radio station. It's not uncommon for us to have close to 100 books checked out at a time!

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

Nothing is more precious than *being there* when something clicks academically or seeing character develop before our eyes, or the kids having a God-moment. There are certainly times of frustration and stress, but there are many moments when Karen thinks, "I wouldn't miss this for the world... and if they were schooled elsewhere, I wouldn't get to see this. In fact this might not even be happening!"

## What was your favorite field trip?

Exposing our kids to a variety of opportunities is extremely important to us. We seize every opportunity to travel, to check out a museum, or to stay with friends in a new location. When Wayne speaks at a camp or retreat, we often try to find a historical site nearby. This winter we were blessed to spend some time with family in Florida. We took full advantage of all

the educational opportunities. Our sons would say LegoLand was the highlight, but for us, it had to be the day that everyone from three-year-old Joshua to Grandpa took turns holding a baby alligator! We also enjoyed an airboat ride. Only God could have orchestrated that to fall right after we had studied swamps and marsh grasses in science class!

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

Our funniest homeschool moment was one for which neither mom nor dad were present. When we were involved in foster care and trying to adopt, we had to report for court hearings occasionally. Karen's mom, a homeschool veteran, gladly came to watch the older biological kids and oversee their studies. She was still Grandma, so she did fun things like take them to McDonald's for breakfast. On one such occasion an all-too-curious passerby said to our children, "And why aren't you in school today?" Our all-too-honest son blurted out proudly, "I'm homeschooled! And my mom and dad are in COURT today!"

## What have you found to be a challenge in homeschooling? Any tips in dealing with that challenge?

The biggest challenge we've had is adjusting academic expectations to the ebb and flow of ministry life, different ages, different learning styles, etc. The only advice we have is to pray, pray, pray. Only God can confirm to you that your path is right when you feel like giving up. Only God can give you a love for your child on days they seem a little harder to even like. Only God can make you come up with the crazy way of explaining a concept that will help your child finally get it. Only God can lead you to the resources and curriculum that will be exactly what your child needs. Only God can give you the grace to be the example they need.

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

Don't forget why you started down this journey. In fact write it down, so you can go back and refresh your memory, but at the same time allow God to change your methods. Our life looks different today than it did when we started our homeschool journey six years ago. Our goal still remains the same: To do whatever it takes to raise Christ-following

leaders who impact their world for His glory.

Don't forsake your own time with God. You will need it! Your children need to see you loving God's Word and growing in Him. Don't get too busy being a homeschool parent that you forget first and foremost, that you are a child of God.

Compiled by Rebekah Burcham







# Child's Play: *Learning at Work*

In our fast-paced, hurried culture, few equate play with learning. Learning, according to the current trends, is something that is structured, formal, and above all best handled by “professionals.” There is not a moment to lose; the pressure is on from the earliest ages. This pressure is transferred to parents. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that we need to replicate “real school” in the home and sit our young children down with endless worksheets and flashcards and attempt to teach abstract concepts too early.

Placing these kinds of expectations on small children often results in burnout not only for the child, but also the parent. It is painful and frustrating. Parents often blame themselves, saying they just can't home-school because of their horrible experiences enforcing “desk work.”

What we are forgetting is that children's brains work completely different than ours. Adult brains are wired to work on a problem and efficiently solve it. We are methodical and product oriented. Young children are not. They are more process oriented. Their brains are wired and primed to make copious amounts of connections. It can be a messy process as they soak in life experiences and make vital connections.

In those magical and crucial early years a child's main mechanism for doing this is through play. In the first six or seven years of a child's life there is a wide-eyed wonder about the world around them. Exposure to this world by loving, interactive parents and having the time and opportunity to manipulate their discoveries through dramatic play and exploration, sets a wonderful foundation for a life-long pursuit of learning.

Children who spend more time in dramatic play are more advanced, not only in general intellectual development, but also in their ability to concentrate for long periods of time. (Freyberg, 1973; Pepler & Ross, 1981) Moving the body and activating the imagination are key in helping a child categorize where to store information in the brain and to cement it in!

I remember my boys spontaneously dramatizing the life of Davy Crockett. They cradled “Ol' Betsy” and stood strong at the Alamo. Even a year later my now four-year-old son will call us out when we exaggerate for laughs and tell us we're telling a tall-tale as Crockett once did. Yes, we read interesting books and talked about Davy Crockett, but the glue that held it all together was bringing Crockett into their imaginative play. Racing around our backyard, impersonating, and

replicating details from his life reinforced those facts in their minds.

Encouraging our children to apply what they've learned through play can have powerful, long-reaching effects. We can foster these connections in the following two ways.

**PARTICIPATE:** Bring play into what you are learning. This makes learning enjoyable, builds family connections, and helps to make whatever you are learning “real.” It also helps you model to your child creative ways to utilize their imaginations. Learning about the *Mayflower* will be more vivid and permanent if you hang sheets in your home to represent the size of a family's living quarters and sleep there for the night.

**ENCOURAGE PRIVATE PLAY:** Children need downtime (without the distraction of TV or computers) for non-adult directed play to synthesize what they are learning and to make meaningful connections. You are the guardian of your child's time. Preserve time in your schedules where the kids can spontaneously play and explore.

Homeschooling provides us the unique opportunity to introduce so many things to our children. It also allows us the freedom to provide downtime for them to process what they've learned in a way that has lasting results. What looks like mere child's play is learning at work.

*This article originally appeared in the April 2011 Arizona Home Education Journal.*

*Heather Haupt delights in the adventure of learning alongside her husband and four kids! Drawing on her unique perspectives in biology and as a homeschool graduate who is now in the trenches educating her own children, she encourages parents to pursue a loving, holistic, and developmentally appropriate approach to education. She currently blogs at: <http://heatherhaupt.com> Heather Haupt was a speaker at the 2014 CHAP Convention.*





# Helping Children Deal With Anger

## As children are learning and growing they often struggle with their emotions.

Some children are intense by nature and especially prone to anger outbursts. Children who haven't learned how to manage their anger are often unhappy, and their lack of self-control is a challenge for them and their parents.

Furthermore parents often become angry themselves at their children's anger episodes, often escalating the problem and making it worse. Other parents are afraid at what they see developing in their children because they realize that anger problems can have rather serious consequences if not adequately dealt with.

**Strategy #1: Help Children See the Early Warning Signs of Anger.** Often children don't recognize anger until they've stomped down the hall, slammed a door, or said some mean words. Parents can usually see the anger coming on before the child. In fact it takes some training concerning emotions for children to recognize what is happening to them. Kids are usually just reacting and don't fully understand what's going on. A strained voice, wrinkled brow, grunting noises, or pouting can often be early signs that anger is increasing. By making observations early, a parent can help a child see the anger before it turns into a major problem. James 1:19 says to be "slow to anger." Seeing the early warning signs can help kids do just that.

**Parenting Hint:** For a few days make observations about cues you see of impending anger episodes. Instead of having a major confrontation, simply make observations and then continue whatever you were doing. You might look out

the door of the kitchen and say, "Your voice sounds like you're getting angry," and then return to cooking dinner. This technique simply adds some important feedback into a child's life, a reality check of sorts. The child may or may not make changes at the moment but several comments like that can help children see for themselves that anger is coming on and prepares the way for eventual further teaching.

**Strategy #2: Teach Kids How to Stop.** Anger is energy entering the body. It grows in intensity starting with frustration, then moves up through anger, and can escalate into rage. It's often helpful to have the child develop a personal plan. You might say, "Son, you need to sit down and identify three things you're going to do or say to yourself to help you keep your anger under control." Now the child is developing a plan, not just having the parent give the child solutions. In this way you transfer responsibility to the child, a strategy often used in a heart-based approach. Proverbs 29:11 can be helpful here, "A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control."

**Parenting Hint:** Never dialogue with a child who is enraged. Children who are angry tend to blame and like to invite others into an argument. That's because angry children are unhappy children, and they want someone to join them in their unhappiness. Children will bait you by saying things that make you angry or asking questions for which you would love to share the answer. This often results in a heightening of the conflict and invariably people get hurt. Rather when children are angry tell them that you'll talk with them, but first they need to go and settle down for a bit. Only after their anger has subsided will you be able to have a constructive conversation.

**Strategy #3: The Child Can Choose A Better Response.** You might identify three choices to help a child move forward. These are the same three choices that we, as parents, choose in order to deal with our anger constructively. Keep in mind that there are many destructive choices for solving problems but these are three that anyone can use when they feel the anger coming on. Any one of these may work, and some work better in some situations than others.

First, get help. If the child is unable to handle the present problem, getting help from a parent or other adult is a good alternative. Second, talk about it. If the problem involves another person then talking about it, instead of being violent or forceful, may bring a constructive resolution. Third, slow down and persevere. Some jobs or tasks are frustrating and taking a deep breath, readjusting expectations, and then reentering the task may just do the trick.

Each of these choices is actually a skill and requires teaching. Each can be misused and could be a way of turning anger else-

where. Some teaching and training in this step will help a child have the skills they need to be successful in responding constructively to anger. Just knowing that there are three choices when starting to feel angry helps a child feel a sense of control.

**Parenting Hint:** Teach children that anger is good for identifying problems but not good for solving them. God created us as emotional beings, and those emotions add a fuller dimension to our lives. Some of the emotions help us sense things about our world so that we can learn or take action appropriately. Anger fits into that category and is useful for helping us identify problems. Sometimes that problem is out "there" and may require confrontation or action, but sometimes the problem is internal and requires an adjustment to our expectations or priorities. This truth helps children feel better about themselves and allows them to use anger as a flag in a positive way.

**Strategy #4: Realize that Change Takes Time.** As children change they first recognize the offense well after the fact, often with the help of someone else. Pretty soon though they begin to see their own mistakes earlier and earlier in the process, until eventually they are able to catch themselves before they act. Change is not easy and a pattern of unhealthy behavior may take quite a bit of time to change. Involve as many significant others in the process as possible. Teachers, grandparents, mom and dad, as well as anyone else, all working together, can offer consistent and unified reinforcement for change.

**Parenting Hint:** Affirm approximately right behavior, don't just wait for absolutely right behavior. If you see improvement in your children in their observation of their anger or in the severity of their outbursts, praise them. Talk about how they are growing in maturity and how it is a joy for you to see the improvement. This will encourage them to continue to grow and mature in that same direction. Perfectionist parents are critical and find fault even when a child is improving. This serves to set them back and is discouraging to any forward progress.

Helping children to grow in their ability to deal with anger pays off greatly. Children feel better about themselves, parents are more at peace, and the family atmosphere is more conducive to enjoyable and relaxed relationships. Anger control takes work, but the energy you put into it now will pay off and your children will be more pleasant, successful, and joyful as they grow up.

*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, which you can find at [www.biblicalparenting.org](http://www.biblicalparenting.org). Both the Millers and the Turanskys homeschooled their children who are all grown now.*



# Mother's Day

**One Mother's Day our four year-old son RD snuggled into my bed to wish me a good morning while my husband Richard made his secret ingredient scrambled eggs to be delivered by our six year old daughter.** As I was cuddling RD my fingers ran over an egg sized lump on his right shoulder. Richard, a super athlete of many contorted joints, agreed this was a bone dislocated from the socket; we immediately called the physician coordinating the kidney surgery of our daughter Spring.

Doc suggested we meet at his private office in twenty minutes, pop this shoulder into position, and we could all make church on time. After several unsuccessful attempts we headed to the hospital for x-rays where the opinion was, "a bone tumor on the upper growth plate that warranted immediate attention at St. Jude's Children's Hospital." Cancer (unspoken) was on all our minds; not a great start to Mother's Day!

That was the day I gave RD away. Still in trauma from Spring losing a kidney, we did not need to hear more grim news. Several months earlier I decided it was too difficult to watch a child endure so much; so I determined that she was God's precious little girl and my role was to be responsible and accountable for my actions as mother. With the possibility of losing both of them, our two children were not going to be in the care of anyone or institution that would steal one moment of their days. Consequently we started homeschooling; an adventure that began thirty-four years ago.

We contacted the local authorities in the state of Mississippi about our intent to keep our children out of school. The response was a resounding, "Ok! We don't have a clue what you are talking about and really don't care." Spring was enrolled in a private Christian academy that did not reflect the socioeconomic dynamics of the neighborhood, but after visiting the local public schools we felt it a wiser choice. First grade was too easy for Spring even though she missed the majority of class time with health issues.

She was stoic and trusted no one, knowing that adults lied a lot when they said things like, "This will only hurt a little," and "You will feel better soon." Daily assignments took us twenty minutes to complete and she begged to go ahead in the workbooks, so I wrote to publishers to get subsequent books and we

quickly completed first and second grade work. Now we did not fit the mold of prescribed lists of what to study in which grades. We just started studying things that each child was interested in learning.

RD, one of those easy early readers, shared every thought verbally and absorbed stacks of workbooks. He spent hours each day outside playing with turtles he insisted we rescue off the roads, looking for snakes, and being Daniel Boone. After two grueling years of watching that tumor grow, it was removed and declared benign. Over the next 12 years as I watched RD play basketball, I often shed tears of joy that we were so blessed in that outcome. I studied Raymond Moore, John Holt, and Francis Schafer. The totally hands-off attitude of Mississippi allowed us time to heal physically and actually tailor education around the needs and interests of both children.

Welcome to Pennsylvania in 1985! Richard was transferred to Lancaster Plant logistics operations for the Kellogg Company. We purchased an 1855 farm home in Southern Lancaster County, oblivious to the existing difficulties of homeschool families in the Solanco School District.

Excessive oversight, testing requirements, portfolios, and regulations were in total contrast to the prior years of parent controlled education and consumed valuable learning time. One of the mandates was a log from 8 AM to 5 AM broken into 15 minute blocks for each school day; I refused to sign this agreement in the superintendent's office and was shocked that anyone would agree to this requirement. Our family then lived under the threat of having our children removed for not complying.

Joining the legal battle with other families in the district over these issues resulted in 1988 legislation that at least removed some of the anxiety and restraints we shared. For a fee, Spring and RD participated in sports and classes at a private church school. As teens they were involved in 4-H and local sports and received real life experience with the birth of a sister and a brother. Spring was accepted into Colby Community College in Kansas based on entrance exams, although she did not possess a *valid* Pennsylvania high school diploma.

After eight years in Pennsylvania, a transfer to Kellogg Battle Creek, Michigan, meant deciding what to do for RD's junior and senior years. He was readily accepted into the Marshall School

District based on an interview, evidence of standardized test scores, and review of his Pennsylvania portfolios. RD played varsity football and basketball, performed in plays, and was named outstanding senior student in six out of seven departments. Overall our relationship with Michigan requirements and the local school district was healthy, cooperative, and dissimilar to the restrictive environment of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The dedication to control the educational input of each of our four children with completely different "*bents*," certainly was worth the challenges and legal battles we endured. Spring holds a PhD in Animal Science from Texas Tech University and is noted for her work on E. coli O517. She currently teaches online college classes and homeschools two sons. Her experiences as a child made her a perfect scientist: Trust nothing, question everything, be precise, and never compromise.

RD was always astute at argument and persuasion, and we predicted lawyer by the third grade. RD graduated Suma Cum Laude from Liberty University and graduated from The Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University before joining the Air Force JAG Corps upon passing the Bar. After 10 years in a successful military career, he returned to Pennsylvania where he and his wife live in Hershey. RD is an attorney for the Pennsylvania National Guard. RD and wife Elizabeth, a successful author, home educate their two daughters, Felicity and Mercy.

Our third child Molly, without a high school diploma, holds a Master's in Public Administration, is a Commercial Helicopter Pilot, runs her own business, and performs with a 12-string guitar.

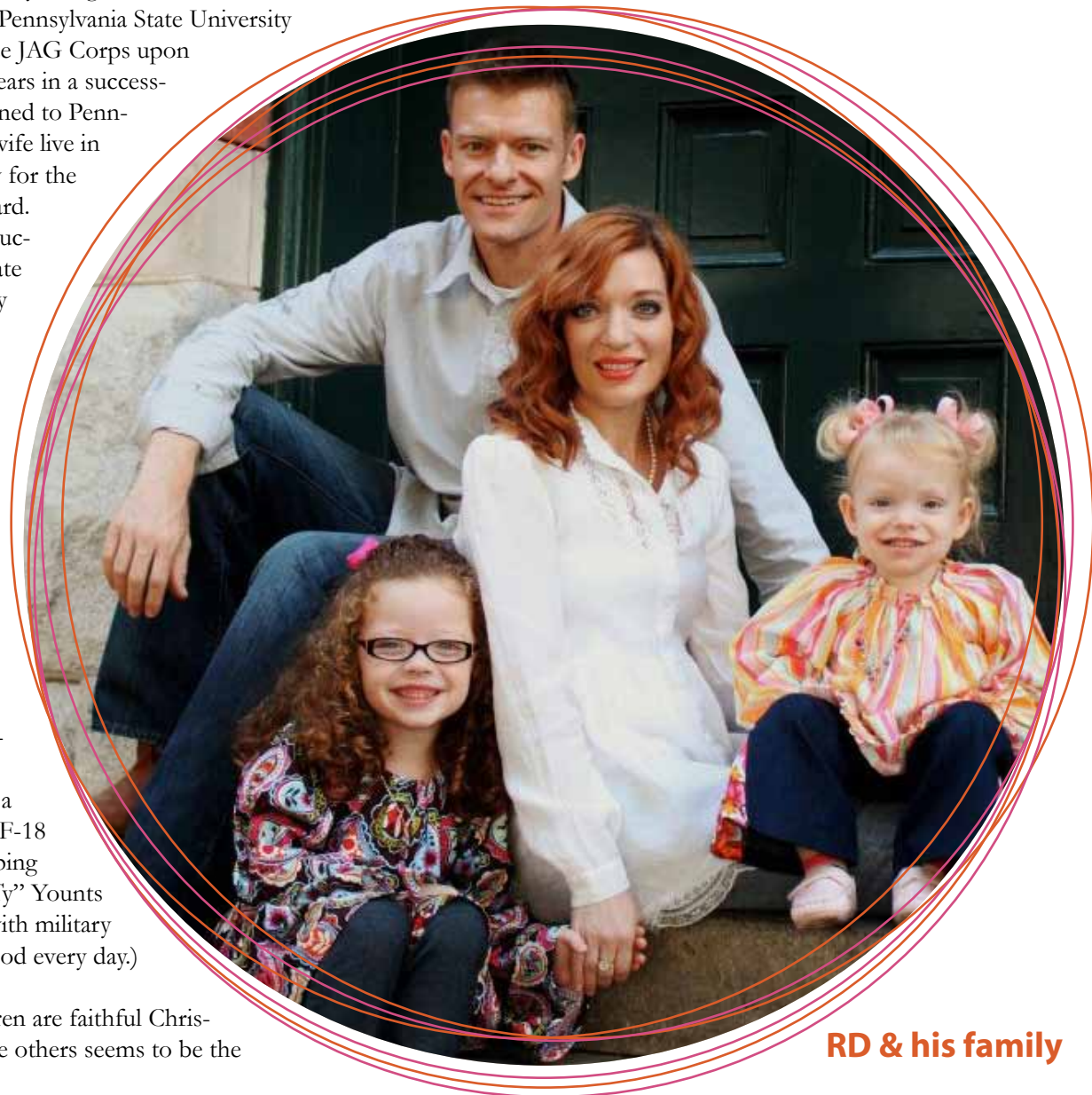
Ty graduated Valedictorian from Mount Vernon Nazarene University on his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and soon became a Naval Aviator. There is an F-18 Superhornet out there keeping watch for us with James "Ty" Younts written on it. (As a mom with military sons, I give then back to God every day.)

The fact that all four children are faithful Christians with careers that serve others seems to be the

"proof is in the pudding" encouragement that we freely share with other parents.

When asked about twenty-five years of homeschooling we admit it was often difficult and always worth the effort. In facing the possible loss of a child we learned to accept the fact we are only their guardians and highly accountable for the way we raise God's creations. As a mom speaking on parenting advice I opine three points: Seek to know your child's God given "*bent*," control the input, and give them away! RD makes this mother's day every time he ends a phone call with, "Love you, Mom!"

*Melodee Younts currently resides in Wayne, Nebraska, with her husband of 43 years, Richard.*



**RD & his family**



My husband and I went to a prayer conference in April which is something we'd never done before. After a busy autumn and winter planning a wedding with our oldest daughter, I was ready for some renewal in my prayer life and a time to focus on Him. It was just what I needed.

I took many things away from that short weekend that have helped me to focus on Him in my daily life. The biggest thing is that He wants to be known by us. He wants to show us how He delights in our faith in Him. Our good God will wield all things in order to teach us what He has for us to learn. Every day I must seek Him, and yet that can be easier said than done when we are so busy with our families.

How can I possibly spend focused time on Him when I have young children in the home and we are educating them as well? There are meals, cleaning, laundry, hospitality...and the list goes on.

I believe that we all have many more hours in the day than we think we do. We can find the time for the things that are a priority to us. I admit that this area is a struggle for me: To sit before the Lord with my Bible and take time in prayer. I am learning to be more disciplined in this area.

I am learning that this is not a thing just to check off a "to do" list. It's not a legalistic rule: "read a chapter and write in your quiet time journal." It is a time, day or night, that is set aside for me to talk to the One who knows me best and to learn to listen to Him talk to me.

With a year of education behind us and another one ahead, I am seeking the Lord about the following things:

1. I am asking Him to make Himself known to me, my husband, and each of my children.
2. I am asking Him about my schedule. What would He like

me to be involved in? Am I doing the things He has laid before me to do, or am I taking on things He hasn't asked me to do?


3. What are the needs of each of my children academically? Are there areas that need extra attention? What would be the best way to teach this?

4. What are the needs of each of my children spiritually? We are given the responsibility to disciple our children in the things of the Lord. We must be the ones walking alongside them and speaking to their hearts. This should start from infancy on so it is a normal part of their lives. I know too many homeschool families that have assumed because their kids were involved in church ministries, youth group, and missions trips that they were doing fine spiritually, only to find out later that their children are not walking with the Lord. These kids had been church-ed but not saved.


5. I am asking Him to help me live a life that is glorifying to Him. When we do that, I believe all the things above will fall into place.

When I am in daily contact with the Lord, when I live my life centered around Him and His plan for my life, the daily work of home education is not a burden. When I recognize that He has given me my children as a ministry and the most important work I will ever do, I am satisfied. As we look ahead to this next year I pray that you will find your satisfaction in a life lived to glorify Him.

*Deanna and Tim Rabe have been home educators for 20 years. They were involved in co-op leadership for many years, served on their county homeschool board, and have been long time CHAP Convention volunteers. A delight to Deanna's heart is in mentoring and encouraging home educating moms. She has six children, three who are homeschool graduates, and three who are still being homeschooled.*



# Home Schoolers

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# God *Is In Control*

## Convention

## Corner

On May 6, 2014, my husband, two boys, and I packed up our minivan and headed for Harrisburg for the 28th Annual Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP) Convention. After one whole year of planning, the CHAP Convention was almost here. It was time to get the show on the road. Being my first year involved with CHAP, I was nervous as ever and yet excited to see it all come together. I was armed with my laptop, smartphone, organized lists, and boxes of supplies. I had visions of what I wanted the Convention to look like and pleaded with God to answer in that way.

About an hour into the trip I began feeling a little sick, and long story short, I passed out in the middle of Arby's. That wasn't exactly part of my vision for the perfect CHAP Convention. However God was gently (or maybe not so gently as I fell to the ground) trying to remind me that HE is in control. There were hiccups along the way, but God was faithful and allowed the Convention to be a success.

Whether attending a Speaker Session, a Vendor Workshop Session, bidding in the Silent Auction, shopping the Used Curriculum Sale, purchasing MP3's at the Recording Booth, admiring the Student Gallery, attending the Teen Track or Children's Program, volunteering, or just plain fellowshiping, we hope that you walked away encouraged, refreshed, and focused on the Lord.

Thank you to the thousands of attendees, over 200 vendors, 16 speakers, and over 400 volunteers who made the 2014 Convention possible. CHAP could not have done this without your hard work, dedication, and participation.

If you weren't able to attend the Convention this year, be sure to mark your calendar now for the 29th Annual CHAP Convention on May 8-9, 2015. Don't miss out on this chance to be inspired and to come together with thousands of fellow homeschoolers who are also seeking to raise their children in a Christ-centered, home-based, discipleship environment.

*Tami Perrin served as the 2014 CHAP Convention Coordinator. She is a wife, homeschool mom, breast cancer survivor, Penn State graduate and most importantly, a sinner saved by grace. Tami and her husband Jim have been happily married for 14 years. They've been traditionally homeschooling their two boys, Jimmy (age 9) and Cody (age 6), for the past four years. Tami is eager to help others press on in their homeschooling journeys. Her favorite Bible verse is Psalm 73:26 - "My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; He is mine forever." (NLT)*



## Parents Speak About

# Life After Graduation

**“Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous. They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.” Psalm 112: 4, 7**

### Why is it so hard to let go?

After hoping, praying, and waiting for years, I finally became a mother. I loved nurturing my kids as a stay-at-home mom and then later as a homeschooling family. To be candid, I want to keep them near me forever, even with the frustrations of living with everyone underfoot, but I am not permitted to hold them back from growing up. God keeps tenderly nudging me to release them.

### Do we listen to our kids?

When high school graduation approached for our oldest child, the search for Luke’s destiny looked like it would lead him far away. I shed so many tears it seemed as if I could have filled buckets. I needed the Lord’s wisdom, and He gave me the story in 1 Samuel 3. When Samuel heard the voice of God in the night and ran to Eli, his priest-guardian redirected him to God: “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’”

My husband and I practiced listening to our son as he expressed his heart’s desires, and then we redirected him to the Lord to hear guidance for his future. Along the way we exercised humility and admitted we didn’t always know what was best.

Our children must hear directly from God: “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’” Isaiah 30: 21

### Why grief at graduation?

Paradoxically reaching the desired goal of graduating from high school brings us grief. This year Gettysburg homeschooler Jennefer Harris experienced this as her oldest daughter graduated. Jennefer confided that she felt sadness at not being able to plan

for one more year. “It felt a bit empty. I’ve moved through that, and now I feel relief at not needing to develop her curriculum for next year.” She also realized that the window had closed for homeschooling. “There were no more opportunities for us to read that last book or do that interesting course, but I’m coming to peace with the reality that there are no do-overs. Our homeschooling was enough, even if it wasn’t perfect.”

### How do we switch from coaching to cheerleading?

The same risk factors confront us at the end of homeschooling that we faced at the beginning of the journey. Our kids launch into new adventures, and the magnitude of the next step for our graduated child shakes us up. One of our deepest desires for our children is that they will fulfill their dreams, but sometimes we face discomfort with the specific direction they take. For Harrisburg homeschooler Cindy Kepko, her second daughter Rachael’s desire to do mission work in Africa means confronting her motherly fears about the danger and the distance. Cindy also is learning the important lesson that God must be in control of her children’s life choices. “My oldest daughter, Katie, was always so independent, and she saw the puzzle pieces for herself and put them together to find God’s pattern. Our pushing and redirection as parents didn’t work, so we had to learn to offer suggestions and strategies and then to wait to help her only when she asked for it. We’re on her cheering squad; we aren’t her head coaches any longer.”

### What is the trap of results-oriented parenting?

When my own son was about to graduate, a friend offered me this excellent advice, “Keep in mind that there’s no magically safe place to park your kid after homeschool.” My son must carry within himself the desire and the fortitude to stay away from destructive people and experiences. Devotional author Mrs. Charles Cowman puts this more poetically, “God does not want them to be innocent only; pure because there is no temptation; loyal because there is no danger.” (*Springs in the Valley*, Copyright © 1939, 1968 by the Zondervan Corporation)

Unfortunately our homeschooled children are not exempt from stumbles as they enter adulthood. I had to face my own false

belief system that because I had homeschooled, my son would make all the right choices. This probably sounds extremely silly to veteran parents, but it was an insidious type of “if-then” results-oriented parenting to which I fell prey. I felt that we were safe inside an imaginary bubble where no harm or pain would reach us.

It is tempting to live in this manner because it yields some temporary emotional benefits. In contrast real parenting requires relinquishing our illusions of control and living a life of trust in God. We banish encroaching fear of the future and take whatever bad news comes with confidence.

### How do we cope with trouble in our kids’ lives?

The stakes get raised as our kids enter adulthood. Suddenly their choices are not about body piercings or music and movie choices but instead about whether they will choose to follow God – or not. Sometimes our kids veer off – and sometimes stay off – the good path to our dismay and intense grief. Because they are human beings with free will, homeschooled kids walk away from the faith and the church no matter how much we have poured into them with family love, biblical teaching, and godly example.

In my young adult life I was a prodigal daughter who backslid before experiencing the wonder of God’s restoration in my life. The angst of leaving the godly path makes me even more motivated to see my own children avoid those pitfalls. John Newton writes in the hymn “Amazing Grace,” “Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; ‘tis grace that brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.” We never give up praying for our children to give their hearts to the Lord and follow Him.

### What about struggling families?

Recently my church and homeschool communities rallied around me when they learned I needed support, and I am eternally grateful. My experience impressed on me the importance of staying in fellowship with our loved ones when they experience heartache over their adult children. Let’s gently cradle

hearts that may still be bleeding and call one another to war for the peace and hearts of all of our kids.

### Is homeschooling worth it?

The way into adulthood for our kids may be light and easy, foggy and uncertain, or fraught with darkness, but we must hold on to God’s promises and persevere in prayer and faith. We must follow through with our parental responsibility through the years to guide, teach, and direct. We remain true to our homeschool calling no matter the visible results.

### What is our parental vision?

We relish the opportunity to rejoice in the lives of young families with sweet babies and fresh-faced young children in their homes. We all begin parenthood by releasing our kids to God in the womb, even as we nurture and teach them into adulthood. What an exquisite pain it is to love children, and what a risk to let them walk into their futures as adults.

Our kids need us to be unshakeable in our love for them – “I love you no matter what.” Equally important is open communication with our kids, asking questions about what they think and feel, so that they know we truly care. Each child requires unique wisdom to raise, and we need even more help in their young adult years to know how to parent them.

God has “got” our children in His loving hands. He is the one who draws their hearts to Him and has power and vision for their lives. Let’s remind ourselves often that God cares for their well-being infinitely more than we do.

“All your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace.” Isaiah 54:13

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



**I realize little eyes are watching me all the time.** I search the Scriptures and spend time with the Lord, in large part so I can model godliness for my five children. No curriculum can replace seeing a mother display godly character day after day. It's quite a responsibility. And a powerful one.

But this past spring the Lord helped me see that I had been relying too heavily on modeling good character for my children and not specifically teaching it enough. Hearing a lovely piece of music is nice, but sometimes we have to hunker down and study sheet music to master it. God brought this to my attention when I was grieved by a harsh conversation among my children.

This oughtn't be so, thought I.

Sometimes as a homeschooling mother, I slack off on character. That's a big, juicy failburger. I admit to you that I sometimes slip into thinking my children magically have better than average character just because we (sniff-sniff) homeschool. Look at us in all our homeschool glory. I confess that I catch myself doing this, and I don't want to have that sort of superior attitude. That's probably the last thing I ever want to teach my children. I want them to regard others in higher esteem than themselves, to see themselves as nothing without Christ, and to possess genuine humility.

Not a lot of that flying around my home last spring.

So I prayed, refocused, and dug out some good materials on character. I had a little conversation with the Lord, and He inspired me to see that good character is more important than being a math whiz or language genius. I begin our homeschool day in our living room by reading a chapter of the Bible out loud to my children. I do that first because I want them to know that hearing God's Word is the most important thing. Now we follow that with our new discussion of character. Last comes the normal academic work. I have made that our new routine.

Bible, character, then academics.

Marilyn Boyer is one of the coolest mothers you can find, and she has a wonderful little booklet from The Learning Parent discussing about 45 character traits called *Kids of Character*. A

scripture reference and flash card go with each trait as well as a corresponding workbook to complete. My children and I got as far as the fourth character trait a couple of years ago, but we gave up. We were getting fussy over filling out that workbook together. I think we were using a different Bible translation than the character study. Plus we have so much writing in our home-school as it is, that the character study wasn't enjoyable when we included the writing aspect. I thought our character study couldn't be successful because we ended up all grumping out at each other over some workbook pages. This was ironic when the topic was godly character.

Sometimes I forget that I'm the teacher, principal, superintendent, and school board (along with Daddy). If workbook sheets are stressing us out, then we can just skip it! I wish I hadn't

abandoned the thing altogether. So we started again with the Boyer character curriculum, this time Jennifer-style, which means handing out to each child a character card to read aloud with the Bible passage. Then I read the workbook out loud, and we talk about it rather than everyone writing out answers.

I adapted it to the way I like. It takes less time with talking about it, rather than writing. And saving time is nice because we have two younger toddlers playing at our feet while I do this study with my older three children. I display the character cards on our fireplace mantel during the school week. We don't have a schoolroom which maybe is a good thing in this situation because the character cards aren't tucked away somewhere. They are in everyone's full view.

I like these character cards and workbook, but heaven knows we could all come up with our own just by observing the weaknesses in our children in a 24 hour period and seeing what needs work. You probably already know scriptures to go with each weak area too. We could all easily write big on paper some words such as "kindness," "obedience," "cheerfulness," or anything else we're seeing a lack of in our family, and then talk about these character traits and display the cards in our home.

This is not one of Mrs. Boyer's examples, but one character that I like to stress in my family is tone. Tone is huge. If we could just soften our tone of voice around here, it would do wonders for the happiness and harmony in our home. You can say the

exact same words but soften your tone and give it a genuinely loving sound. It makes all the difference between communicating "I care about you" or "them's fightin' words!"

I also began asking the children to notice when they have victory in one of these character areas and share those with everyone during school. I try to notice and praise them when I see these traits being lived out. Once we've finished all the cards, I plan to put them in a pretty container with a lid on our kitchen table as the centerpiece. At mealtime we can take out a card and talk character.

Perhaps most importantly, I participate as a student. No one is ever finished achieving good character. It's a lifelong pursuit, and we don't award ourselves a PhD just because we're the mother. I think children, especially teenagers, truly love it when we get real with them and admit times we've failed and times we've had victory. It's a comfort to know that the big people don't have it all together any more than they do. We do have more wisdom and spiritual maturity, but we don't have to pretend to know everything or be perfect for our children.

And I'm thinking they know us so well that they realize we're not perfect already. They appreciate feeling like they are on a spiritual journey just like you, that they have struggles just like you, and that they are learning about those just like you. What a safe place to be, with a mother who doesn't expect perfection but only wants to see a heart that genuinely seeks after godliness.

I've been pleasantly surprised by how well my children have responded to our new character study. They're sad when it's over, even my 6'4" son who is 16 years old.

We have enjoyed turning character into an official school subject. Godly character doesn't come any more naturally than sight reading a piece of music from Beethoven. And it's a lot more important.  
© 2014 Jennifer Houlihan

*Jennifer Houlihan lives in Georgia and has a degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her husband is a pilot for the Air National Guard. She encourages mothers at her blog [TriumphantChicks.com](http://TriumphantChicks.com).*

**I want them [my children] to regard others in higher esteem than themselves, to see themselves as nothing without Christ, and to possess genuine humility.**

# Teaching Harmonious Character



# Thanks, Dominic!

We hear hundreds of stories each year at the Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP) Convention and get to meet thousands of fantastic people, but sometimes there is something that really jumps out at us and makes us realize what "it" is all about.

During the Convention an elementary-aged boy named Dominic Lewis made a point to visit the CHAP booth. After asking if we accepted donations, he cheerfully handed our booth volunteer seventy-four cents.

Two teenage boys also visited the CHAP booth to make a donation. They explained that they had each planned on purchasing a specific item at the Convention, but that one teen had purchased the item before the other had the opportunity. The second teen tried to reimburse the first teen for the expense, but he refused to accept it. They finally hit upon an agreeable compromise: donate the second teen's money to CHAP.

We can assure you that CHAP is diligent about putting every penny we receive to good work, whether it is used to rent out the PA Farm Show Complex to bring you the annual Convention, to provide materials to legislators in Harrisburg to encourage them to reduce homeschool legislative burdens, or to produce and mail out the magazine you are now holding in your hands.

From all of us to all of you, thank you for your ongoing support.

And to Dominic Lewis, the teen boys in this article, and your parents: well done, friends, well done.

*CHAP Board,  
CHAP Advisory,  
and CHAP Convention Committee*



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(\*High Power Translator)



# Unique PENNSYLVANIA

## - Fun Family Day Trips



Engaging children in regional fun is very easy – if you use attractions, museums, and special events around you to plan interesting family day trips.

**With gas prices rising, why not save some money and stay close to home?** Many sites in Pennsylvania are hidden, inexpensive gems.

“There’s a fire in the hole!” was the common expression heard by workers mining oil and coal threaded throughout Pennsylvania. Titusville is the hub for the discovery of oil. Coal is found in underground veins throughout the central part of the state. Where can you go to stand side-by-side with a coal miner? Discover places like Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine or Lackawanna Coal Mine. Watch your children’s eyes light up with fascination as you enter and travel 300-400 feet deep by mine car into a real working coal mine. Learn why miners carry a safety lamp and even see how dark it is when they turn out the lights! Actual miners are your guides as they share personal stories about the hard life, the work, and the dangers of digging for “black diamonds.”

Want to learn how “ucky” boats, tall ships, canal boats, and railroads (straight, inclined, and curved!) changed history? Visit a time in history before highways and airplanes. Follow the story lines of immigrants and locals who built and ran these modes of transport. Hear the conductors tell stories and the sailors sing songs. Most transportation attractions are found in major industrial cities like Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Scranton, and Erie. Duck Boat tours are probably the most fun for kids. Quack at folks downtown before plunging into the river – seeing all the famous sites from land *and* sea!

Like the quirky, very unique attractions off the beaten path? Do you realize the only remaining personal belongings of Christopher Columbus are found in Boalsburg? The Columbus Chapel is small, but full of so many real artifacts that it will make your head spin and your mouth drop in disbelief! Just an hour or so west of there is the amusing little window zoo where Punxsutawney Phil and his groundhog family live year-round.

Want to be an official pretzel twister and even try your hand at it? Lancaster County is home to some of the oldest pretzel bakeries in the United States, and they still use the same techniques and brick baking ovens from long ago. The way a pretzel is folded relates to the ancient monks of old. Try it – a yummy way to learn.

Still hungry? Watch your kids’ eyes as “Chipper,” the Herr’s Potato Chip mascot, guides your family on an educational (food chemistry) and fun tour of a snack factory. See how technology is used to peel, slice, bake, fry, and season potatoes. Watch the chips fly off the conveyor into the spinning bagging carousels. On most of the snack factory tours in Pennsylvania, you get to sample some warm snacks right off the production line!

Next learn secrets of making pottery, chocolate, and guitars. Watching raw wood turn into beautiful musical instruments is a delight for kids of all ages at the Martin Guitar Factory.

Begin your tour by strumming the perfect guitar and then see the amazing skill of the crafters who shape, turn, finish, and assemble all the parts that create a guitar. They even wind their own metal strings. Every phase of production is a lesson in physics.

Everybody knows the name Hershey, but do you know how he created an empire making chocolate? Are there other places to visit chocolate factories? Yep, try Wilbur buds or the adorable factory tour at Wolfgang Candy. At Wolfgang you tour a *real* factory, donning a hair net and sampling chocolate along the way. There’s an insect museum outside of Philly where you can purchase chocolate bugs and another factory store in North-west Pennsylvania where they make chocolate-covered potato chips!

In Doylestown explore a castle where kids are encouraged to scour the many floors on a scavenger hunt for simple tools. What you’ll find are items used before steam and electricity (pre-Industrial Revolution). You’ll also be able to watch talented potters in their workshop making Moravian pottery.

Gather details visiting nationally known sites like Amish homes and Gettysburg (maybe “hang out” with Lincoln by train). But where are those little-known wonders of nature you may have heard of? The Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania is found off Route 6 in the northern part of the state and is an amazing mini-version of the real thing out West. The Niagara of Pennsylvania is in the Poconos (best time to visit is after heavy rains), and Little Horses (literally) reside in Gettysburg.

Maybe you just want to mix in some amusement and good food. Many of the amusement parks in Pennsylvania are the wholesome, old-fashioned kind. Buy some fair food or try a new ethnic food at various cultural festivals year-round. Whatever you do, Pennsylvania is full of hundreds of unusual sites – you’ll never run out of ideas this summer!

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*The adventure of writing and publishing family travel books (now including 16 states in the mid-Atlantic, Midwest, and the South) has taken author Michele Zavatsky on a journey of experiences she never could have imagined! In the past 16 years her family has traveled over 250,000 miles and visited almost 5,000 places to kid-test for their books. Their greatest blessing is to explore the country with their kids . . . and collect tons of memories that they can write about. Visit their website: [www.KidsLoveTravel.com](http://www.KidsLoveTravel.com) and let the fun begin!*





# What will You Tell Your Grandchildren?

## The early years of my home-schooling experience took place overseas.

I remember flying out of the country thinking no one could mess with this liberty that we have as Americans and assumed that those freedoms would always protect my family. Upon our return to Pennsylvania I only encountered bits and pieces of the Christian Home-school Association of Pennsylvania's (CHAP) legislative efforts to change the law. I didn't feel capable of understanding the issues, nor the process, so I didn't participate in any meaningful way.

More than a decade later, after having graduated my older two daughters, I was shocked by the actions of my school district's superintendent. He would not approve the homeschooling of our teenager, whom we were in the process of adopting, because he seemed to lack confidence in my ability! For two weeks we sought every possible way imaginable to keep her at home. We knew that sending her to public school would cause her to feel a greater sense of loss, if not serious emotional harm, at a time she needed to heal and bond with us.

She came to us in a whirlwind with less than 35 days left in the school year. No private or virtual school was willing to enroll her so late, mainly because they were preparing their students over the

next two weeks to study for their PSSA testing. Our backs were against the wall, and we could be cited for truancy if she was not enrolled within a few days, yet we were also disqualified to educate her. Clearly this quagmire was ours alone. The Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) couldn't help our situation because of Pennsylvania's homeschool law. We held our ground, and with one last ditch effort and God's grace, we got the Pennsylvania Department of Education involved and were finally approved.

Through this whole ordeal I learned that God works in the most unusual ways when we have faith and don't give in. It also roused in me a sense of injustice. In many ways it was more urgent and compelling than when the school district was harassing and intimidating me over our biological children's education.

We cannot presume that HSLDA can assist us in all our legal homeschool issues. The scope of the protection they provide is limited by the checks and balances in our government system and laws. This is not to belittle HSLDA; I am one of their biggest fans. We as homeschoolers must be the ones to lead the charge, not sit in the trenches and hope for a favorable outcome. CHAP is working hard to pass House Bill

1013. This legislation will modify Act 169, which is our current Pennsylvania homeschool law.

It is not just about making it easier for us, but to also give hope to moms of special needs children in brick and mortar schools. A good friend came to me very distraught and overwhelmed. Her child's private school suggested that she get help from the public school to address her daughter's learning delays. The school district didn't help, but complicated matters by involving a therapist who resorted to prescribing tests, evaluations, and consultations with specialists that my friend could not understand, sustain, nor afford. When she hesitated, she was treated as a negligent parent and was forced to have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

With some mentoring I was able to show her not only the benefits of homeschooling, but that she could do it in spite of her feelings of inadequacy. I was so encouraged when she later called and told me she had filed her affidavit for the next school year.

On March 17, 2014, Davis (RD) Younts testified in support of House Bill 1013 at the Education Committee hearing at the State Capital in Harrisburg.

He referred to the trauma his older sister still feels to this day at having overheard a conversation between school officials and their parents: that she and her siblings could be taken from their home by Child Protection Services. What happened to their family would not be surprising if they lived in Germany, Sweden, or some other oppressive country. How could this have happened in America? Unless we persevere to change the law while we have a favorable political climate, history might repeat itself - this time with fiercer enforcement. (For more of the Younts' story, see *Mother's Day* by Melodee Younts on page 10 and listen to Davis' testimony online <http://www.chaponline.com/2014/03/panels-testimonies-at-the-house-education-committee-hearing/> )

The full implementation of Common Core is also looming. With it comes the general disregard for parental authority and blatant undermining of traditional values. The advocates of Common Core want all of our children to be instructed in their ungodly worldview. The threat to our homeschooling freedoms may be just around the corner. If we are not willing to parcel out the molding of our children to the system again, we cannot be passive!

We know that God designed the family and called parents to teach, nurture,

and disciple our children to follow Christ. He also designed the church to carry out His mandate of spreading the gospel of salvation and training our children in righteousness. Only those who understand the redeeming work of Christ on the cross can communicate this freedom that God intends for all to experience. We are His hands and feet. Let's not wait until our backs are against the wall to get involved.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority."

Lay aside all doubt, fear, and double mindedness. They do not come from God. We cannot afford to squander the opportunity that God has laid before us: to pursue freedom for our posterity. Continue to lobby your State Representative, then call two or three other legislators urging them to pass HB1013. Encourage other homeschoolers to get involved, and contact your State Senator to start educating them and soliciting their vote in order to get the bill all the way to the Governor's desk. CHAP has information and fliers online for your perusal. Since

we cannot predict the status of HB 1013 by the time you are reading this, please check [www.CHAPonline.com](http://www.CHAPonline.com) for our latest updates.

We are at an epic juncture in the Keystone State's history. Let me close with this famous quote from Ronald Regan. "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

## Follow CHAP's legislative activity online

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Twitter: @HELPPCHAP  
Blog: ChapLegislativeAction.blogspot.com

*Corie Moore and her husband Mark became active in politics when their oldest daughter started a local club for HSLDA's Generation Joshua in 2005. Corie blogs updates at [www.CHAPLegislativeAction.blogspot.com](http://www.CHAPLegislativeAction.blogspot.com) Corie and Mark also serve together on the CHAP Advisory Board.*



## Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

The Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP) would like to thank the graduates and their families for being a part of the Fourth Annual CHAP Graduation Ceremony on Friday, May 9, 2014. What a momentous evening it was to celebrate this important milestone in the lives of 19 young men and women. CHAP would like to wish each graduate success and blessings on your future endeavors. Well done!

David John Bolden  
Max Chisholm Bower  
Zachary Jorge Cuenca  
Hanna Finley  
Laura A. Gottfried  
Emily Frances Harris  
Jeremiah Mark Heath  
Chanel Hurst  
Angela N. Kelsar  
Dakota Kibler  
Danielle Krisovitch  
Jesse Daniel Lutz  
Catherine Grace McIntyre  
Rebecca Catherine McIntyre  
Joseph R. Sellers  
Maria I. Suthers  
David Truitt  
Faith A. Washington  
Beka Weigner



## Congratulations to all of the Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP) 2014 Contest Winners!

The Student Gallery was definitely a highlight of the Convention this year. A big thank you to all who participated and shared their amazing, God-given talents.

### Leigh A. Genasevich Memorial Scholarship

1<sup>st</sup> \$1,000 - Cassandra Rummel (Grove City College)  
2<sup>nd</sup> \$500 - Mark Hamilton (Grove City College)

### Science Fair **Group A (ages 11-14)**

1<sup>st</sup> Josiah Greene  
2<sup>nd</sup> Micah Beideman  
3<sup>rd</sup> Elijah Schreiber

### **Group B (ages 15-18)**

1<sup>st</sup> Ben Baddorf  
2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret Brice

### Essay **Group A (ages 10-14)**

1<sup>st</sup> Isaac Patton  
2<sup>nd</sup> Aviendha Fogie  
3<sup>rd</sup> Nathaniel Wolf

### **Group B (ages 15-18)**

1<sup>st</sup> Jeremy Damiano  
2<sup>nd</sup> Stephanie Hamilton  
3<sup>rd</sup> Olivia Cockley

### Art – Photography **Group A (ages 10-14)**

1<sup>st</sup> Abraham Baer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Savannah Stitt  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anna Madagan

### **Group B (ages 15-18)**

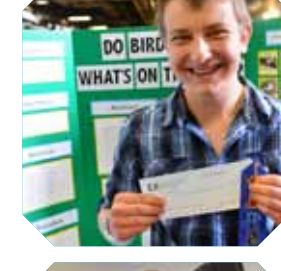
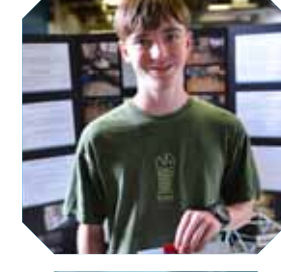
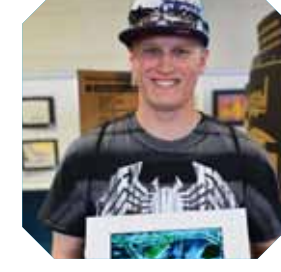
1<sup>st</sup> David Crizer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collin Inners  
3<sup>rd</sup> Stephanie Hamilton

### Art – Pen/Pencil/Pastels/ Paint **Group A (ages 10-14)**

1<sup>st</sup> Abigail Martin  
2<sup>nd</sup> Amanda Zook  
3<sup>rd</sup> Amanda Zook

### **Group B (ages 15-18)**

1<sup>st</sup> Nicole Leubecker  
2<sup>nd</sup> Miriam Nell  
3<sup>rd</sup> Rebekah Stiles









CHAP

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# Plans to Give You Hope and a Future

Jeremiah 29:11

29<sup>th</sup> Annual CHAP Homeschool Convention  
**Friday and Saturday, May 8-9, 2015**

You are cordially invited to the 29th Annual CHAP Homeschool Convention.  
Join us for an exciting time of listening, learning, shopping and fellowshiping  
with thousands of fellow homeschoolers.