

## Dear Friends,

What a year! There is no doubt that there has been an intensifying of the effort to dismantle the Christian family and silence the Christian voice, especially in the area of education.

BUT, like David, we can say, “I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around” because “salvation belongs to the Lord” (Psalm 3:6, 8). By God’s grace, **CHEC is still in the fight** for the Christian family and Christian education. In fact, I want to let you know about some **exciting changes to our ministry** that have allowed us to **dramatically increase our reach and impact this year**. I think you will be really encouraged!

But first, a little about what I am seeing on the national scene.

According to the 2016 CIRP Freshman Survey,<sup>1</sup> the number of college students who do not belong to a religion has tripled during the last 30 years. Another new survey conducted by John Villaseñor<sup>2</sup> found that **19% of undergraduates believe that it is acceptable to use violence to silence speakers who are “known for making offensive and hurtful statements.”**

Put these facts together and you get a very frightening picture of the culture your children are growing up in ... a culture that is dramatically more secularized as well as more violent to opposition than when you were growing up.

Michael Farris, president of Alliance Defending Freedom and founder of Home School Legal Defense Association, said in a recent speech, **“The principle in this country used to be ‘I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.’ No longer is that true.”**

Why is this happening? I believe there are two primary reasons.

First, I think that Alex McFarland, pastor and co-author of *Abandoned Faith: Why Millennials Are Walking Away and How You Can Lead Them Home*, hit the nail on the head when he told *The Christian Post*, **“The single greatest contributor to the attrition rate [of the Christian faith] has been the breakdown of the family.”**

Second, Christians have largely given their children over to be disciplined by government institutions (aka public schools) that reject God and the authority of His Word. Over 130 years ago, Dr. A.A Hodge, theologian and principal of Princeton Seminary, warned that **“a comprehensive and centralized system of national education, separated from**



**religion ... will prove the most appalling enginery for the propagation of anti-Christian and atheistic unbelief ... which this sin-rent world has never seen."** He was right! We have sown the wind in our nation and are reaping the whirlwind!

## So what can we do?

Friends, I believe that CHEC is focused on addressing the very core of what is causing the collapse of Christianity and freedom in the West today. **We are focused on restoring the Christian family and rebuilding Christian education.**

Although there are certainly clear indications that our country is trending in an anti-Christian and anti-freedom direction, I do believe that God has granted this country a measure of revival evidenced in the homeschool movement. And **we are seeing really encouraging fruit!**

I'd like to share just one example of the thousands of lives that have been impacted over the last 27 years of CHEC's ministry.

Dr. John Auxier II is a professor at the University of Tennessee with joint appointments at other prominent institutions. His field of expertise brings him in contact with people from high level federal agencies that are involved in the U.S. National Security enterprise.

**John is a homeschool graduate who loves the Lord and grew up attending CHEC's annual homeschool conference along with his family!** He shared with me that the experiences, training, and resources he and his parents received through CHEC were instrumental in preparing him for God's calling on his life. **Now he is a strong Christian witness in areas not normally associated with Christian evangelism.**

Praise God! We are making an impact!

**And now for some exciting news about how, by God's grace, CHEC has been able to dramatically increase the reach and impact of our ministry this year!** The core of CHEC's vision to help families honor Jesus Christ by embracing home discipleship that is Christ-centered, parent directed, and free from government control has remained unchanged over the last 27 years. However, there is no doubt that technology and some of the needs of the homeschool community have changed.

**BELOW** *The Honorable Roy Moore (current U.S. Senate candidate and former Alabama Supreme Court Chief) speaking to homeschoolers at CHEC's 2017 Homeschool Day at the Capitol.*



2017 Father Son Retreat



Through his homeschool education that was supported by the ministry of CHEC, God prepared John to be a strong Christian witness in areas not normally associated with Christian evangelism.

Dr. John Auxier II is a research associate professor at the University of Tennessee with joint appointments at the Y-12 National Security Complex, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Los Alamos National Laboratory. He has published numerous scientific articles and his current interests involve research in nuclear forensics, nuclear and radiochemical separations, and radiation detection applications.





2017 Spelling Bee

## BELOW

*U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos contacted CHEC this fall to coordinate a meeting with Colorado homeschool families as part of her six-state Rethink School tour. One of CHEC's important roles as Colorado's statewide homeschool organization is maintaining a positive face for homeschooling by facilitating interaction between homeschoolers and government officials.*



Carolyn Martin, CHEC's Legislative Liaison

During the last year, CHEC has begun to create and launch cutting-edge, multi-day online events that are hosted for free at [HomeschoolSummits.com](http://HomeschoolSummits.com), a website project launched by CHEC and Generations (one of CHEC's affiliate ministries).

Through these online events, **CHEC now provides the encouragement, training, and vision for family discipleship that homeschool parents desperately need... right in their homes!** Many of these families are not able to attend homeschool conferences.

Your support has enabled us to create this innovative new tool that is helping us serve Colorado families better. In fact, we've even had 12 homeschool organizations from around the US and Canada join us in promoting these events to the families in their regions. As a result, **we've reached over 29,000 families around the world through these online events this year alone!**

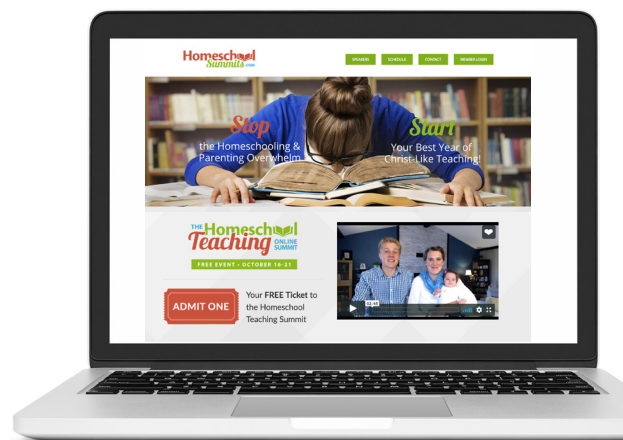
The feedback we have received has been remarkable! **Here is what one homeschool mom had to say about our most recent online event.**

"[The Homeschool Teaching Summit] was unbelievably encouraging, thought-provoking, inspiring... just wonderful. And just what I needed at this very time. I have 6 kids, from baby to pre-teen, and the wisdom I gleaned and the ideas I heard from experts answered so many of my own questions about how my kids learn and how I can teach them better. The overriding inspiration was that homeschooling is a journey to accomplish one thing — point our kids to Christ. I am still reeling with the wonder of all that I learned and how awesome it was to listen to these godly men and women online. Thank you for putting this together. It has been life-changing."

Praise God!

If you have been a financial supporter of CHEC in the past, be encouraged! **Your investment in the ministry of CHEC is now going further than it ever has before!** God has enabled us to carry on our significant ministry efforts of this last year **through YOUR support.** We thank God for you, and we know that we couldn't do it without you.

Maybe you've never supported CHEC financially, or maybe you stopped when you completed your homeschooling season. Please know that CHEC and the families we serve need you! **Your giving will allow us to continue to provide our online events through the next year, in addition to the many CHEC live events and services that you have come to know and love over the years.**



Don't forget that we are also involved more than ever in keeping the **homeschool freedom fires burning brightly right here in Colorado**. Carolyn Martin, CHEC's new Legislative Liaison, has been on the job a full year now, faithfully advocating for Colorado homeschoolers at the state Capitol. **But we still need YOUR support to continue her work into the future.**

Most of all, we covet your prayers, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

May the Lord bless you and your family as you celebrate God's goodness during this holiday season. My prayer for you is that He fills your heart with joy and hope for the future, for the battle is the Lord's!



In Christ,

Stephen Craig

NOTES: <sup>1</sup> <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/college-freshmen-are-less-religious-than-ever>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2017/09/18/views-among-college-students-regarding-the-first-amendment-results-from-a-new-survey>

P.S. **CHEC's work to rebuild the Christian family and Christian education can't continue without your financial support.** That's why during the month of December, as a special thanks to those who give a one-time donation of \$200 or more (or begin a monthly donation of \$20), **we want to send you Kevin Swanson's brand new book, *Taking the World for Jesus*.** Go to [CHEC.org/donate](http://CHEC.org/donate) to check out some of the other ways that we say "Thank you!"

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☐ Please send my book *Taking the World for Jesus* (for my donation of \$200 or more)

To set up automatic ACH/Bank Transfers call the office at 720.842.4852.

### THANK YOU!

The ministry of CHEC wouldn't happen without your gift. Here are some of our ways of saying "Thank you!"\*

**\$75 (Stakeholder):** \$20 off HSLDA membership and 10% off CHEC's annual conference.

**\$200 (Founding Family):** above benefits, but increased to 25% off CHEC's annual conference

**\$500 (Pillar):** above benefits, but free full pass to CHEC's annual conference and free membership in the CHEC Independent School

**\$750 (Wall Builder):** above benefits, plus free full pass for a friend to CHEC's annual conference

**\$1000 (Cornerstone):** above benefits, plus an invitation to an exclusive conference kick-off dinner with the CHEC team and keynote conference speakers

\*Thank you levels are based on total annual contributions.

CHEC is a 501(c)3 ministry. All donations are tax deductible.