

Spring 2015

CHAP

Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania

Convention
Issue



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The CHAP Magazine

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Convention Corner

Nada Rothgaber, CHAP Convention Coordinator

Convention registration opened on February 1, and we are counting down the days until the 2015 CHAP Convention!

This is our 29th consecutive annual meeting, making CHAP the oldest homeschool convention in the Northeast. But we aren't just a two-day Convention. The Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania (CHAP) has been available year round for homeschoolers for these years as well. Largely run by volunteers who seek to strengthen the homeschool community, CHAP helps homeschoolers get started, we help local support groups, and we are behind the scenes influencing and guarding the freedom of parents to direct their children's education.

What you may not have realized is that CHAP is affiliated with an alliance of Christian state homeschooling organizations called the National Alliance of Christian Home Education Leadership. CHAP Convention organizers attend this annual meeting to exchange tips and ideas about running conventions.

We are also associated with the AHEAD (American Home Education and Discipleship) Conferences. www.americanhomeeducation.org/ These are conferences run by state organizations that are affiliated with the Alliance of Christian Home Education Leadership, all non-profits focus-

ing on parent-directed, God-centered, privately funded home education. These Christian state organizations represent over 1000 years of homeschooling experience.

The Convention has something for the entire family:

- » **Super large vendor hall** - 120,000 square feet populated with around 200 vendors who rent more than 340 booths.
- » **140 speaker sessions** on a variety of topics:
 - » Topics to **encourage mothers and fathers**
 - » **Curriculum** topics
 - » **Special needs** topics
 - » Homeschooling through **high school**
 - » **After graduation** - What's next? (apprenticeship, college, trade school, etc.)
- » Two new Christian **family movies**
- » An optional **Children's Program** – This year led by Patch the Pirate
- » An optional **Teen Track** – A variety of topics including science, history, entrepreneurship, statesmanship
- » A **Graduation Ceremony**
- » **Used Curriculum Sale**

- » **Reduced hotel rates** and reduced admission to several field trip sites
- » **Tour guides** for those unfamiliar with the Farm Show Complex
- » **Homeschool Mentors** to help those new to homeschooling or if you just want one-on-one discussion time with a seasoned homeschooler

You might be thinking that all this sounds great, but how can YOU afford to attend the CHAP Convention? You can. Compared to the cost of admission to a sports event, a concert, a play, or a continuing education seminar, the cost to attend the CHAP Convention is much less costly, plus you will gain knowledge that will carry you through the year of home educating your family. The CHAP Convention is also less expensive than any comparable large homeschool convention thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who offer a few hours of their time to help the Convention run smoothly. Plus if you choose to volunteer for a few hours at the Convention, you can get your registration fee refunded!

Mark your calendar for May 8 & 9, 2015, and be sure to register at the CHAP website – www.chaponline.com

Nada Rothgaber, Convention Coordinator

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Side by Side in Pennsylvania

Parents: Keith and Courtney Dunlap
Children: Cadie (20 years), Ethan (18 years), Garrett (16 years), Sarah (11 years), Laurel (8 years), Logan (3 years), Addison (1 year)
Hometown: East Earl, PA

Tell us a little bit about your family dynamics.

We are all home, all of the time. My husband works from home, and I am a homeschool evaluator. Our oldest two children, Cadie and Ethan, are attending college - one commuting locally and majoring in Microbiology, and one living on campus in Philadelphia majoring

in Accounting. Garrett is a junior in high school and is a few hours shy of getting his helicopter pilot's license. He owns a leather craft business to support his endeavor. Sarah is 11 and in 6th grade and loves to ride horses. Laurel is 8 and in 3rd grade and enjoys the piano. Our youngest two are Logan and Addison. They have the rest of their siblings wrapped around their fingers.

How long have you been homeschooling?

We have been homeschooling for 15 years, starting with our oldest child.

What was one of the main reasons you chose to homeschool?

Homeschooling began for us as more of a "try it and see." At first we could not foresee whether homeschooling was going to work for us. We grappled with questions such as: "How do you homeschool older children with two little ones at your feet?" However what we realized is that we did not want our children away from us every day. We wanted their character to be shaped by godly principles and not by social pressures. This began the journey and our resolve to homeschool has strengthened each subsequent year. We want God first and then our family to be the focal points for

our children. Homeschooling is a large part of this process.

In what activities does your family participate?

We are heavily involved at our church with teaching the youth. We serve on the CHALC (Coalition of Homeschoolers Across Lancaster County) board, and our children have been involved in a variety of activities such as guitar, piano, horse-back riding, leather craft, hunting, helicopter pilot training, track and field, bagpipes, Civil Air Patrol, and Irish dance.

What have been your most helpful resources?

Surrounding ourselves with other homeschooling parents has been very important. It is helpful to discuss homeschooling with experienced parents. We can discover what works and what doesn't work, realizing that every family is different.

What educational philosophy/curriculum do you follow?

We use an eclectic approach with our children. We pull materials from a variety of sources to include online as well as traditional textbooks. We believe that the early elementary years are for developing a love for learning, while the junior high years should include more structure which leads to more independent learning in high school. During the high school years our children learn specific subjects that are of interest to them, with a goal of choosing a post high school path for employment or otherwise.

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

It's difficult to isolate one highlight, but we do delight in watching our younger children reading a book for the first time, seeing our high school students excel in a specific area of interest, and supporting our oldest children as they continue to build godly character while taking on new challenges beyond the high school years.

What was your favorite field trip(s)?

Field trips are a favorite here. Breaking away from the normal routine is always a plus.

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

One we hope to never forget: Our youngest was about one week old, and I was "chair bound," rocking my newborn. My 5th grader was next to me, working on her long division. My then two year old and my 2nd grader were both sitting at a little play table in front of me. My 2nd grader was diligently working on counting out money using coins while my two year old was filling his dump truck with spare coins. I remember feeling such joy and a full heart thinking, "This is what it is all about!" I soaked in every second, delighting in my children as they surrounded me. About three minutes into the moment, my two year old started throwing the coins to and fro, my 5th grader announced that she hates long division and stormed out of the room and my newborn baby started crying with great gusto. I was a bit dumbfounded at first, mourning the loss of "my moment." I chuckled to my self thinking, "Tomorrow is another day."

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

One of the greatest challenges among many has been homeschooling with toddlers/babies. We have been homeschooling for 15 years, and we still face the challenge of having a one year old and a three year old while schooling

the other children. Some days it is all we can do to keep our kids safe and fed while others are productive. We try to keep our three year old entertained with school related activities, but the short of it is this: sometimes it just doesn't work.

If the house is loud and chaotic, we give our school aged children an activity to do in their rooms, away from the chaos until order is re-gained. Activities that take more time, like a science experiment or project, are completed when the baby is napping. Sometimes we save activities until after dinner when Daddy is able to lend a helping hand.

It is the season of life, and we are reminded often that our school aged children are blessed to have younger siblings. Rather than attempting to maintain total organization and quiet throughout each day at the expense of relationship to our children, we recognize that our kids improve their ability to focus on a task during a toddler's tantrums or the baby's urgent need of a diaper change.

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

First and foremost, pray often and allow God to be your guide and your strength. Remain fully committed to the training and education of your children despite the challenges that lay ahead in your homeschooling journey. Know your state law and requirements regarding homeschooling. The better you know this, the more prepared and confident you will feel to meet the requirements and defend your rights as a homeschooler.

Get plugged in with other homeschooling families. This can be through your local church or through a local support group/co-op. Oftentimes homeschooling parents feel like an island, and it doesn't take long to feel alone. Homeschoolers are not alone. It is important to join with other families to uplift and encourage one another and to share burdens and failures as well.

Homeschooling is a journey, a process which takes time and perseverance. It's okay if your child did not learn about planets this year or does not understand long division. It will come in time with patience. When, at times, you feel like giving up the homeschooling journey, just relax and pray for wisdom. Don't be so hard on yourself, and enjoy the adventure! — *Compiled by Jillian Spittle*

Convention Blurbs!!

// FREE Convention Admission for Parents of

Pre-Schoolers (POPS): CHAP is once again pleased to offer **FREE admission to Parents of Pre-Schoolers (POPS)** investigating homeschooling, who have never attended the CHAP Homeschool Convention as homeschooling parents and whose children are ALL 4 years old and under at the time of the Convention. Don't miss out on this inviting offer and be sure to tell your friends!

// Follow CHAP on Facebook:

Look us up on Facebook under **CHAP: Christian Homeschool Association of Pennsylvania**. Be sure to "Like" our page to receive information, encouragement, and humor in your daily newsfeed. Speakers and vendors will be invited to post and you can ask them questions too.

// Registration is Open: Convention registration is now open! Don't delay! **Pre-Registration ends at 11:59pm on April 10, 2015.**

Pre-Registrations prices are:
Individual: \$40
Family: \$65



What You Believe Determines What You See!



“Seeing is believing” is a common idiom. We employ it in the same sense as “prove it to me” or “I’ll believe it when I see it!” Something we identify as unlikely or incredible needs to be verified by our senses for us to be able to accept it as true. We all do it. It is the idea behind what the apostle Thomas said when the others claimed to have seen Jesus alive after His death. He wouldn’t believe unless he saw it with his own eyes. Once his senses perceived what he had been told, then he would put his trust in it, and that’s indeed what happened. Jesus Himself even used this concept in John 14:11 when He told the still unbelieving people to trust Him even based just on the miracles, something that they had indeed seen.

But is “seeing” always “believing”? It seems that the opposite is often true. We are familiar with Matthew 13:14 (ESV) in which Isaiah’s prophecy is quoted: “Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: ‘You will indeed hear but never understand, and *you will indeed see but never perceive.*’” How can both concepts be true?

It seems that the basic issue is the condition of the heart. How open is a person’s mind and heart to truth? And upon hearing truth, or at least reason, what is the likelihood that he will change his viewpoint?

“Seeing is believing” seems only to apply to a person who is actually willing to accept that he might be wrong and is willing to change. For example, we know of a man who resisted the message of salvation *only* because he refused to believe that there was any reasonable mechanism that could have produced the global flood. At a Bible study when the hydroplate theory video was shown, this made total sense to him. In his case seeing a reasonable, biblical, and scientific model that could

have done what he had judged to be impossible, caused him to change his mind. He not only accepted the theory as plausible, but because of that also gave his heart to the Lord! Similarly how many people might truly believe the whole Bible and even become Christians if Noah’s ark was actually found and proven, through the senses, to exist? Our hope would be of course that people would put all of the other pieces together and see their need of a Savior. However we have an enemy. The devil does not want the ark discovered (probably for that very reason) and has people so blinded that many would still refuse to believe. On the surface that seems incredible!

Consider though the case of the coelacanth. This is a fish that evolutionists deemed to have gone extinct around 70 million years ago. Supposedly a link between fish and amphibians, scientists were dumbfounded at the discovery in the 1950s of a live coelacanth off the coast of South Africa. Many have since been found. Did this discovery turn the tables on the evolutionists? No, they simply called them “living fossils” that somehow evaded evolutionary processes over a period of 400 million years. Indeed! “Seeing” eyes stayed blind in this case.

More recently however was the discovery of “stretchy” organic material deep inside certain dinosaur bones. That is of course quite impossible if they are 65 million years old! The only alternative is that they are *much* younger. Did this turn the tables on the evolutionists? It certainly should have! Their response was to criticize the ones who discovered it (fellow evolutionists, I might add.) And what about carbon-14 found in dinosaur bones? It can’t be there of course if the bones are 65 million years old. What was their response when it *was* found? They claimed that the bones were contaminated.

Obviously seeing isn’t always believing. Nobel laureate Francis Crick writes, “Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved.” I get a kick out of that – they have to *constantly remind themselves*? It’s a little like Richard Dawkins also trying desperately to evade the obvious: “Biology is the study of complicated things that give the *appearance* of having been designed...”

This is pure, *willfully blind* bias – people *willfully* choosing not to see. Simon & Garfunkel in their song “The Boxer” put it this way: “...a man hears what he *wants* to hear, and disregards the rest.” My brother John referring to this kind of bias states, “What you believe determines what you see.” How true! We “see” (interpret) data through the lens of what we truly believe.

That brings us to a final thought: From the perspective of someone who doesn’t trust in Christ, he *believes* that those of us who do are wrong. He would then conclude that we are fools. That’s what he “sees.” The apostle Paul says in I Corinthians 1:18, “For the message of the cross is *foolishness* to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” Conversely we would agree with Paul when he writes in 1 Corinthians 3:19, “...the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight.”

Apparently we humans are all fools, but for different reasons - depending on what we believe! I prefer this perspective found in I Corinthians 3:18, “Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become ‘fools’ so that you may become wise.”

Mike Snavely was reared in South Africa. He founded Mission Imperative in 1995 and is an inductee into the Creation Science Hall of Fame. Mike is the author of Creation or Evolution and has produced many DVDs on creation-related topics. Mike and his wife Carrie home-educated their three children. Mike Snavely will be speaking at the 2015 CHAP Convention.



Convention Blurbs //

// Convention Hours

The Convention will be open from 8:00 AM till 5:00 PM on May 8 and May 9.

(Please note that the Used Curriculum Sale will not be open during the entire Convention. Please check the Used Curriculum Sale information and schedule posted on the website.)

// Used Curriculum Sale

The last date you can enter your items to sell your unused curriculum is April 29, 2015. Don’t miss shopping for used books at the CHAP Used Curriculum Sale. The selection continues to grow each year. Please note that the Used Curriculum Sale closes at 1:00 PM on Saturday. Check the website for detailed hours of operation, information on how to sell your used books, and for other important details.

// Homeschool Mentors

Again this year we are offering a service called Homeschool Mentors at the CHAP Booth. The purpose is to offer one-on-one discussion with a seasoned homeschooler to any newer homeschooler who has some questions or just wants advice or opinions from someone who has been “around the block.” The folks at the CHAP Booth will also be happy to answer any questions you may have about homeschooling. We’re happy to serve you!



Double-crossed and on the run, an assassin for the British East India Company seeks to redeem his past by thwarting a plot against a young nation's hope for freedom.

The leading mercenary for the British East India Company, Will Reynolds has just been double-crossed and now is on the run in the American Colonies. Working to redeem his name and win back the affections of the woman with whom he's never been fully truthful, Will now hides behind a new mask in hopes of thwarting his former employer. As his past life closes in on him, Will must somehow gain the trust and the help of his beloved Charlotte - as well as Ben Franklin - while he races against time to defuse a plot of historical proportions.

View an extended trailer and listen as Producer Aaron Burns talks about the making of *Beyond the Mask*.



Under the rule of oppressors, a small group of early Christians must stay true to their faith no matter the cost.

A young slave girl, Anna, is rescued and adopted by Christians in 2nd Century Smyrna and befriended by their aged bishop, Polycarp. As Anna is taught by Polycarp and her new family, she struggles to reconcile her beliefs with those of the Christians. When the Roman proconsul demands that all citizens worship Caesar to show their allegiance to Rome, Polycarp and the Christians must find courage to stand for their faith against the growing threat of persecution. Anna is forced to come to grips with the truth and choose whom she is willing to live and die for.

See the full length movie *Polycarp* at the CHAP Convention!

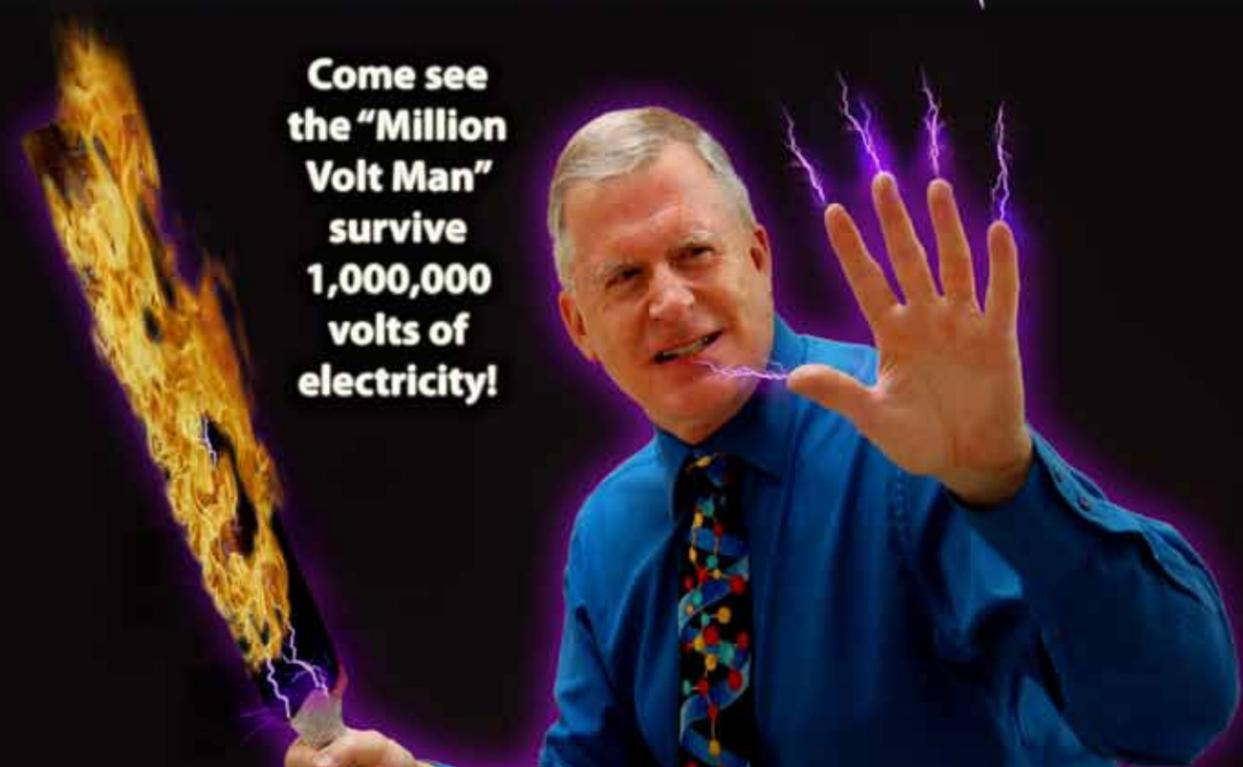
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WONDERS OF SCIENCE

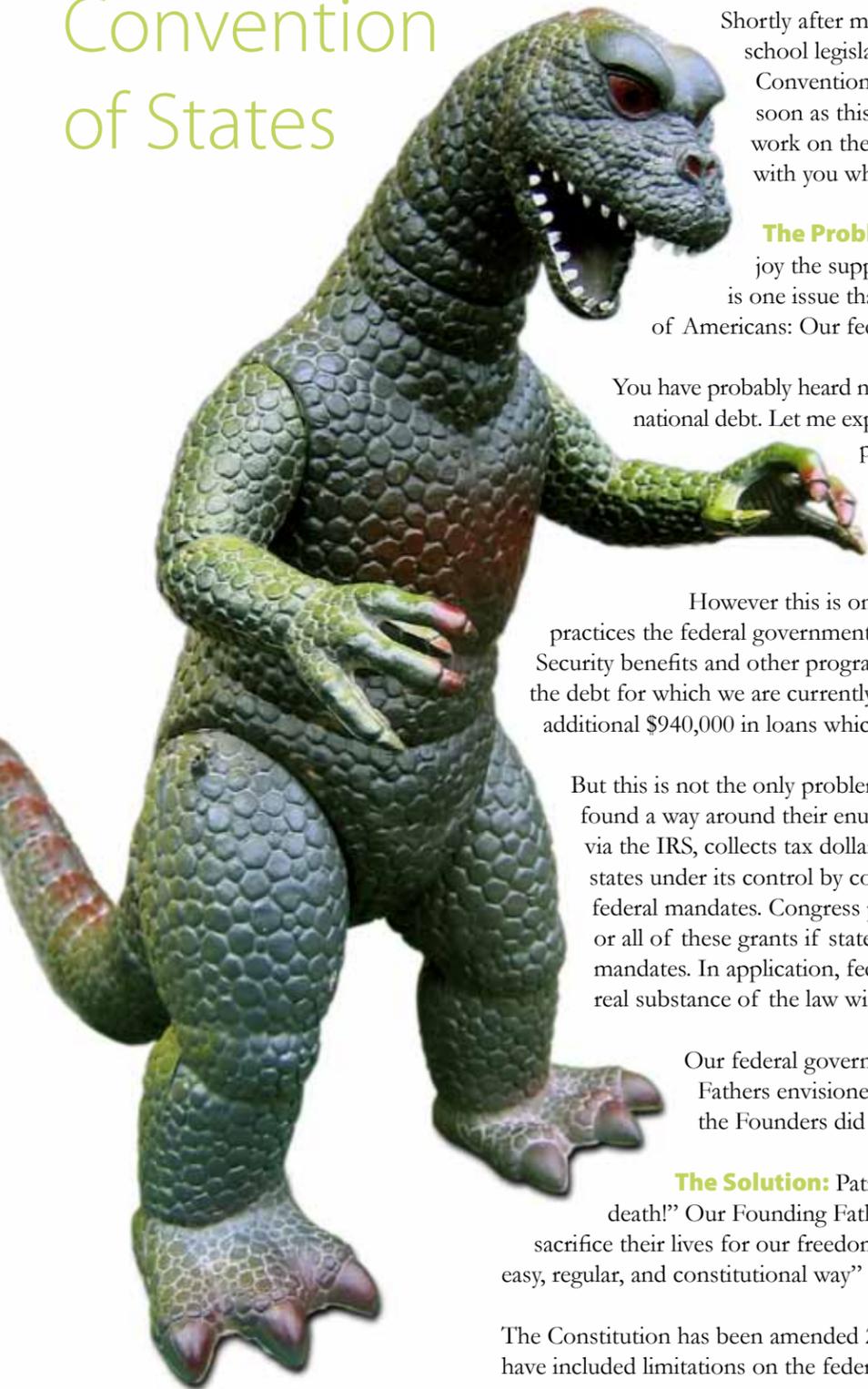
"MILLION VOLT MAN"

6 different presentations during the 2015 CHAP Convention at the PA Farm Show Complex, 2300 Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA
May 8 & 9, 2015 - 8 to 5

Come see the "Million Volt Man" survive 1,000,000 volts of electricity!



Reigning in the Beast through The Convention of States



I am a homeschool mom. Like you I spend my days teaching spelling and multiplication, as well as history and civics to my children, but we are also passionate about being good stewards of our country's political principles.

This past year, our homeschool experience was highlighted with phone calls to legislators, numerous visits to our state capitol, and time educating families about homeschool legislation being proposed in Pennsylvania. What a blessing it was for my children to learn firsthand that citizens truly can make an impact in their society when House Bill 1013 was signed into law last December.

Shortly after my husband and I decided to become the homeschool legislation coordinators for CHAP, I learned of the Convention of States Project. I told a friend of mine, "As soon as this homeschool legislation passes, I'm going to work on the Convention of States Project!" I want to share with you why I support this endeavor.

The Problem: There are not many political issues that enjoy the support of a majority of Americans. However there is one issue that consistently boasts the support of nearly 90% of Americans: Our federal government is broken.

You have probably heard news reports about our nation's \$18 trillion in national debt. Let me explain this number. If your family earns \$30,000 per year, your credit card debt would have to be \$180,000 to be the equivalent of our national debt. Despite this debt you would continue to spend \$36,000 each year.

However this is only part of the story. Under standard accounting practices the federal government owes almost \$100 trillion more in vested Social Security benefits and other programs. In other words, that \$180,000 in debt is only the debt for which we are currently making payments. On top of all this, we owe an additional \$940,000 in loans which have not yet come due.

But this is not the only problem we have in Washington, DC. Congress has found a way around their enumerated powers using federal grants. Congress, via the IRS, collects tax dollars. Congress then uses federal grants to keep the states under its control by combining legislation issuing these grants with federal mandates. Congress punishes states by threatening to withhold part or all of these grants if states won't adhere to their unconstitutional federal mandates. In application, federal agencies - rather than Congress - enact the real substance of the law with virtually no accountability.

Our federal government has strayed far from what the Founding Fathers envisioned for this great country. But that does not mean the Founders did not anticipate our current state of affairs.

The Solution: Patrick Henry said, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" Our Founding Fathers watched their brothers, sons, and friends sacrifice their lives for our freedom. They certainly understood the need for "an easy, regular, and constitutional way" to restrain the abuse of power.

The Constitution has been amended 27 times since its inception. These amendments have included limitations on the federal government's authority, such as protection of

speech, religion, and presidential term limits. The common factor in all 27 amendments is that they were all proposed by Congress.

On September 15, 1787, at the Philadelphia Convention, George Mason convinced the assembly that "...no amendments of the proper kind would ever be obtained by the people, if the government should become oppressive." He proposed adding language to Article V that would serve as a fail-safe so that future generations - our generation - would have a constitutional solution to an out of control government. Two days later our Constitution was ratified, including the process that authorizes the state legislatures to pass resolutions calling for a convention to discuss the problems and propose constitutional solutions.

The Process: The process for requesting an Article V convention is simple in concept: Two-thirds of the states have to file an application to Congress for a convention for the same topic(s) or amendment language. The application, which in the present era is submitted as a "resolution," requires a simple majority vote in both the state Senate and House of Representatives, similar to the process used to pass the homeschool legislation last year. However the resolution does NOT require the governor's signature.

The resolution must specify the topics to be discussed at the convention. Once the Pennsylvania legislature passes the resolution, and at least 33 other states do the same for the same topics, a convention is convened. This is an important point, as hundreds of Article V applications have been filed since the beginning of our nation - far exceeding the 2/3 requirement - but a convention has never been assembled since applications for the same topics have never met the threshold. The convention is absolutely limited to the topics specified.

The Convention of States Project is urging state legislatures to pass resolutions calling for a convention to discuss ways to:

1. Impose fiscal restraints on the federal government.
2. Limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government.
3. Limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress.

No proposed solution beyond the scope of

"If we stand up, speak up, and show up, the States will actually restore what the Founders tried to give us—a truly self-governing system of federal Republics, not a central power hungry monster in Washington, DC. This is going to work. It is going to move incredibly quickly. I urge you to get on board right now and help save this wonderful nation. Let's get our lives back and save liberty for our children in the process." - Michael Farris, Head of the Convention of States Project

these three topics would be germane at the convention being promoted by the Convention of States Project.

States would vote on amendments proposed at the convention via delegates, using a "one-state/one-vote" method. Only proposals that receive a majority of the states votes at the convention will move forward to the final approval process.

The final step in the process is ratification. This step is where the process once again becomes familiar, as it is the same process used for all of our existing 27 Constitutional amendments.

The Framers wanted the process of amending our Constitution to enable the states, in the event the federal government became too powerful or corrupt, to be able to amend the Constitution to correct any defects without any involvement by Congress. The Article V convention option is the last, best chance we have to restore the original constitutional framework and intent of a federal government with limited powers. The state legislatures have the duty and obligation to act pursuant to Article V and have the responsibility to establish whatever delegate controls are necessary to ensure the convention is conducted as intended by the Framers. As a final check on the convention, ratification by at least 38 states is currently required for any proposed amendment to become law.

The Strategy: By the time this article goes to print the Pennsylvania legislature will be debating the Convention of States (COS) resolution. In fact when I opened my email to submit this article, in my inbox was a message that the COS resolution HR63 was filed today in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

We need to muster the same vigilance and perseverance as we did to pass House Bill 1013 to get this resolution to the finish line. We encourage you to invest your time to understand the Convention of States then participate in the passage of PA House Resolution 63.

Corie Moore and her husband Mark served together on the CHAP Advisory Board during the last legislative session to pass HB1013. They stepped down to free up some time to focus on their family needs. Corie continues to coordinate CHAP Home Education Lobby Program (HELP) Days but prays for the Lord to call others to obey the mandate of impacting our government to protect our religious and family freedoms.

5 Ways To Get Involved:

- 1 Go to www.conventionofstates.com
- 2 Sign the petition
- 3 Click "Get Involved."
- 4 "Like" the PA facebook page: www.facebook.com/COSProjectPA
- 5 Call your Representative and ask him/her to please consider being a co-sponsor and vote for HR63.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Jeremiah 29:11 has been in my life for many years. The Lord used it as a confirmation regarding leaving home for the first time and attending Bible school. I find it is rich with promise. God tells us that He has plans for us that are more than what we know right now.

For each of us those plans are different. For some people it may be a life of serving the Lord in ministry, for others it may be a life in the military, yet others a life at home. It may include suffering of some sort: illness, loneliness, heartbreak. God wields all things in our lives as He continues to refine us and make us more like Himself.

I have found that this verse applies to my life as a homeschooling mother. I need the message of this verse as I pour out my life daily. I need to know that God has plans for me through this daily work that is for my good, as well as my children’s good.

My children need this verse too. They need hope as they

grow from children to adults that God has more for them than insecurity, problems with friends, hurt feelings, and the dreaded school subject that they hate.

I find hope in my life when I realize that I was created for a purpose (Psalm 139:16). I find hope when I learn that God is not finished with me yet (Philippians 1:6). Our children likewise find hope through these things. Think of the challenges of life in the 21st century. This is the time period in which God has allowed our children to be raised. He has purposed for them to be a part of a wonderful opportunity to be educated at home by their parents, with the opportunity to be disciplined in the Word and to learn to see Him at work in the world.

I find myself talking to the Lord daily about their lives and His plans for them. My husband and I pray not that He will give them an easy life, but one that glorifies Him. We pray that they will love Him and walk closely with Him and learn to hear Him in the noise of their everyday lives.

Our children’s lives may be filled with much greater difficulty than ours have been. They are living in a time of

worldwide terror attacks, social chaos, and challenges to moral beliefs. The world seems upside down, and yet we have this hope: God is in control of all things. He is working His plan for mankind, and the world and our children are a part of that. He wants to use them to bring the lost to Himself.

I hope that as homeschooling parents you are taking full advantage of these years to disciple your children. Romans 12:2 says, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing, and perfect will.”

God bless you as you journey on this path that He has chosen, one that gives you and your children “hope and a future.”

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.

8 Reasons



Kids Learn Best At Home

After I finished homeschooling our kids, I headed back to school myself to complete a Ph.D. in educational psychology. I wanted to investigate how kids learn best. Wouldn’t that be helpful information for homeschooling moms and dads?

Boy did God blow my socks off! I can sum up what I found in one sentence: If we built a school from the ground up based on what the research shows as how kids learn best – we’d build a home.

How’s that for some liberating news? And doesn’t it make complete sense? The best learning environment for any child is the one God designed: a family.

Here’s why:

1. Kids learn best when they believe their teacher and fellow students **care** about them.
2. Kids learn best when they have opportunities to pursue their **interests**.
3. Kids learn best when they can make **choices** and decisions about their learning.
4. Kids learn best when they can **observe** other students who model success.
5. Kids learn best when they have a teacher who is available to provide **feedback** and encouragement.
6. Kids learn best when the work they are asked to do is matched to what they are **ready** to learn.
7. Kids learn best when they can **experience** what they are studying firsthand.
8. Kids learn best when they have plenty of physical activity, sunshine, and **fresh air**.

Think of all the obstacles kids have to overcome in a traditional setting to have these eight needs met. Even the most dedicated classroom teachers would be hard pressed to provide these opportunities regularly for all students. But *you* can and probably do so without giving it much thought.

No one cares about a child more than Mom and Dad. Both can be regularly available to answer questions and encourage a child as he or she progresses. Older siblings and mixed age groups in many of our co-ops provide these models of success and friendship. At home kids have plenty of free time to pursue what they are interested in and to be outside soaking up all the benefits of nature. Opportunity for field trips and firsthand experiences abound. Parents can adjust their expectations and methods quickly to match what each child is ready to learn. We can let our kids choose what books they read, what topics they study, and what curriculum they prefer. We encourage them to take ownership of their education when we attend conventions and homeschool rallies as a family.

We have to see God’s design at work here and maximize the advantages He’s given us. I hope I can help with that by unpacking exactly how we can leverage all the opportunities a family uniquely provides each child. I’m looking forward to talking with many of you at the upcoming CHAP Convention.

Debra Bell, Ph.D, best-selling author and well known speaker, serves as executive director and lead teacher for AIM Academy. Among other accomplishments, she and her husband Kermit founded Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services, a major non-profit ministry. They have home-educated their four kids from K-12, and Debra has founded three homeschool co-ops which continue today. Debra Bell will be speaking at the 2015 CHAP Convention.





Homeschooling through High School? Yes, There's Hope!

Teaching high school at home is not for wimps. It requires much time and effort. Equally important it requires ...hope! Hope is a confident reliance on God's trustworthy character and unwavering promises. It looks ahead with the eyes of faith and rests in God's provision, timing, and perfect ways. In the midst of teaching teens at home, there will be days when hope seems a bit elusive, and you are physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausted. What's a parent to do?

Hope Gives Life

See every day as an opportunity for a fresh start by praising the Lord each morning. Before you tackle the academics, thank Him for the gift of life, the blessing of children, and the wonder of His presence. He delights in you, and He is interested in every detail of your life. Praise and thanksgiving strengthen you

in the inner man and give you an uplifting daily perspective.

The daily routine of school and family life - added to the list of chores you promised to take care of months ago - can make the additional burden of homeschooling seem overwhelming. Don't give up! Take a thoughtful look at your responsibilities and jettison those best left for another season, perhaps after your teens are grown. Homeschooling high school cannot be squeezed into an already full load. Rather it is a priority that requires pruning your responsibilities and restructuring your schedule. Whatever activities or duties you choose to "unload" will yield precious time to plan and teach with less stress.

Hope grows best in the soil of uncertainty and impossibility! Teaching high school may be the field the Lord uses

to nurture hope in you. If teaching your teen is difficult, scary, or nerve wracking, this is the fertile soil upon which God will nurture dependence on Him. Would you become more humble, patient, and kind? Graciously loving your teen provides many opportunities to cultivate these traits. High school at home may be part of the Lord's plan to shape His character in you, for He promises to make you more than a conqueror!

Hope Takes the Long View

Training teens is a long, slow process. Tending souls is an aerobic workout with both heart-warming and heart-wrenching moments. You plant, you water, and then you wait. Persevering during the high school years is well worth the fruit to be harvested in your teen's life. Remember you are on a faith walk. When you don't see change, when you are tempted to despair, or when

you think your teen would be better off in public school, remind yourself the Lord is at work in a myriad of ways presently unknown to you. He is carefully orchestrating events in your teen's life for His purposes. You can stand on the churning waves while keeping both eyes focused on God's power to work out circumstances beyond your ability to control. His love for you and your teen is steadfast and sure. He wants you to exchange your inadequacies for His strength, your doubts for His clarity, and your lack of knowledge for His wisdom.

Hope Rests in Prayer

Prayer is a formidable weapon. Wrestling with the Lord in prayer regarding curriculum and class choices, preparing your teen for post-high school goals, and most importantly relating to your teen in a God honoring way, enables you to experience the Lord's compassion and gentleness as He cares for you. When conflict arises (and it will!) pray for tenderness, mercy, and kindness. The Lord will bless you and turn your thoughts away from frustration, anger, and resentment. The Lord loves you sacrificially, and He can provide you with the necessary grace to love your teen in the same way.

One of the privileges I have as an HSLDA High School Consultant is the opportunity to pray with parents who are in the midst of very difficult and seemingly hopeless situations. Time after time as I pray for these parents I audibly hear joy returning to their voices as they thank me for lifting their burdens to the One who is the source of everything they need. Enlist a few friends or relatives to regularly pray for your homeschool; both you and your teens will benefit from their intercession.

Hope Stands on the Word of God

Sprinkled throughout Scripture are gems from a treasure chest of hope. Ask the Lord to illuminate verses and Bible passages to revive you. Write out verses

and keep them in handy places on index cards so they can refresh you while waiting in grocery lines, at soccer practices, or at the doctor's office.

Romans 5:3-4 in the Phillips paraphrase reads:

"This doesn't mean of course that we have only a hope of future joys - we can be full of joy here and now even in our trials and troubles. These very things will give us patient endurance, this in turn will develop a mature character, and a character of this sort produces a steady hope, a hope that will never disappoint us. Already we have the love of God flooding through our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us."

Teaching teens at home requires hope. Let that passage and others from God's Word saturate your heart with fresh hope for these high school years!

Join me at the CHAP Convention as I present informative seminars providing answers to your questions on many high school topics. My prayer is that you'll walk away encouraged, equipped, and confident to navigate the high school years.

Diane Kummer is an education consultant with Home School Legal Defense Association and helped develop its "Homeschooling through High School" program. Diane speaks nationwide at conferences and symposiums and writes articles for the Homeschool Enrichment and Court Report magazines among other publications. Diane and her husband Tom homeschooled both of their children K-12. Diane Kummer will be speaking at the 2015 CHAP Convention.



Convention Blurbs //

// Volunteers Needed

You are invited to join the CHAP Convention Volunteer Team. Did you know CHAP is run mostly by volunteers and the organization of the yearly CHAP Convention requires over 400 volunteers to make it run smoothly?

You can make a difference by volunteering a few hours of your time during the 2-day Convention.

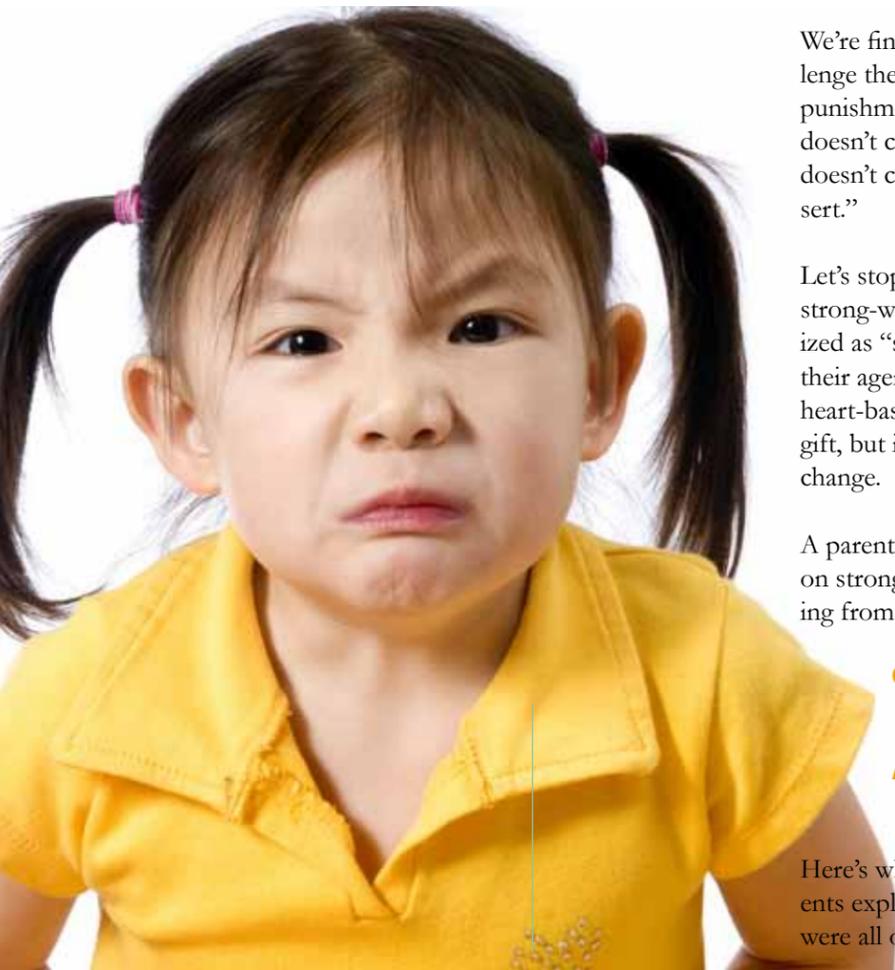
- These volunteer positions take little or no training.
- Orientation letter will be given online before the Convention.
- Parents, grandparents, even teens, can be of service.
- Volunteers are rebated the registration fee for serving.
- As an added bonus, Friday morning early-bird shopping at the Used Curriculum Sale is open only to volunteers.

You'll find the list of jobs, descriptions, and volunteer details at: www.chaponline.com/volunteers-2

Find where you would best fit in and sign up early - positions are given out on a first come, first served basis. So register for the Convention and sign up to volunteer.

If you have any questions, email Darra McDowell, CHAP Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@chaponline.com

Strong-Willed Children are a Blessing But...



Jimmy was in trouble again. He has a hard time listening to instructions, struggles with talking out of turn, and distracts his siblings from their schoolwork. Part of Jimmy's problem is defiance and the other part has to do with his impulsivity and lack of self-control.

Here's the plan his parents were using. The Mom taped a card to his desk and each time he talked out or distracted someone she would have him put a tally mark on the card. Then at the end of the day, he took the card to Dad or Mom to talk about the marks. This plan wasn't working. Jimmy was still talking out of turn and not listening to instructions.

Jimmy is what is typically called "a strong-willed child." Children like Jimmy know what they want and are not easily deterred. They're often driven, inflexible, and know how others should fit into their plans. They have the determination to face resistance, even if that resistance is some kind of authority in their lives. This determination can be an asset, but only if it's heading in the right direction.

The reality is that strong-willed kids will likely be leaders in the future, and they demonstrate many of those qualities now. However, all good leaders need to learn how to follow. If not trained these kids can become tyrants, so parents of these gifted children have their work cut out for them.

We're finding more and more that strong-willed kids challenge the typical behavior modification system of rewards and punishment. Parents lament, "Nothing works." They say, "He doesn't care if I take everything away, he won't change." "She doesn't care about the star chart, the trip this weekend, or dessert."

Let's stop right there. In that simple truth, the key to parenting strong-willed children is revealed. Children who are characterized as "strong-willed" have an internal motivation toward their agenda and are less affected by external motivations, so a heart-based approach is essential. This internal motivation is a gift, but it means that the way we work with them may need to change.

A parent's use of rewards and punishment has less influence on strong-willed kids because their existing motivation is coming from inside.

Question: How do we help this internally motivated child move in the right direction?

Answer: Parents must learn to mold and guide that internal motivation.

Here's what worked with Jimmy. With some guidance the parents explored other tools besides reward and punishment. We were all on the hunt for a Jimmy solution. The approach itself

created more responsiveness in Jimmy as he became part of the plan.

First, with a team approach, we explored the problem a little more. Jimmy helped identify two areas in particular where he tended to talk out: when he was finished with his assignment before his siblings and when he was switching subjects to get the next material out of his desk. There were other times to be sure, but now we had two arenas in which to work.

Next, we developed a plan. What could Jimmy do instead, and how would he remind himself to do it? He determined that when he was done with his assignment he would put his pencil down and say to himself, "Wait quietly." When he was getting things out of his desk he would remind himself, "Shift quietly." These were his words. He understood them, so those became a part of the plan.

But one more step was necessary. We asked him why his mom was unhappy with his talking? And why would he want to change? His answer was that the talking bothered others around him. As we talked about "Why?" he wanted to change, he added, "Because I want to be known as a person who is thoughtful of others."

Together we talked about thoughtfulness, why it's valuable, and how it might help him in the future. As the process continued Jimmy was starting to demonstrate signs of hope. We all realized that we were reaching his heart and that we were coming to a good "Jimmy solution."

But we weren't done. We wrapped all of the work into a plan. We empowered Mom to simply ask two more questions after she asked Jimmy to put down his tally mark. First, "What should you be saying to yourself?" and second, "Why?" The answers were written right on the card for him to read back.

With some coaching over the next two weeks dramatic improvement took place. Jimmy was developing self-control during school time. Mom and Dad expanded the

plan to include other areas such as talking out of turn when on family outings or interrupting others when they were talking. When Jimmy entered a room, instead of just taking over the conversation, they required him to wait and interrupt graciously. In each case, "the Jimmy plan" moved him forward.

This heart-based approach worked for several reasons. It transferred the responsibility to the child. Instead of the typical approach of giving a ready-made plan to the child, Jimmy helped develop a plan that would work for him. Dad and Mom changed their role from being policemen to being coaches, moving them from a critical approach to an encouraging one. The plan was specific and focused on the solution instead of simply pointing out the problem.

All children need a combination of firmness, hope, visioning, teaching, coaching, and a heavy dose of prayer, but these components are most important when kids are strong-willed. Other kids might respond to most any technique. You can just frown at some kids and they're sensitive enough to change, but the strong-willed child has a gift of inner strength and only when you work in conjunction with that internal motivation will you see significant change.

There are a lot of Jimmys in the world who have lost hope because they continually bump up against the realities of life. They don't measure up. They continue to fail. The Jimmy plan we developed with this child may give you some ideas, but every child is different. The solution wasn't the card on the desk. The solution was to get into Jimmy's heart and help him develop a plan for success.

Even kids who resist change can be part of the process. Those kids will likely require a bit more firmness and a heavy dose of relationship, but the heart-based approach will win in the end.

For more ideas about developing internal motivation in children, you might want to

look at the new book by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN called *Motivate Your Child, A Christian Parent's Guide to Raising Kids Who Do What They Need to Do Without Being Told.*

Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN are the founders of the National Center for Biblical Parenting. Their two families have enjoyed ministry together and much more over the past 25 years. You can learn more about the Turanskys and Millers and their ministry at www.BiblicalParenting.org Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller will be speaking at the 2015 CHAP Convention.



Convention Blurbs //

// Parking at the Farm Show

Parking at the Farm Show Complex is \$8 per car, per day. Please be sure to get a ticket/receipt so that if you leave and come back (on the same day) you don't have to pay twice! Parking for handicapped and late term pregnancy is close to the entrance (be sure to look for signs).

// Book Check

Why lug your books around the Convention all day? Book Check allows you to shop hands free. We'll store your purchases in boxes, deliver them curbside, and even load them into your car! Cost is \$4 for the first box, \$2 for each additional box, and \$1 for each oversized item. Make sure you stop by the CHAP Book Check booth conveniently located in the vendor hall and then shop till you drop!



The Duh-Truth!

There are two statements that just beg the response, “Duh.” One is: “Men and women are different,” and the other is: “Homeschooling is hard.” Every time I hear someone say either of these phrases, I just naturally feel the “Duh” response rise to my lips.

I mean, how can any married or sane person NOT notice the chasm of differences between men and women, and yet experts still say, “Studies show that men and women are different?”

It’s the same with homeschooling. I’ve traveled the country from Hawaii to Maine, from Washington to Florida, encouraging homeschooling parents, and the statement that still blows me away is the one spoken by mothers and fathers alike: “Homeschooling is hard.” And I feel the same “Duh” response rise to my lips.

Does that surprise them? What did they expect? They act as though they’ve discovered this fact and are perplexed by it. So I respond, “It’s hard because it’s good and worthwhile. Good things are hard, and hard things are good.”

The words trip easily off my tongue not just because I’ve written a book on the subject and because I’ve spoken on the topic dozens of times, but also because the statement is TRUE!

Maybe you feel the same way. Maybe you’re tired, worn out, and at the end of your homeschooling rope. You started this homeschooling adventure thinking it would be so FUN sitting

around on a sunny window seat reading books and giggling your way through each delightful day of homeschooling, only to find yourself locked in mortal combat with the people you call your children. Every day feels like a battle, ending in defeat.

And then the realization that *homeschooling is hard* clonks you on the head in the same way that Newton discovered gravity.

Duh!

Here’s the deal, Mom: Homeschooling IS hard in the same way that parenting and marriage is hard. That’s because good things are hard. They are meaningful, rewarding, and eternal. Or, look at it this way: the hardness validates the goodness. The utter exhaustion and feeling like you’re barely hanging on is an indicator that you’re doing something worthwhile.

That may not warm your soul but consider this: one day the hard stuff will be transformed INTO the good stuff. Believe it or not, one day you’ll look back at these bone-tiring homeschool days as the good ol’ days. You won’t think about the arguments, the battles, or the feelings of despair.

It’s similar to the miracle of childbirth. It’s incredibly hard, but you tend to warmly ponder the good parts afterwards. When you think back about homeschooling, you’ll remember sitting in your pjs or sweats reading a book to the kids, the way they looked when they were sitting at the desk trying to learn cursive for the first time, or the smell of construction paper and pencil shavings. Believe me; you’ll remember the wonderful privilege of being with your kids every day. Don’t

nod your head in disbelief. It’s TRUE!

Time will validate me, but in the meantime, I want you to enjoy these days...even though it’s hard.

Here’s what worries me: many homeschooling parents never get to the good stuff because they quit when the going gets tough. It might be during the high school years when you hit a tricky subject or three days after you’ve started the new school year, but it will come. There will come a time when you think you can’t take it anymore...that it would be easier if you put the kids in school... ANY kind of school.

How do I know? Because good things are HARD!

So here’s what I suggest in light of this duh-truth:

1. Assess your method of homeschooling. Just because homeschooling is hard doesn’t mean it has to be as hard as you’re making it. Many have bought into the notion that we have to try to replicate what the institution calls “school” in our homes, and it can’t be done.

There is no way that one mom can replicate what it takes a dozen different individuals to do. You can’t do art, science, gym, music, history, language arts, and all the extracurricular activities that an entire staff gets paid to do, so quit trying. It’s a recipe for failure.

Look for a better way. Find a way that fits you and your children. Get rid of the things and subjects that make you or your children cry. Just do it! If you don’t like labs, don’t do labs. If you don’t like art, don’t do art. If you like reading, worksheets, or watching videos...then do whatever you like to do... and don’t feel guilty.

2. Don’t give up. That’s really the secret to homeschooling through the hard times. Just keep going. When the temptation comes to jump ship, stay in the boat. When you feel like tossing in the towel, get back in the ring. When you feel like you’ve been bucked off, get back on that horse. Don’t stop.

Cling to this promise written by Paul to the Galatian Church. “Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we

will reap if we do not grow weary (and stop).” Galatians 6:9 (NASB)

And again to the Thessalonians, “But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.” 2 Thessalonians 3:13 (NASB)

Why would Paul have to give those instructions to two different groups of Christians? Because people grow weary in doing good and are tempted to stop. But the promise is there is a reward after you get through the hard stuff. So don’t give up! Don’t quit! Keep homeschooling through the hard times.

So don’t be surprised that homeschooling is hard. Embrace the hardness knowing it validates that what you are doing is worthwhile and that one day it will be transformed into the good stuff. And of course, read my new book, *Family is Hard – Deal with it*.

You can do it...don’t stop!

Todd Wilson is a dad, writer, conference speaker, and former pastor. As founder of Familyman Ministries, his passion and mission are to remind dads and moms of what’s most important which he does through a weekly email for dads, seminars, and books that encourage parents. Todd and his wife Debbie homeschool six of their eight children (two have graduated). Todd Wilson will be speaking at the 2015 CHAP Convention.



Convention Blurbs //

// CHAP Giveaway Card 2015

CHAP is once again excited to offer the CHAP Giveaway Card. Be sure to pick up your card in the Registration area, visit each booth listed on the card, and enter a chance to win some fabulous prizes (some valued at hundreds of dollars)! This is a great way to learn about our vendors. Don’t miss out on the CHAP Giveaway 2015!

// CHAP Graduation 2015

The graduating class of 2015 invites you to attend the 2015 CHAP Graduation Ceremony at 7 PM at the Farm Show Complex. This year’s graduates have a variety of talents, and you are welcome to celebrate with them on their graduation evening. There is no admission cost to attend the graduation. More information is available on the CHAP website.



Miracle in American History: Washington DC Spared

Called the “Chief Architect of the Constitution,” he wrote many of the Federalist Papers which helped convince States to ratify the Constitution. He introduced the First Amendment in the first session of Congress. This was James Madison, born March 16, 1751.

At the onset of the War of 1812, President James Madison proclaimed a Day of Prayer, July 9, 1812, stating:

I do therefore recommend...rendering the Sovereign of the Universe...public homage...acknowledging the transgressions which might justly provoke His divine displeasure...seeking His merciful forgiveness...and with a reverence for the unerring precept of our holy religion, to do to others as they would require that others should do to them.

The next year, on July 23, 1813, Madison issued another Day of Prayer, referring to “religion, that gift of Heaven for the good of man.”

Beginning with the French Revolution in 1789, Napoleon gained prominence with his military prowess until he controlled most of Europe. In 1805 Napoleon’s navy was defeated at the Battle of Trafalgar, giving Britain mastery of the seas. In 1812 Napoleon invaded Russia with nearly 500,000 men, and six months later left Russia with less than 50,000. Napoleon abdicated, April 6, 1814, and was exiled to the Island of Elba.

Napoleon’s losses freed up British forces, which were sent to control Lake Erie and invade New York, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C. On August 24, 1814, a force of 4,500 British soldiers marched toward Washington, D.C.

In a panic, citizens hastily evacuated. Dolly Madison is credited with saving the Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington by having it cut out of its frame. Her carriage was riding out of the city as British Admiral George Cockburn was riding into the city.

Admiral Cockburn entered the White House, ate dinner, and then set it on fire. He had British soldiers sit in the Congressmen’s chairs to hold a mock congress. When he asked who was in favor of burning the Capitol, they yelled, “Aye,” and proceeded to torch the Capitol, the Treasury, the Patent Office, the Library of Congress, and the Navy Yard.

Suddenly dark clouds rolled in, wind and thunder grew into a “frightening roar,” and lightning began striking. A tornado touched down sending debris flying, blowing off roofs, knocking down chimneys and walls on British troops. Two cannons were lifted off the ground and dropped yards away. Violent winds slammed both horse and rider to the ground.

The book, *Washington Weather*, recorded British Admiral George Cockburn exclaiming to a lady: “Great God, Madam! Is this the kind of storm to which you are accustomed in this infernal country?” To which the lady replied: “No, Sir, this is a special interposition of Providence to drive our enemies from our city.”

A British historian wrote: “More British soldiers were killed by this stroke of nature than from all the firearms the American troops had mustered in the feeble defense of their city.” As British forces fled, torrential rains fell for two hours, extinguishing the fires. They marched back to their ships with

difficulty on roads covered with downed trees only to find two ships blown ashore and others with damaged rigging.

On September 1, 1814, Madison wrote:

The enemy by a sudden incursion has succeeded in invading the Capitol of the nation...During their possession...though for a single day only, they wantonly destroyed the public edifices... An occasion which appeals so forcibly to the...patriotic devotion of the American people, none will forget... Independence...is now to be maintained...with the strength and resources which...Heaven has blessed.

Less than 3 months later, Madison proclaimed a National Day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer to Almighty God on November 16, 1814, stating:

The two Houses of the National Legislature having by a joint resolution expressed their desire that in the present time of public calamity and war, a day may be recommended to be observed by the people of the United States as a day of public humiliation and fasting and of prayer to Almighty God for the safety and welfare of these States, His blessing on their arms, and a speedy restoration of peace...of confessing their sins and transgressions, and of strengthening their vows of repentance...that He would be graciously pleased to pardon all their offenses...I have deemed it proper...to recommend...a day of...humble adoration to the Great Sovereign of the Universe.

Two weeks after the War ended, Madison proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving and Devout Acknowledgment to Almighty God, March 4, 1815.

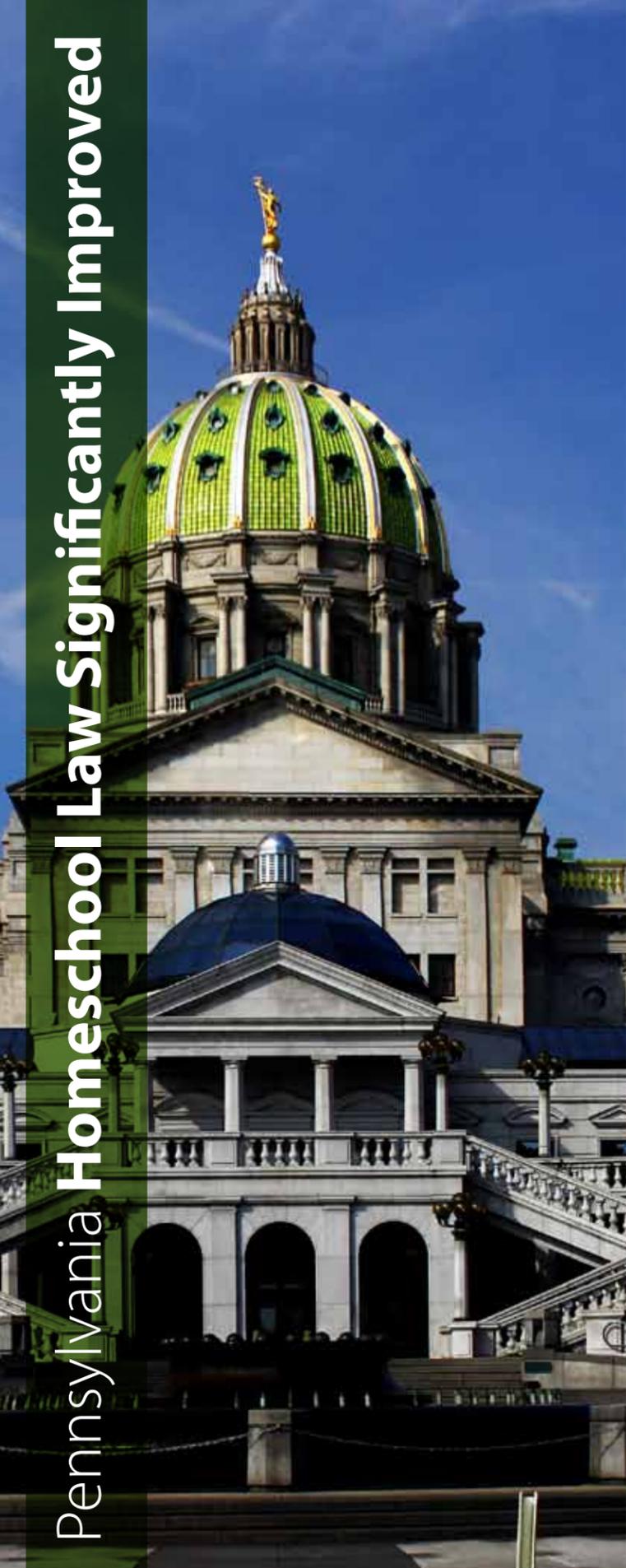
William J. Federer is a nationally known speaker, best-selling author, and president of Amerisearch, Inc., which is a publishing company dedicated to researching America’s noble heritage. William’s AMERICAN MINUTE radio feature is broadcast daily on stations across America and his Faith in History TV program airs daily. Bill and his wife Susan have four grown children. William Federer will be speaking at the 2015 CHAP Convention.



Convention Blurbs //

// The Silent Auction and Student Contest & Gallery 2015

The Silent Auction and Student Contests & Gallery will take a year off in 2015 because the coordinators for these areas could not continue in their positions. CHAP is looking for volunteer coordinators who would like to fill these voids so the Silent Auction and Student Contests & Gallery can return in 2016. If you are interested in filling this void, please contact the Convention Coordinator, Nada Rothgaber, at nadachap@gmail.com.



On October 31, 2014, Governor Tom Corbett signed into law House Bill 1013, legislation that significantly improves the homeschool law of Pennsylvania. Here's what the new law does:

- Eliminates the public school superintendent's review of a student's portfolio at the end of the school year to determine whether the student is receiving an "appropriate education." The parent will continue to be required to have the student's program evaluated by a qualified person of the parent's own choosing, but the superintendent must accept an evaluator's finding that an appropriate education is occurring.
- Requires that a high school diploma issued by the parent or an approved diploma-granting organization be given the same rights and privileges by the Commonwealth, including the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, as other diplomas.
- Establishes an administrative procedure to resolve any claim by the superintendent that the parent has failed to comply with any aspect of the homeschool law. Under the old law this procedure was only used to determine whether the student was receiving an appropriate education.
- Clarifies that the home education program may continue during the time of any appeal from an adverse ruling by a hearing examiner.

The changes in the law went into effect the day the governor signed the bill. This means that parents homeschooling this year in Pennsylvania are not required to submit their portfolios, standardized test results, or any other materials to superintendents for evaluation at the end of the school year. They still must compile and maintain the same records and materials in their portfolios, but they need only submit their evaluator's certification that their children are receiving an appropriate education.

While changes in the law are straightforward, they raise a number of questions about their practical application. During the upcoming CHAP Convention, Home School Legal Defense Association Senior Counsel Dewitt Black will conduct a workshop to address these questions.

Dee Black has practiced law for 41 years, serving Pennsylvania families for the past 24 years as Senior Counsel with Home School Legal Defense Association. Dee and his wife Ricci have four children, all of whom were homeschooled. Dee Black will be speaking at the 2015 CHAP Convention.



Wash Their Feet

Travel back in time two thousand years ago. As you stand in the disciples' sandals, you realize it has been the craziest three years of your life. This man named Jesus broke religious laws yet brought your redemption. An early adventure happens when Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishing with Jesus. The night was unsuccessful, yet he told them to throw their nets on the other side of the boat. Frustrated and exhausted they cast those nets yet one more time; the nets broke with the sudden surge of fish. Never did fishing trips yield such a haul, yet He wanted them to trust Him.

Later in the story just before the Passover, Jesus shocked them yet again as He knelt to the ground and washed the feet of his followers. This is the most humiliating job they could imagine, showing a love they had never seen before.

I can imagine Jesus as they sat in the upper room. You might picture a small, rustic place that is dimly lit with a low table, as was custom with their culture. Jesus, maybe a little more somber, probably gives the feeling that something different will happen this night. I think that relating to every detail is important since it will help us to have a more tangible picture of what it was really like. This close connection with the story helps it become real to us, and the application meaningful.

"Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father." John 13:1 (ESV) To the disciples this was troubling news; for us, this is a critical part of our faith. He humbles himself, he chooses the worst job; he pours water into a bowl and begins to wash the feet of his disciples. Peter is disturbed by the fact that his leader is doing the job of a servant and counters, "You're not washing my feet!" Jesus then explains that if he does not wash Peter's feet, they will not have unity. An epiphany happens, for Peter replies, "Then wash my whole body."

Peter wanted to make it about him, when really he just needed to listen and follow. It took several chapters for the disciples to really understand and internalize that Jesus was leaving, and he had a mission for them.

As Jesus washes their feet he asks, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am." John 13:12b-13 (ESV) Even here he relates to them with how crazy it is that **he** is washing their feet. Jesus shows a picture of what it is like to truly love someone. I love it because it is real, it is practical, and it is tangible. Most of all it is an example of how we are to love others.

I personally don't like to wash people's feet. I don't always desire to be a good

servant, dad, and husband. Let me change that: I rarely do! But we should have a different focus. How am I washing the feet of my family? How am I giving my life away in a way that is not fun or entertaining, but instead selfless and painful? Am I helping with the dishes after a long day of work? Changing diapers? Cleaning the bathroom? Or am I checking something on my phone? I often pick the easy road, but at least my Leader showed me what love looks like.

Later in John 15 Jesus says, "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." What is this fruit? It is loving God and man. Could this be our life purpose? Could it be that simple? Could it be that loving is what makes life good? Search through John chapters 13-17 to see what you think. I find a clear mission for both teens and adults. Understandably it is not always easy to follow Jesus in this calling, but I think the mission is clear.

Donnie Rosie has served at Miracle Mountain Ranch for 15 years, first as a student and now as marketing director, student advisor, and an instructor at the School of Discipleship. Donnie also runs Rosie Marketing, a branding and strategy firm. Donnie and his wife Tonya have three sons. Donnie Rosie will be speaking at the 2015 CHAP Convention.



Should Christians

Be Statesmen?

Christians don't vote.

I remember the shock I felt when I became aware of this fact a few years ago while taking an online graduate course in Public Policy at Liberty University. As I was working on a research project for the course I came across a statistic that reported only 60% of Christians in America actually participate in the electoral process¹.

I couldn't believe it. Here we are, a nation founded so people could worship God in the way they want to, with a national motto that literally reads "In God We Trust," but where religious freedoms are being restricted on a daily basis through legislation and court law, and many of the same Christians complaining about government policies simply do not vote!

I remember being in a room with a group of fellow Christians shortly after the 2012 election, and one after the other expressed either an ambivalence toward voting, or simply stated they did not vote as a practice. Even at work a coworker and churchgoer would often stop by my desk and remind me that he doesn't vote because he doesn't want to take the time to learn about the candidates running for office.

Sadly, Christians are becoming less and less involved in government, civics, and political processes. It is a small wonder that in recent years we have seen an all-out onslaught on religious liberties, and a litany of public policies that undermine family values and fail to protect unborn children.

The more I thought about the lack of Christians who are willing to be active in the civic arena, the more I realized there are only two possible reasons for the decline in participation. Either these Christians don't believe they *should* be involved, or they don't know *how* to get involved. This conclusion gave me hope, because both problems are completely solvable! Exposing the truth of God's word shows that people of faith *should* perform their civic duties, and a bit of history and civics education can show people of faith *how* they can make a difference in our society. Two problems; both solvable.

Did you know that our nation was founded as a place where religious freedom would reign supreme? Massachusetts – where the American Revolution started – was founded by Puritans who came to our shores for no other reason than to worship God in their chosen way². Many of our founding fathers professed faith in God, and routinely referenced their faith during the formation of our government³.

Some Christians do not believe that people of faith should be involved in issues of public policy or government, but I respectfully disagree. Imagine if our founders had refused to be involved in the creation of American government because of their faith. I guarantee we would not have the First Amendment of the Constitution which guarantees our freedom from gov-

ernment interfering with our religious preferences!

Now I fully understand our primary personal focus as believers should be God's eternal kingdom, but we are not absolved from investing in our earthly home as well, namely by getting involved in the civic arena. I think there are many Christians who recognize their responsibility to be active citizens and perform their civic duty to influence policy, but they simply do not know how to best get involved. This is understandable! We have a wonderful country but our system of government is complex and multi-layered, and can be difficult to navigate.

If you think prayer should be permitted in public school, where do you turn? If you think homeschooling laws are unfair and should be adjusted, which level of government should you engage with? Many folks simply do not know the answers to these questions or where to even start on the journey to influence public policy. This is why a basic understanding of government and civics is essential!

Did you know that only 36% of Americans can name the three branches of federal government?⁴ This is alarming considering the fact that we are a self-governing people, yet almost two thirds of us do not have even the most basic understanding of our government. Now for the sake of kindness I'll go ahead and spare you (the reader) from being part of that horrible statistic: Just so you know, our three branches of government include the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches. (You're welcome!)

The key takeaway here is that if we are going to continue to live in a nation where religious freedom reigns supreme, where our children and grandchildren can worship God in their chosen way, and where we can discuss biblical truths without fear of retribution, we simply *must* be willing to engage in the civic arena to defend these freedoms.

Proverbs 29:2 (NKJV) tells us, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan." How will the righteous be placed in authority if righteous people don't put them there? It is up to us to be willing to stand up, step forward, and make a difference.

The theme of this year's Christian Homeschooling Association of Pennsylvania Convention comes from one of my favorite passages of scripture, Jeremiah 29:11. God's promise to give us a "hope and a future" is very real. He meant what he said! I am confident that we have a bright future ahead of us, regardless of the often discouraging stories we read in the news every day, and I am confident that as Christians, if we are willing to stand up for religious and constitutional liberties in this country, we can be instrumental in preserving those freedoms for our children and grandchildren.

Works Cited:

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⁴Wilson, R. (2014). Only 36 percent of Americans can name the three branches of government. Retrieved from *The Washington Post*: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2014/09/18/only-36-percent-of-americans-can-name-the-three-branches-of-government>

Andrew Lewis is a father, legislative scholar, and Christian speaker who believes strongly in civics education and engaging in the civic arena to defend Constitutional and religious liberties. After enlistment in the Army, Andrew has served tours in Iraq, Korea, and at the White House Military Office. Together with his wife Ranae, he has three small but energetic sons. Andrew Lewis will be speaking at the 2015 CHAP Convention.



FREE GIFT for 2015 Convention Attendees

We are pleased to present a free gift to our 2015 convention attendees! You will find a variety of free resources and coupons in a virtual gift basket, which has been assembled by our friends at the National Alliance of Christian Home Education Leadership.



The Alliance is a national network of Christian state homeschool organizations.

You will find an access code in the CHAP Convention Program when you attend the convention. It will allow you to access the virtual gift basket.



You Can Start a Robotics Team

Do you want to foster creativity and teamwork in your kids? Do you want them to be able to gain experience in areas that are outside most high school curriculums such as robotics, engineering, design, marketing, and software development? If so you might want to start a robotics team.

We started with around 15 students. The first year we made a robot that drove well, but we ran out of time and it was not able to complete the tasks that it needed to do. In the end we scored zero points, but we had an enjoyable season nonetheless.

The second year we had 12 students, and we decided we would focus on doing one task well. We accomplished that task as our robot tied for second place, and we went on to the regional competition.

In our third year our team expanded to over 20 students, and we were able to do more in the other areas of the competition, such as a marketing presentation and display booth. But our robot did not do as well, although we did at least score some points.



Our fourth year we increased to 27 students, and we broke the tasks down into smaller units and had sub-groups work on each. This allowed more people to be involved in the work, and we had a working robot more quickly which gave us time to practice. This consistency was a significant factor in helping us to win the robotics portion of the competition. There are many other awards at the competition, and we were able to place in most of them. We were in the top

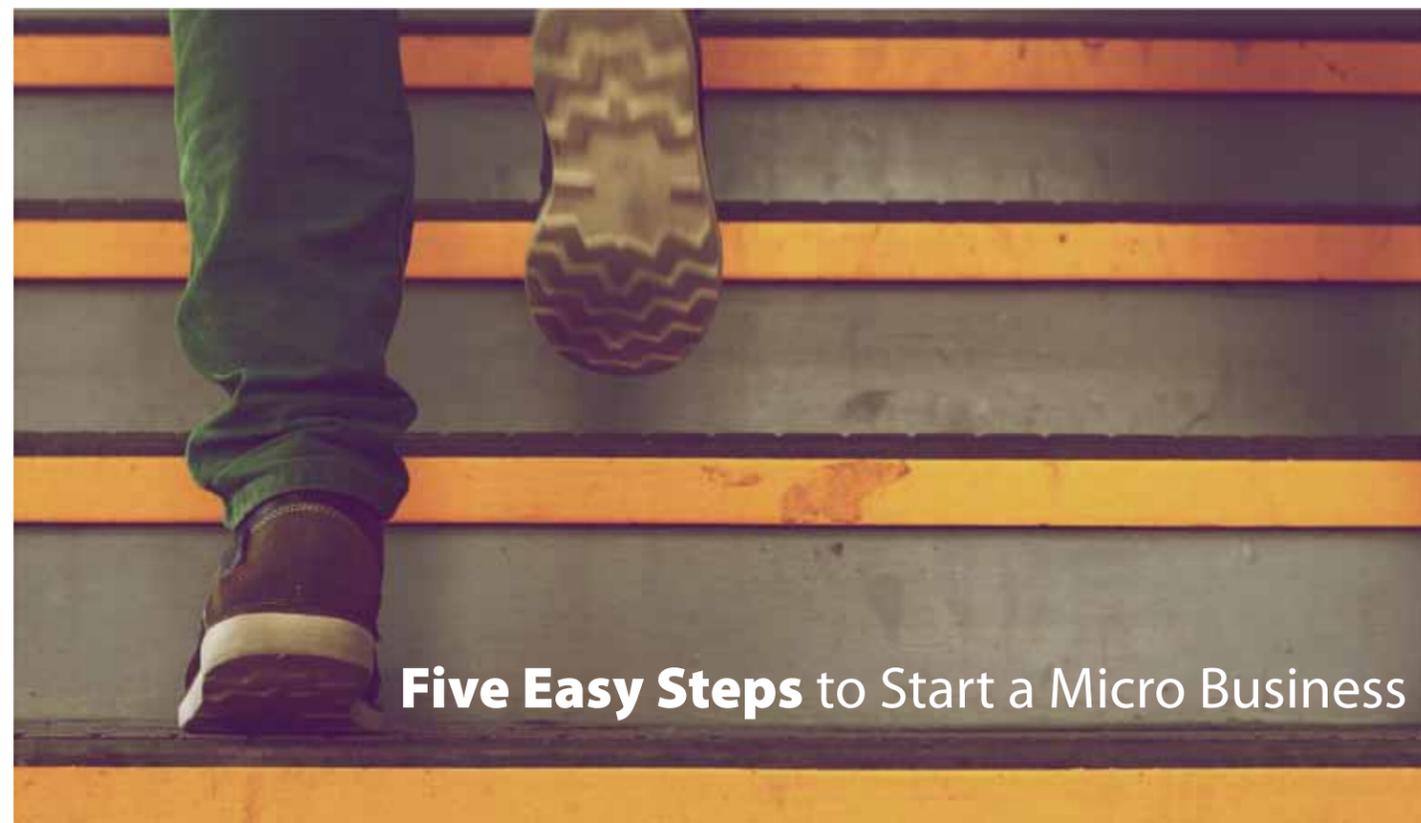
three in Marketing Presentation, Display Booth, Engineering Notebook, T-Shirt Design, and even the Mascot Dance Off, allowing us to finish in second place in the overall BEST award, which takes all of the categories into account.

This competition has been a great learning experience for the students and many of the parents who help. When we started the team none of the parents helping had significant experience with robotics. Our support group had previously done First Lego League (FLL) using Lego Mindstorms robots, but the cost and time commitment was much larger for that program. With BEST since the robot is controlled by remote control, much of the work is designing, engineering, and building. Some of the parents had experience in Mechanical Engineering, which was very helpful.

I found that when I sent an email to see who was interested in starting a robotics team, not only were there many students interested, there were many parents interested in helping as well. This past year we had three parents who focused on the marketing side, four or five parents who worked with the robot building, and even some who helped build a field on which to practice. Many other parents pitched in from time to time.

If you are interested in finding out more, we will be available at the CHAP Convention to talk with you and demonstrate our robot, as well as share about how we started and run a homeschool robotics group.

Rick Beideman is the principal software developer at ChemImage. He and his wife Barb have two sons who have always been homeschooled. One is now in college and the other is in ninth grade. They started a support group in Pittsburgh called FINS <https://sites.google.com/site/pittsburghfins/>. Rick started the robotics team (with much help) and also runs a literary club for homeschool teens. Rick and Barb serve together on the CHAP Advisory Board. The Beidemans will be speaking at the 2015 CHAP Convention.



Five Easy Steps to Start a Micro Business

Many homeschoolers desire to generate some additional income, but find it very difficult to get hired for part-time jobs. Fortunately there is an alternative way to earn money—start a micro business!

A micro business is a very small business. They usually have only one worker—the owner. Micro businesses can be started by a teenager, a parent, or include the entire family. The owner can work as much as or as little as he or she wants, usually from home and when it's convenient. Micro businesses are usually easy to start—often without debt—using what you already own or know.

Here are five easy steps to start a micro business:

1. Choose a micro business based on your interests, skills, and experiences. Create a list of your skills and knowledge, with money-making possibilities, and then consider who needs this skill or knowledge. The most successful businesses see a need and then fill it.

Emily saw a need for ballet lessons for children that used uplifting, inspirational music instead of popular music. She was already an accomplished dancer, so she started a micro business giving beginning ballet lessons to six young girls with an emphasis on age-appropriate, wholesome music. She gave classes in her basement and used what she already knew to meet a need.

If you need a few ideas visit MicroBusinessForTeens.com or its Pinterest page and see what micro businesses other people have started.

2. Conduct a mini market survey. Find at least five potential customers, describe your product or service to them, and ask: “Would you buy this product or service from me?” and “How much would you pay?”

From these two simple questions you will be able to set a fair price and know if your idea has a market. Some of your micro business ideas will be popular, while others may not be. It's best to know now before you invest too much time or money.

3. Calculate how much money you will need to start. Think through these questions:

- What do you need to start your business? List both equipment and cash needed for initial expenses such as advertising. Many micro business owners need no start-up money at all. They use what they already own such as a computer, a lawnmower, or their brains. Cynthia was a Spanish major in college and earns money tutoring and conducting classes in Spanish. She used what she already knew and had no start-up expenses, so she made a profit the first minute she started working.
- Where will your start-up funds come from? You may use your savings, a small loan from your family, or work a job to earn the start-up money. Tom needed to buy an inventory of products to start his micro business. Instead of using debt, he first launched a micro business mowing grass. Tom saved the money from mowing to buy inventory for his second micro business.

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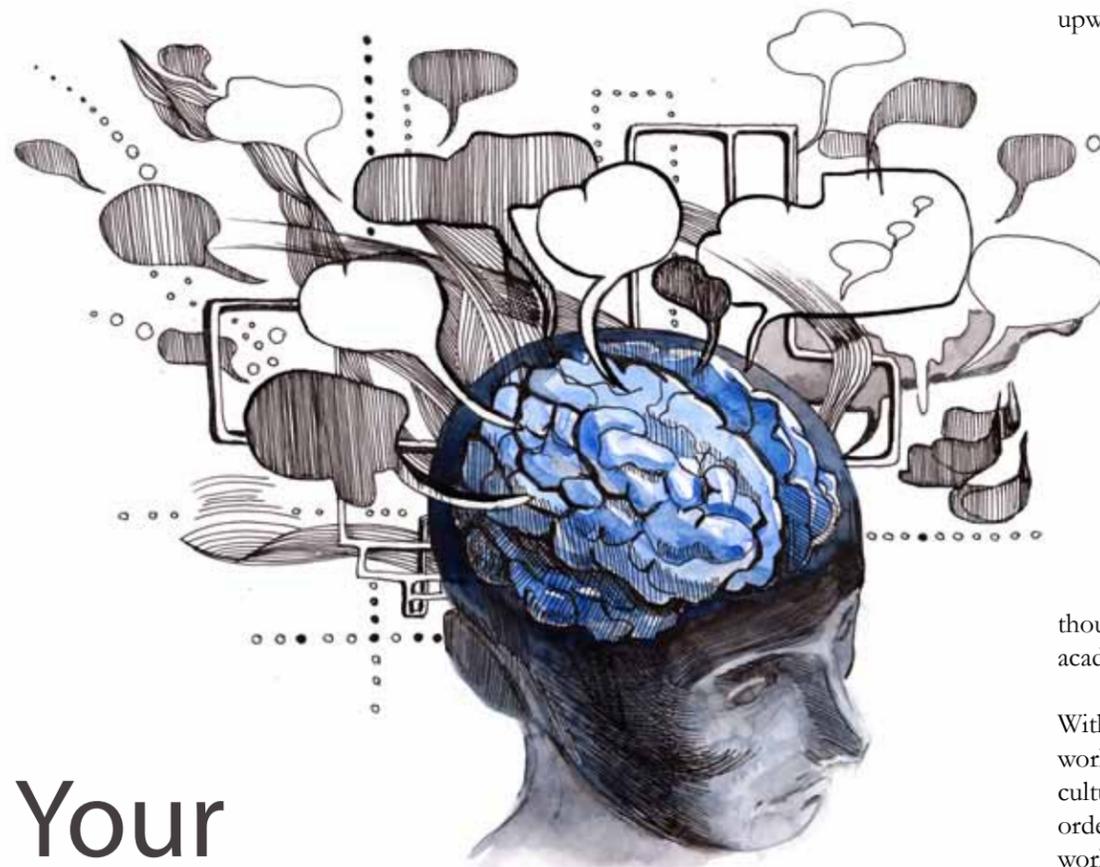
- What will you charge? You may get your first customers by undercharging the competition. Abby earned money by cleaning houses. She set her price at half of what other housecleaners charged, and she quickly had several customers.
- Can you make a profit? Put your math skills to work and subtract all your expenses from what you'll be charging. Don't forget to factor in at least 25% of your profit to pay income tax. Adjust your price until you make a profit.

4. Launch your first advertising campaign. Try to use free or low-cost advertising, such as emails, social media, and handing out fliers to friends and neighbors. Be persistent and send out your ads several times over the first few months. Be sure to include several ways to contact you, including your email address and phone number(s).

Some micro business owners volunteer to do a few jobs for free to practice their skills and to build a reputation. Bethany volunteered to be a childcare worker at her church before she tried babysitting on her own. She used recommendations from volunteering in her advertisements for her babysitting business.

5. Keep learning. Read about customer service, marketing, and record keeping. You'll need to learn about taxes too. Business owners will need to file a tax return. You may owe federal or state income tax and sales tax to your state. You might want to schedule an appointment with a Certified Public Accountant for advice. Become a student of business and always be learning more.

Carol Topp, CPA consults with small business startups, work-at-home moms, and teenagers launching micro businesses. Her website [MicroBusinessForTeens.com](http://www.MicroBusinessForTeens.com) has articles, videos, and books on starting a micro business (for adults too, not just teenagers!) Carol Topp will be speaking at the 2015 CHAP Convention.



Your Worldview Matters

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” Colossians 2:8 (KJV)

In an ongoing 24 year study Dan Smithwick of the Nehemiah Institute evaluates the results of Christian families involved in Christian schools that teach worldview, homeschooling, traditional Christian schooling, and government schooling. On a scale of 1 to 100, with 1 representing humanist/socialist values and 100 representing solid, biblical Christian values, the children of Christian families in government schools graduated at about a 5 ranking on the scale. In other words the public schools are graduating not only non-Christian students as committed humanist-social-

ists, but now also “Christian” students as humanist-socialists.

Traditional Christian schools are not doing much better at keeping Christian students from plunging into the humanist-socialist worldview. This study concluded that children in traditional Christian schools are only graduating at about a 15 on the scale. In other words, they are much more committed to the humanist-socialist agenda than to Biblical Christianity.

The only encouraging reports come from homeschools and Worldview Christian schools. The Christian schools that specifically teach from a worldview perspective are graduating young people around the low 70s on the scale. Homeschools are beginning to teach with a worldview approach and are moving

upward towards the 70s. The following chart records the results of the 24 year study from 1988 to 2012.

The philosophies and vain deceits of the traditions of men, rather than Biblical Theism, have even penetrated our precious homeschooling efforts. Much of the movement toward humanism and socialism among our children is due to a lack of Christian worldview teaching—a problem of not incorporating biblical

thought and action into every area of academics and into our very lives.

With so much interest concerning worldview in secular as well as Christian culture, perhaps some definition is in order. Everyone has a worldview. Our worldview is our basic belief system. It is the position we take regarding the answers to the major questions in life. Questions such as: Does God exist and is He good? What can be known for sure? Who am I? How did I get here? Why am I here? Where am I going? What do I value/what is important to me? Is there purpose and direction to my life or, really, to anyone's life? Every worldview has certain building

blocks. Different authors label these building blocks in various ways, but since the focus of this article is homeschooling, worldview will be examined in relationship to academics. The basic building blocks include Theology (fundamental in Christian homeschooling), Philosophy, Ethics, Biology, Psychology (with certain restraints), Law, Sociology, Politics, Economics, and History. When a position is established in each of these ten areas, different styles of art and music emerge. All ten building blocks have their own system of mathematics. So everything that we think and do is determined by our application of these building blocks. They form the basis of our value system.

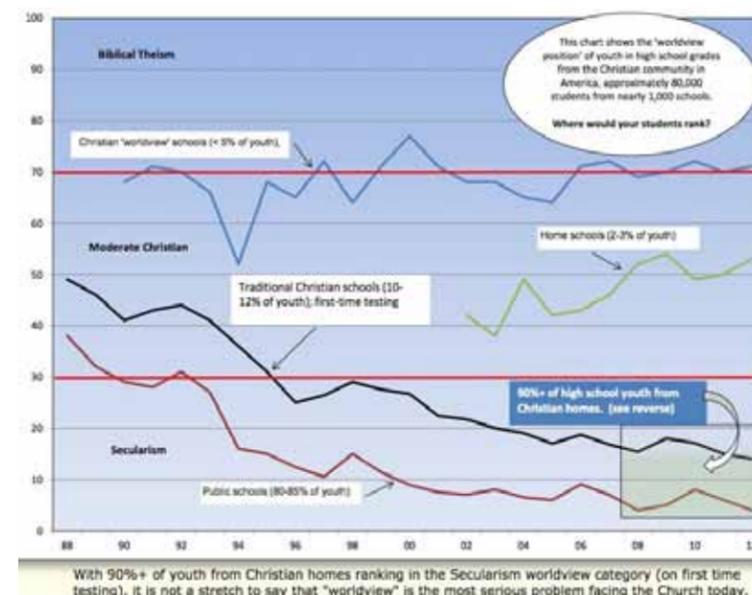
The position that we take concerning each building block is the foundation of our worldview. Out of that foundation springs our values—such things as freedom, loyalty, truthfulness, respect for life, regard for spiritual things, courage, family, community, helpfulness, etc. All of these aspects of our worldview and its values are displayed with our individual behaviors. For example a teenager might claim to be a Christian and even be a leader in a church group, but consistently acts like a non-believer; the chances are very good that he/she is not a true believer. Our behavior most often is the outward display of what we really believe deep down in our heart.

Another example might be a man who has been in church all of his life and may even be a deacon or leader in the church, but in the business community he is known as a crook—a dishonest business man. He is probably still of his “father,” the devil. His actions reveal the values of his worldview and it is not the Biblical Christian worldview that is being manifested.

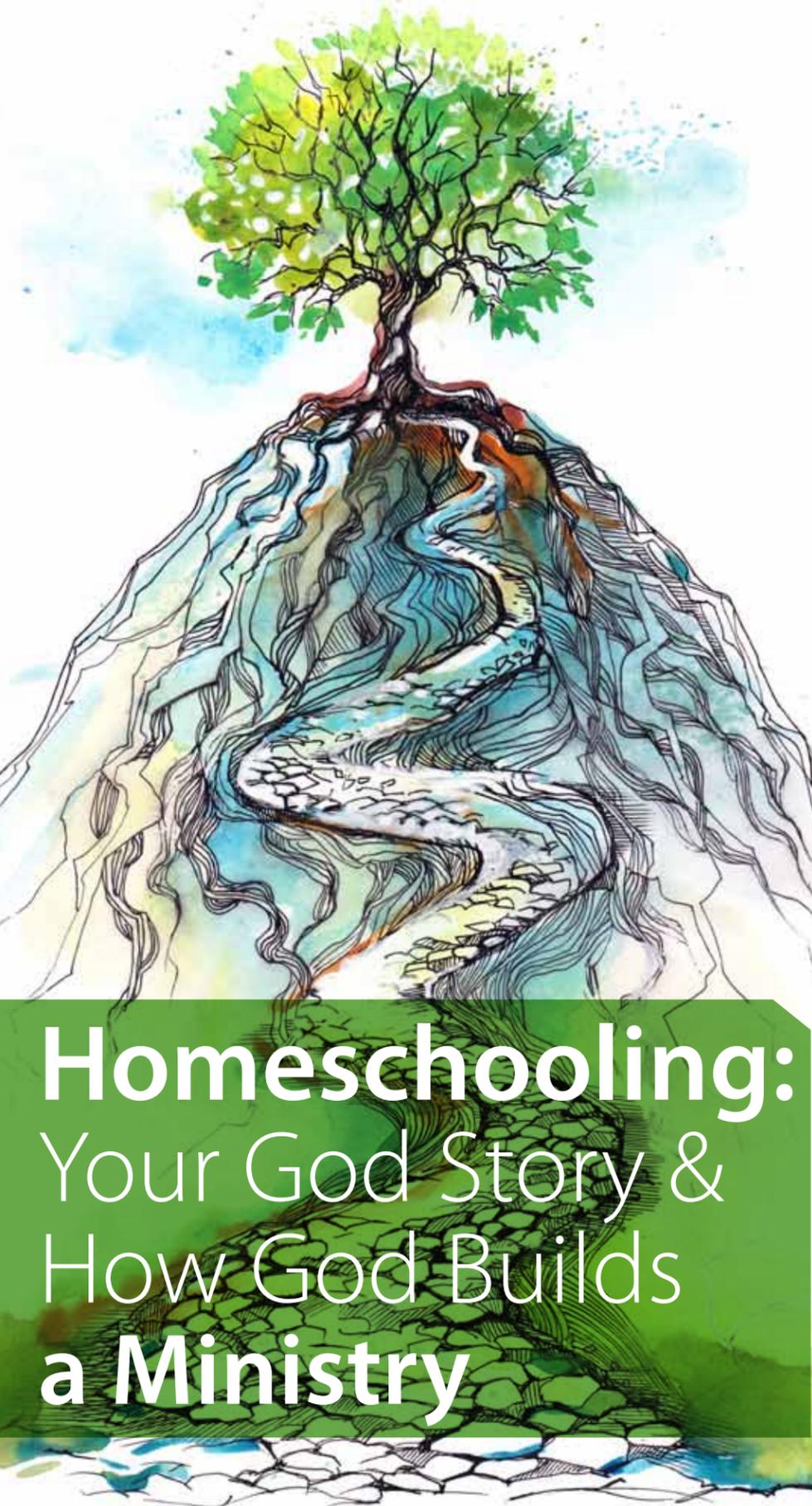
The most prevalent worldviews that are attracting our children, even homeschoolers, are Secular Humanism, Marxist Leninism, Postmodernism, Cosmic Humanism (New Age/New Spirituality), and Islam. These are the evangelistic worldviews – the ones actively recruiting young people. They do this by using various curricular materials, social media, music, TV, video games, magazines, university classrooms, and even some Sunday School material. The anti-biblical propaganda is penetrating our homes and families with relentless consistency.

What must we do? Jude 3b (KJV) instructs us to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” starting at home in our discipleship education program. “Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.” 1 John 4:4 (KJV)
© Dr. Jobe Martin

Dr. Jobe Martin, a native of Pennsylvania, is the featured speaker in the Incredible Creatures that Defy Evolution and Creation Proclaims DVDs. He has also written the book The Evolution of a Creationist. He has contributed to several books and does many radio and TV interviews. Dr. Martin is the president of Biblical Discipleship Ministries and with his wife and two daughters have a creation and discipleship ministry. The Martins began homeschooling their two daughters in 1982 and continued all the way through high school. Dr. Jobe Martin will be speaking at the 2015 CHAP Convention.



Graph courtesy of Nehemiah Institute “PEERS Biblical Worldview Test” <http://www.nehemiahinstitute.com/peers.php> and Dan Smithwick, “Worldview Assessment and Training,” www.nehemiahinstitute.com. Accessed 11/17/2014



Homeschooling: Your God Story & How God Builds a Ministry

When American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, our nation was changed forever. As buildings fell and war was declared, America was redefined, realigned, and at least temporarily reunited as a country.

For our family September 11, 2001, was personally redefining. Before September 11, we'd been busy carrying out our daily duties. Steve was pastoring a growing church, flying for the airline, and serving in the Navy reserves. (Yep, the man is nuts... I've gotten used to it!) I was homeschooling our seven children (#8 would be born in Guatemala City just 14 days after the attacks), fulfilling my roles as a pastor's wife, and settling into our home nestled in the Maine woods. **We were content!** We were passionate about our relationship with the Lord, passionate about our family, and passionate about training children who loved and served Jesus. We had our future all mapped out and life was good.

God used the events of September 11, and the reminder of our own mortality, to shake up our comfortable plan. He took the horror of the terrorist attacks and used them to write our God Story. He took our passion - that honestly in retrospect was just smoldering - and blew on it with His providential breath. He took what was a flickering flame and turned it into a blazing fire. Suddenly our passions seemed too small. It wasn't enough to be focused on *our* family, *our* church, and *our* little community. God, through September 11, had given us a vision that was so much bigger than anything we could have ever imagined.

Instead of simply being passionate about our own relationship with the Lord, God made us passionate about using our God Story to make sure others knew Him too.

Instead of simply being passionate about our family, God developed in our hearts a passion for families all across America.

Instead of simply being passionate about training our own little clan, God gave us a passion to equip other parents to train a new generation of courageous, Christ-like, and character healthy leaders.

God took the blueprint of our lives and magnified it to supersize! Rather than simply preaching a sermon from behind the pulpit of our little church in Maine, Steve was sharing the timeless and beautiful story of substitutionary atonement, as seen in our film *In My Seat*, with hundreds and thousands of people. Instead of teaching small groups of ladies about mothering their children and managing their homes, I found myself speaking at conferences and ladies events around the country.

Can I be perfectly honest with you? It was scary at first! Sometimes as exciting as God's plan seems, shaking up the status quo can be a bit intimidating. What about our eight children? What about homeschooling? What about our normal life? What about structure, and routine, and "we've always done it this way"? So many questions, and in the beginning I just couldn't see how this change was going to work out. What if we stepped out in faith and fell over the edge of a cliff? (Does anyone else think like me?)

This is what I've learned. (And to be frank, I'm still learning.) God never calls us to serve Him without providing for our needs, calming our fears, and preparing the path before us. In the years since September 11, 2001, I've been amazed at how He has opened doors, how He has softened hearts, and how He has been glorified in the results. Results that look like changed hearts, strengthened families, and courageous kids.

Which brings us to today...

On September 11, 2001, our oldest daughter was 13 years old and Taylor, our adopted treasure from Guatemala, was yet to be born. We had two kids in braces, two kids learning to read, two preschoolers, and two kids in diapers! Times have changed. The diapers are gone, they're all voracious readers, and although we still have some in braces, at least it isn't the same two! I worried about what God's bigger picture would mean for our family life and our comfortable family dynamic. As always His plan was so much bigger, bolder, and better than mine.

Today our four oldest kids are all grown, married, and involved in their own brand of courageous culture changing. Whether it's through directing and producing God-honoring films, running community family-health programs, mentoring young women, or serving in the United States Air Force, these kids have grasped God's "Bigger than yourself!" passion. They love their Lord, their spouses, (and for some children) and their younger brothers and sisters. They are our greatest cheerleaders and prayer warriors.

The youngest four are our hands-on workers. They understand the call that God has placed on our family and they wholeheartedly (at least most of the time... after all, they are teenagers!), support us by binding books, packing boxes, and graciously caring for one another when we are on the road. They certainly have a different life than their older brothers and sisters experienced living in the woods in Maine, but they have embraced the change and they make us proud to be their parents.

Steve still flies for American Airlines. It's a great "part-time" job that allows him to focus on our ministry at Characterhealth.com. He has turned the Core Values and Ethics class he developed and taught to 10,000 sailors into a vibrant course for companies and community leaders. He's spoken at governor's prayer breakfasts, summits, colleges, and schools. His plate is full (as always), but he's never been happier.

I am fulfilling a long-held dream as I write books, blog at meganscheibner.com, and develop new materials for moms. I was always going to "get around to it," but our growing ministry has forced me to get up and get moving. I travel with Steve, and solo, to speak about parenting, discipleship, and sharing your God Story, but writing will always be my first love!

We're so excited about what God is going to do in Pennsylvania! We're thrilled to have the opportunity to share with other homeschooling moms and dads

those things that God has taught us in the last 24 years of homeschooling. We're excited to teach and speak about parenting, realizing that none of us will ever be better homeschoolers than we are parents. And of course we're glad to share Steve's story from September 11, 2001. I know you'll be encouraged and challenged as you grapple with discovering what it means to live like a "Borrowed Time Believer".

By the time we meet each other face-to-face it will be time to plan your next homeschooling year. Until then "Don't grow weary of doing well!" (Galatians 6:9) God is aching to bless your obedience as you homeschool your children to His honor and glory!

Steve and Megan Scheibner have been married for 29 years and have eight children, all whom were homeschooled. Together they have developed a parenting course, "Parenting Matters: The Nine Practices of the Proactive Parent," and travel extensively teaching weekend parenting seminars. Both have authored several books and studies and speak at various conferences. Steve and Megan Scheibner will be speaking at the 2015 CHAP Convention.



Convention Blurbs //

// Convention Tour Guides

Again this year CHAP volunteers are providing a service to folks coming to the Convention for the first (or even second) time: Convention Tour Guides! Eager tour guides will be available to help you navigate through the Convention at the Farm Show Complex. Simply come to the CHAP Booth once you arrive and ask for a Convention Tour Guide to show you the ropes.



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Jeremiah 29:11

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