

HOMESCHOOL



Update

2021 | VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 109

A MINISTRY PUBLICATION OF CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS OF COLORADO

HOMESCHOOL DAY AT THE CAPITOL

PAGE 7

From CHEC's Director of
Government Relations:

Contending For Truth

PAGE 26



Rocky Mountain
Homeschool Conference

MORE *THAN*
Conquerors



JUNE 17-19, 2021

PAGE 19

ARTICLES INSIDE THIS ISSUE INCLUDE

4

Abiding in the
Words of Jesus

11

Soulcraft
Every Day

12

Fuel Your
Focus

16

Homeschooling
Through the
Challenging Days



Refresh....

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF
encouragement AND fellowship!

Come learn what Scripture teaches about
soul care and how to value it in your life.

Come worship together, share burdens and joys,
and build one another up in the Word.

Come and be refreshed!

Guest Speaker

LESLIE LUDY,
of Set Apart Girl and Ellerslie



WHEN: Saturday, March 27, 2021

WHERE: Reformation Church of Elizabeth, 489 Rocky
Cliff Cir, Elizabeth, CO 80107

WHO: All adult ladies are welcome
(including nursing mamas and their infants)

REGISTER: \$25 for early bird registration — includes
lunch!

*No refunds are offered on the registration cost. You may
register at the door if space allows.*

Register at **CHEC.org/refresh**



CHEC Homeschool Update | Volume 1, 2021 | Issue 109

Feature Articles

8 Life with the
Blake Family
BY AUSTIN AND ASHLEY BLAKE

11 Soulcraft
Every Day
BY TROY SIMONS

12 Fuel Your Focus
BY MANDI VUCICH

16 Homeschooling
Through the
Challenging Days
BY MARCIA WASHBURN

28 Executive
Functioning Fun
BY TARA ROEHL

CHEC Events

2 Ladies' Refresh Day
PRESENTED BY CHEC

7 Day at the Capitol
PRESENTED BY CHEC

19-22 Rocky Mountain
Homeschool
Conference
PRESENTED BY CHEC

Columns

4 Director's Desk
24 Homeschool Leaders
26 Government Relations

30 Best of Blog
32 Resource Review



Cover: Day at the Capitol Event.
Photography by Tobias Steeves, AWAAPhotos (awaaphotos.com)

This page: Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference Event.
Photography by Tobias Steeves, AWAAPhotos (awaaphotos.com)

19039 Plaza Drive, Suite 210 Parker, Colorado 80134

720.842.4852 | 1.877.842.CHEC (2432) | [CHEC.org](https://www.chec.org)



Abiding in the Words of Jesus

BY STEVE CRAIG

A lot has happened in our country during the last year. Between COVID-19, the elections, riots, etc., I've spent more time following the news than I normally do. Often, it seems that I am left with more questions than answers. It is hard to know what is really going on around us, and even harder to know who we can trust.

At times, I sense that our nation has reached a tipping point. Are we about to take a plunge toward aggressive tyranny and wide-spread, open persecution of Christianity? Only time will tell.

These are sobering times that raise sobering questions for Christian parents. They prompt me to ask myself, "How I will give my children security, clarity, and hope as they emerge into

a culture filled with smoke and mirrors and that is shaking at its foundation?"

I know that God is using all of these present events for His purposes, chief of which is the purifying of His church. And my prayer is that the sharpening antithesis surrounding us will drive us toward the Word of God for the answers we are seeking. Only the Word of God makes the dust settle and the big picture reality come into focus. So what does God's Word say?

In John 8:31 (ESV), Jesus said to those who had believed in Him, *If you abide in My word, you are truly*

My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. I am amazed how much direction, clarity, and hope Jesus gives us in just 24 words.

The main point that Jesus makes here is quite simple: A disciple is one who abides in the words of Jesus.

Question: As Christian homeschooling parents, what is the primary thing we want for ourselves and for our children?

Answer: That we would be disciples of Jesus! If that is our goal, then it is clear that our main priority must be abiding in the words of Jesus. Family Bible reading, prayer, and worship should be frequent. We should integrate the Word of God into our homeschooling such that the words of Jesus dominate and direct each area of learning. We should quickly bring the words of Jesus to bear in our marriages, parenting, conflict resolution, and family life. Instead of defaulting to what is culturally acceptable, we must ask, "What does Jesus say about that?" in a thousand areas of life.

I've heard a great deal of commentary about how divided our country is. The fact is that there has

“ WE ARE
GUARANTEED THAT
IF WE ABIDE IN THE
WORDS OF JESUS, WE
WILL KNOW THE TRUTH
AND WE WILL BE
SET FREE. ”

always been a major division throughout all time. That division is between those who are the disciples of Christ and those who are not. If we want our children to end up on the right side of history for all eternity, then there is no greater priority for each of our families than to abide in the words of Jesus.

John 8:31 gives us two more glorious truths. We are guaranteed that if we abide in the words of Jesus, we will know the truth and we will be set free. While truth is being censored and freedom is being diminished all around us, as disciples of Jesus, we are on a completely different trajectory. We are soaking in the truth and we are being set free from sin, the pull of the world, and fear of future judgment and death.

We are confident and courageous because we know we are on the winning side. We are excited about tomorrow because we know it brings us one day closer to heaven! Proverbs 4:18 (ESV) describes it this way, *But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.*

Friends, if just 24 words of Jesus can reveal the pathway to the security, clarity, and hope that we desire for ourselves and for our children, just think what a lifetime of abiding in all of His words will do! As we begin a new year, let's make it our aim to keep abiding in the words of Jesus Christ the focus of our homes. ■



Steve Craig is the Executive Director for Christian Home Educators of Colorado. He and his wife Tara are 2nd generation homeschoolers and have a passion to inspire others toward biblical discipleship in the home. Steve and Tara live in Parker with their six children: Carson, Christiana, Angelina, Jewel, Ariel, and Michelle.

CHEC Products



Shop now at
CHEC.org/products

NEW TO HOMESCHOOLING?

There's a lot to think about when you are just beginning.

Get started on the right track with a CHEC Homeschool Introductory Seminar, customized to give you the vision, legal knowledge, and scheduling/curriculum/record-keeping help you need to homeschool with confidence.

Join us for our one-day seminars held in April, June, and August (dates TBA online).

Recordings
available
anytime!

Sign up at

CHEC.ORG/INTRO

How to Homeschool under Colorado Law

HOME-BASED EDUCATION LAW

- File a Notice of Intent (NOI) and follow Home-Based Education Law
- Enroll in an independent (umbrella) school & follow policies
- Obtain a current Colorado teaching license

NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW

- File a Notice of Intent (NOI) and follow Home-Based Education Law
- Enroll in an independent (umbrella) school & follow policies
- Obtain a current Colorado teaching license

CERTIFIED COLORADO TEACHER

- File a Notice of Intent (NOI) and follow Home-Based Education Law
- Enroll in an independent (umbrella) school & follow policies
- Obtain a current Colorado teaching license

Here's more about the Independent School option...

Enjoy the security, privacy, and all-access benefits that come with family enrollment in the



**CHEC
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL**

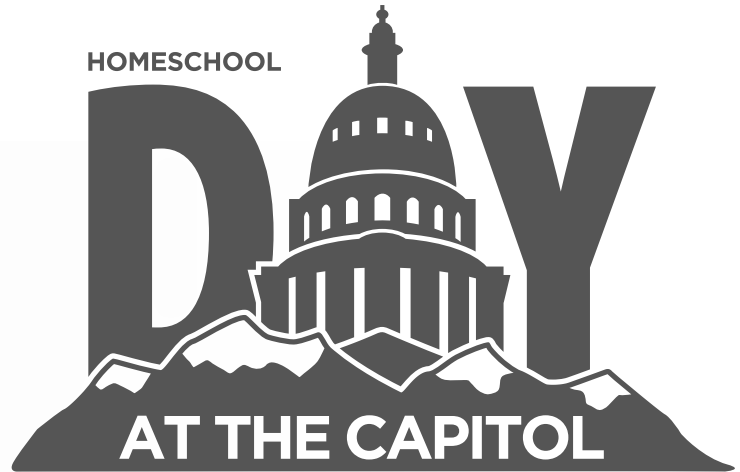
INCLUDED IN YOUR ALL-ACCESS BENEFITS...

- CHEC Conference Admission
- Homeschool Summits Membership
- Homeschool Introductory Seminar Admission
- High School & Beyond Seminar Admission
- Teacher & Student ID Cards
- Report Card Template
- High School Transcript Template
- Homeschool Planners
- Discount on CHEC Graduation Ceremony
- Discount on HSLDA Membership

**Enrollment for the 2020-2021
school year now open!**

Learn more at CHECIS.org

HOMESCHOOL



THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

Do you
cherish the liberties
we have in this country,
including the freedom
to homeschool?

*Then join us to get the latest news,
hear from great speakers, and
learn how you and your family can
make a difference in the days ahead.*

Featuring Guest Speaker Rick Green

Rick Green, a former Texas State Representative, is a lawyer, successful entrepreneur, and founder of Patriot Academy and the Torch of Freedom Foundation. He currently travels the nation speaking for WallBuilders, a national pro-family organization that presents America's forgotten history and heroes, with an emphasis on our moral, religious, and constitutional heritage. He influences tens of thousands of Americans to become salt and light in their communities, helping them understand their dual citizenship and responsibilities both as citizens of Heaven and of America. Rick and his wife Kara live in Dripping Springs, Texas with their children.



Get details & register at CHEC.org/DAC



PHOTOGRAPH BY ISTOCK

LIFE with the Blake Family

From the Editor: What does Gen 2 mean? Simply put, “homeschoolers grown up.” Our heart is to encourage parents as they disciple their children through Christian home education that the sacrifice will indeed bear fruit. This regular column features homeschool graduates from Colorado who are currently adulting and raising their own children for the glory of God. Please meet some good friends of mine, Austin and Ashley Blake, whom I have known for 20 years — since they were just kids!

(Austin) grew up in a small town in eastern Colorado as the youngest of four children and was homeschooled from K-12. While my mom made sure that we always finished our school work, one of the greatest things was the flexibility that homeschooling afforded our family.

I was blessed to go on many mission trips overseas during the winter, as well as have multiple jobs growing up that I could not have done during traditional school hours. On a week-to-week basis, I learned that the earlier I

finished my school work and chores, the more time I had for my true passion . . . golfing!

I also competed athletically for local schools, including on basketball and golf teams in high school. I was treated fairly by the coaches and teammates, played varsity golf all four years, was named captain of the team, and made first team all-conference. While my dreams to play on the PGA Tour never came to fruition as an adult, the time I spent golfing as a child, and competing as a professional golfer as a young adult, paved the way for my current career as a golf instructor.

If I had not been exposed to so many activities, competitions, and travels as a homeschooled student, I would not have had the confidence to move to another state and pursue my career. Now I interact with 90+ families on a weekly basis and have started a homeschool golf program in Phoenix, which, to my knowledge, is the first one of its kind in the nation.

One of the highlights for me while growing up was our monthly homeschool Activity Day. Through this group, I also participated in Bible Quizzing. In addition to memorizing God's Word, I loved the weekly practice with friends and the competition for local, regional, and national events. It was also through Bible Quizzing that I first sat next to the most amazing young lady named Ashley! We developed a friendship that morphed into something better and have now been married for 11 years.

(Ashley) grew up on a farm in southwest Nebraska. I am the second oldest of five children and was homeschooled for nine years.

I loved everything about being homeschooled, including the flexibility to work at my own pace. For

me this meant waking up early and finishing my assignments as quickly as possible! When I was 14, sadly my mother died after a three-year battle with cancer. I am thankful that we were blessed with the strong support of family and friends who gave of themselves generously to help our family work through that difficult season. Older cousins came to help us with homeschooling, my grandma did our laundry every week, neighbors raised money to help pay for medical bills, and others spent time developing mentoring friendships with our family.

While Austin and I were engaged, we discussed what family goals we would like to pursue. We both agreed that we wanted to adopt children at some point.

After marriage, we decided that before trying to have biological children, we would begin the process of adoption. Within six months of getting our certification, we met a sister and brother through a lady at our church. Their grandparents were not able to raise them and were looking for adoptive parents. God worked out every detail and within one year of meeting them, their adoption into our family was finalized! Six months later we were then blessed with a biological daughter!

While we were incredibly happy to grow our family, the stress of having three children within one year did take its toll. Personal health issues and trauma/abuse from our adopted children's pasts came out in full force, which led to me having to resign from my job. But God knew what He was doing, and we received an overflowing amount of support from family, friends at church, and a family counselor who was able to lead us through a healing process. By looking to Jesus and allowing Him to heal past hurts, we and our children were able to form deeper and stronger relationships. We also learned to ask for help and lean on those around us during trying times. Soon after life settled back down, a young foster boy joined my (Ashley's) Sunday school class. We provided respite care for him a couple of times, and when his case moved to adoption in 2018, we knew he belonged in our family!

We began homeschooling our adopted children as soon as possible. This gave us the opportunity to

“ WOULD WE
BE WILLING TO
TAKE THIS LITTLE
BOY HOME? ”



develop deep relationships with our children, cover any gaps in their previous schooling, and help develop a strong trust that we would not abandon them. As life again settled back down, and the children were adjusted to our new family, we decided to have another biological child, and in late 2019 we found we were expecting another girl.

While most people will remember March 2020 for COVID-19, we will remember it for God adding more to our family plans. The biological mother of one of our adopted sons had given birth to a preemie baby boy and abandoned him at the hospital. Would we be willing to come take him home?! After discussing it with our children, we decided that we would go get him! Just 48 hours later he was in our home and we fell in love with this little boy. Church family, co-workers, and friends all blessed us with meals, clothes, diapers and wipes, which was no easy feat during the pandemic!

While we planned to adopt the baby, once again God had other plans. The judge unexpectedly gave full custody to the birth father in May. Emotions

were strong as we dealt with this unexpected loss, but God was good. The birth father was working in Arizona and asked us to help take care of his son for one month. This time allowed us to say goodbye and develop a friendship with the birth dad. On July 1, the baby left our home and flew across the country. We had grown to love him so much in the four months he was with us, and our hearts felt empty. But a sovereign God had already known how we would feel. Nine days later on July 10th our little girl was born to help our hearts heal. In the interim time, family and friends again swarmed us with visits, food, love, and support as we coped with our loss and welcomed with joy the new member of our family.

We are so thankful for the support of our family and friends as we have navigated this time of having young biological children, adoption/fostering, and homeschooling. As Philippians 1:3 (NKJV) says, *I thank my God upon every remembrance of you*, and our thankfulness list is long! Through homeschooling we have been blessed with the flexibility to bond deeper with our kids, adapt as necessary to life, guide them daily, and help them become who God wants them to be. We could not and cannot do it alone, and having a solid support system has been crucial for us. If you are in a hectic phase of life, please do not hesitate to reach out to those around you and then accept their help. If you are in a place where you see someone struggling to balance their young family or in the process of fostering/adopting, we want to encourage you to bring a meal, offer child care or transportation help, or simply send an encouraging text or phone call. Most importantly, pray together for those around you. ■



Austin and Ashley Blake live in Phoenix, Arizona with their five children. Austin is a golf instructor and the Director of Player Development at the Dan

Campbell Junior Golf Academy, and Ashley is a stay-at-home mom. They spend their time serving at church, doing homeschool activities and playing sports with their kids, as well as enjoying extended-family vacation trips. They can be contacted at ablakegolf@gmail.com.



HOME ♥ SWEET
HOMESCHOOL

When staying home means so much more, trust AOP, an award-winning homeschool curriculum provider for over 40 years. Our customizable and comprehensive options make it easy for your children to learn in the place they love most.

At Home. Together.



Discover the benefits of a Christian homeschool education at aop.com.

SOULCRAFT EVERY DAY

BY TROY SIMONS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ISTOCK

Dads, perspective is everything, because without it we will never be able to properly lead our families.

Can you imagine a coach who didn't take the time to consider the strengths of the team his athletes were playing against, or a commanding officer who was unaware of where the enemy was and how many men he might be facing? You can't provide good leadership without knowing what you are up against.

As homeschool dads, let's consider for a moment what it means to educate our children. We often think of education in terms of preparing for a vocation — good grades get you into a good college that gets you into a good job. As true as that may be, this should not be the primary goal of education because it is not the primary goal of life. *For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?* (Mark 8:36 ESV) Education at the core must be soulcraft. It's not just what you know. It is about who you are. The educated person is one who sees God in everything and loves God with everything.

Guided by the big picture, we can then come down to the kitchen table level and make a few observations.

1. Your family needs regular reminders of that big picture. When motivation for school work (or any task) is lacking, we need a gentle reminder that we are becoming who we are one day at a time and one lesson at a time. There are very few things that diligence and determination cannot overcome. We like to say at our house, "Don't settle for 'I think I can.' Work for, 'I know I can, because I did!'"

2. A little praise for diligence and success goes a long way. If you take the time to pay attention to what your kids are studying, then you are in a place to encourage their success as well as correct their mistakes. Be curious, not nosy, and ask questions. Go so far as to let them teach you some of what they are learning. I guarantee they will light up when they know you are interested enough to listen.

3. Life lessons don't happen in a vacuum. Rare are the days when we are not vexed by some issue. The difficulty of a lesson may have little to do with the content and everything to do with the learner. Again, asking questions and listening goes a long way toward winning trust, and when they trust you they are more likely to tell you what's really going on. *A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger* (Proverbs 15:1 ESV). Don't assume the worst, and be ready

to help carry any burden. Your student will find new motivation when they know you have their back.

4. Take a dose of the medicine for yourself.

Whether it is signing up to teach the homeschool lessons or grinding out the algebra homework, there is untold value in walking a mile in their shoes. Take a day or even a week of the homeschool work on yourself, and you will understand much better what your wife and children face each week. It is hard to support what you don't understand.

If these observations are already part of your regular routine, great! If they are not, let me encourage you to look again at the big picture and realize that you are called to shape your children's souls, and there are constant and countless opportunities in every day's lessons. ■



Troy Simons is a homeschooling father to six boys and husband to author and speaker Ruth Chou Simons. He has a passion for God's Word and for discipling the next generation to live for Christ. After two decades of investing in ministry, preaching, church planting, and co-founding a classical school, Troy now takes an active role in homeschooling his children. He works alongside Ruth in their business, GraceLaced, Inc. Troy is an avid outdoorsman, philosopher, and teacher.



FUEL YOUR FOCUS

BY MANDI VUCICH

Have you ever had any homeschooling days like this? Your school day starts and your students are already bouncing off the walls! Or maybe one child is supposed to be working on a task and they are staring off into space! You know, those mornings or afternoons where you just find it hard to get them to focus.

Frequently, this has to do with what we are feeding those little bodies (or big bodies, too). Oftentimes, we are working against ourselves without even knowing it. What do I mean by this? Well, we can expect to get the same quality of energy out of our bodies as we put into them. As Americans, we are consuming far too much sugar-filled, processed, and low-quality foods. When we put these types of foods into our bodies, we lose our ability to focus, among other things. It's easy to fall into this trap, especially after the winter holidays of constant snacking on once-a-year special treats!

The following suggestions are simple steps that you can take to keep your students (and you) on task! We want to utilize healthy lifestyle choices and food to give us quality and steady energy all day long. Balanced energy fuels our focus. Too much sugar or processed foods is like putting our bodies on a sugar rollercoaster all day long; up, then down, then up ... truly sabotaging our focus.

1. Start the Day Right

Most breakfast options in America are really just another form of dessert. We need to consider that health experts recommend children get no more than 10 grams of sugar in a day. Most American breakfasts would exceed this — or maybe even be equal to a few days worth of sugar intake — in one sitting at one breakfast. Aim for a breakfast filled with lots of protein and healthy fat to give your kids the most sustained and even distribution of energy. Choose a breakfast like one of these: eggs and bacon; turkey and avocado rolls; or steel cut oatmeal with nuts, cinnamon* and whole or almond milk. You can even serve leftover dinner or soups and stews for a great breakfast option that will give your kids (and even you) sustainable energy. One tip: try to use real whole foods as often as possible.

**Cinnamon is a natural way to help the body lower blood sugar.*

2. Work With the Clock

Our cells have a circadian rhythm of their own, and when we work in concert with our bodies, we will find that everything flows nicely. Naturally, our most productive time is from around 10am–noon. Plan to work with your children's natural attention span by planning to do the hardest or most challenging brain work at this time. Children focus best when they are not hungry, so offer them a healthy snack about 40 minutes before this focus-filled window of time. Think: math!

3. It's in the Snacks

Again, we need to fuel our days, starting with breakfast, but then continue all day long. It is perfectly fine and normal for children to eat snacks, because they are, after all, constantly growing. Many children are getting some version of a sugar-filled snack about every two hours all day long. Instead, their mid-morning snack should be similar to breakfast, meaning higher in protein and healthy fats. Save the healthy fruit options for around 3pm.

- Morning snack ideas include: avocado toast; grass-fed beef hotdogs; cherry tomatoes, cheese, and basil kabobs; or a hard-boiled egg.
- Afternoon snack ideas might be: apples and peanut butter, string cheese, berries with granola and/or yogurt*.
- Best snack tip for anytime: get your kids in the kitchen with you to help prep them!

Teaching a child to prepare their own healthy snack when they are hungry is akin to giving them the tool to 'fish.' Once someone knows how to fish, they can always feed themselves.

**Watch sugar on the ingredient labels! Yogurt is often a hidden sugar trap.*

4. Move out the Excess

Our children need to move. We've got over 600 muscles in our body and we've been given those to burn energy. First thing in the morning after breakfast, go on a morning nature walk*, play a little game of tag, or put on some tunes and dance. Burning off some excess energy at the start of the day will help your child to focus during your morning learning time.

**Bonus points for the nature walk – not only do you get movement in, you also get fresh air, sunlight, and a chance to connect with nature. Early day exposure to sunlight can have a positive effect on your sleep.*

5. Rest

Sleep is another thing that can help to fuel your focus. Proper overnight sleep is critical during all stages of life. (Yes, you too, parents!) To help your brain and hormones know it's time to sleep, turn off screens of all kinds for two hours before bedtime. Your kids will fall asleep easier and sleep better when they have proper melatonin production.

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul (3 John 1:2 ESV).

When we adjust our lifestyle to include these simple, healthy habits, we are able to honor and take care of our bodies. When our health doesn't negatively interfere with our days, we are best able to connect with and do the work of our souls. Shaping our days will help to support the growing minds and bodies of our children, allowing them to excel. Fuel your focus. ■

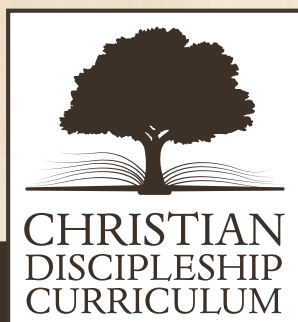


Mandi Vucich is a homeschooling mama to four, Chief Health Officer (CHO) and Founder of Inside Out Health Company. Mandi works with other mamas nationwide to help them feel better and support their own health from the inside out. Join her weekly newsletter for health tips & tricks. Ask her questions and check out her online courses at InsideOutHealthCo.com.

Compelling Christian books from ShariMcMinn.com



Available at Colorado retailer:
The Flower Petaler
\$19.99 each + S/H
888.287.0955
or amazon.com



For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.” (Romans 11:36)

Jesus Christ is the Lord of history. Does your history curriculum teach this?

New Providential History Curriculum

From Generations and Kevin Swanson



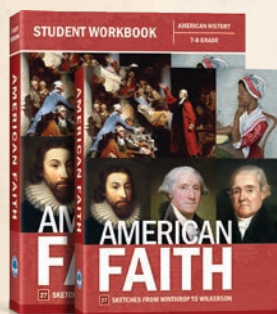
NEW!

History of the World Set

The Transforming Influence of Jesus Christ

9th-12th Grade History

If Jesus is Lord of all and preeminent over all things (Col. 1:18), this must profoundly affect the way Christians will look at history. This course places the Lord Jesus Christ squarely at the center of human history from creation to the present as we follow the tracks of the Carpenter from Nazareth and His disciples into every major nation, empire, and tribe around the world.



American Faith

27 Sketches from Winthrop to Wilkerson

7th-8th Grade History

Learn the story of American history through the lens of biography. *American Faith* covers twenty-seven crucial figures in American history, retelling the American history through real Americans whose lives impacted our nation.

Taking Africa for Jesus

Christ's Light on the "Dark Continent"

4th-6th Grade History

Embark on an epic journey through the history of Africa! Students will survey the history of ancient Egypt, and then following the ascension of the Lord Jesus, the reader will trace the spreading reign of Christ as the church spreads throughout Africa.



NEW!

25% OFF

This offer applies to online purchases only for the following history sets: History of the World Set, American Faith Set, Taking Africa for Jesus Set. Offer expires Apr. 15, 2021.

Use coupon code **PROVIDENTIALHISTORY** at checkout to save 25% on any of these 3 history resources!

Order at Generations.org/store

TAKE YOUR SON ON THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME!

AUGUST 26-29, 2021



FATHER SON RETREAT

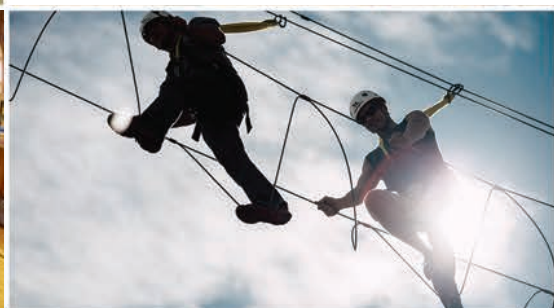
SKY RANCH HORN CREEK, WESTCLIFFE, CO

REGISTER NOW AT COLORADOFATHERSON.COM



Adventure & discipleship all wrapped up into one incredible weekend:

- Ziplines, Water Slides, Hiking, High Ropes, Archery, and more
- Challenges from God's Word
- Fellowship with hundreds of other men
- Intentional one-on-one time with sons



SPONSORED BY

 Generations

CHEC.org 

BY MARCIA WASHBURN

Homeschooling Through CHALLENGING DAYS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ISTOCK

Parenting puts you on your knees; homeschooling keeps you there.

Life doesn't stop just because you start homeschooling. Sometimes we wish everything else would just go away so we could concentrate on the educational tasks before us. Wouldn't it be great if our clothes suddenly never needed to be washed or meals just appeared on the table? And, better yet, wouldn't it be wonderful if no one got sick or had financial struggles or felt sandwiched between caring for two generations at once? Then, we tell ourselves, we would have time for planning all of those creative lessons and grading all those papers we've assigned.

But that is not how our wise and loving Heavenly Father has designed things. In His wisdom, He custom designs the events of our days to grow us into the image of Christ. How would we learn patience if no one ever did things to frustrate us? How would we learn to trust Him if we never experienced want?

God is the ultimate homeschool teacher. He individualizes a curriculum for each of us, carefully selecting experiences and people that will draw us closer to Him. There are even pop quizzes as well as big tests along the way. And, unlike our children, we have the option to ignore His assignments or to do them in our own way instead of in a way pleasing to Him.

His goal is mastery learning: He will take us through a lesson as many times as necessary to help us learn what we need to know. Remember how He led the Israelites through the wilderness for forty years? Do you ever feel like you're making yet another trip around Mount Sinai until the road is so deeply rutted that your wagon is high-centered? The more times we refuse to learn, the tougher it gets. Rebellion yields its own reward.

I sometimes think that God gives us children so He can grow us up! He must have figured I needed a lot of remedial work when he sent us five boys to raise. These sons provided the pop quizzes to test how I was progressing in the character department. Through them, I learned to trade laziness for self-control (most of the time!), critical words for a quiet

answer, and an independent spirit for trusting God's faithfulness and timing.

Early in our marriage, my husband often worked out-of-state for weeks or months at a time. He would come home as many weekends as his deadline-driven schedule allowed. One Sunday afternoon as he was leaving yet again, one of the boys said, "Thanks for coming to visit us, Daddy." The very next weekend Hubby announced that he had rented an apartment for us so we could be together as a family. We loaded up children, clothes, diapers, the sewing machine, and other essentials and moved into a basement apartment in Guernsey, Wyoming.

Suddenly, I was a stranger in a strange land. Hubby had our only car during the day, so I packed up the children, stroller and all, to visit the laundromat, the park, and the post office (no home delivery!). I willed myself not to show my life-long fear of dogs as we made our way past yard after yard of the barking beasts. In the midst of all my trials, God sent a dear woman who offered us rides to the Bible study at her church; those sweet ladies opened their arms to my little ones, too, since I didn't know a soul who could babysit for them. All week long I looked forward to

that bit of adult companionship, a merciful gift from God.

Four other times Hubby's job called us to that windy little town. Homeschooling permitted us the flexibility to join him, regardless of what the calendar said. We lived in a camper trailer one summer, a motel room one fall, and later a rented house. All to be close to Daddy.

We were so thankful to be homeschooling when our 11-year-old was diagnosed with diabetes. How difficult it would have been to help him learn all of the new procedures for caring for himself if he had been away at school all day. When he got home from the hospital, we simply started where we had left off in his studies — no make-up work to turn in!

In so many ways, homeschooling made life's difficulties easier, not harder. Over the years, we have homeschooled while adding five rooms to our home, during our care for a suddenly-blinded aunt, and when we had no idea how the budget would stretch another dollar. I homeschooled from the couch for

four months during a crisis pregnancy. The only time illness totally shut down the Washburn Family Academy was when all five boys came down with chicken pox within 24 hours of each other — now that was a memorable week!

Will you go through the same experiences we had in our family? Of course not. God is building a unique life message in each of us, using our life experiences, temperament types, and spiritual gifts to advance the kingdom of Christ on earth through us. No one else has exactly the same life message to share as you do. God doesn't use cookie cutters to make us or to design the one-of-a-kind curriculum He uses to grow us into His image.

Will you learn the lessons He has selected for you the first time they're presented? Probably not — I certainly didn't. Some days you will fly, but most days you will plod. The joy for the Christian homeschooler is in remembering that we get a fresh start every new day.

*The steadfast love of the Lord never faileth; His mercies never come to an end. They are **new every morning** (Lamentations 3:22–23). Hang onto that promise as you work through the daily challenges of life on earth. After all, you are tallest when you are on your knees in prayer, and homeschooling certainly keeps you there. ■*



© 2020 by Marcia K. Washburn who "grew up" while homeschooling five sons for nineteen years. Need encouragement? Request her free ebook,

Encouragement for Homeschool Moms here: Marcia@MarciaWashburn.com. Check out Beethoven Who? Family Fun with Music and other resources at MarciaWashburn.com.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT *Connection*

*We're on a mission to connect every **Colorado state legislator** with a homeschool family.*

When each Colorado House Representative and Senator has a positive, personal, ongoing connection with a family in their district, they'll have a clear understanding of how potential legislation may affect homeschoolers. To accomplish this, we need at least one family in EVERY Colorado district to sign up as their district's personal connection to homeschooling. We'll be available to guide you every step of the way.

Will you help?

You have the potential to impact our freedom for generations to come.

Sign up and learn more at CHEC.org/LDC

calvary.edu



Kansas City, MO: 816-322-3960
Englewood, CO: 970-427-4601
Warrenton, MO: 636-463-8120



Affordable.

Regionally-accredited education at a low tuition rate with scholarships available, so you can begin your ministry, career, and service with little or no debt.

Biblical.

Offering more than 60 degrees in a variety of disciplines, with the Bible as the core of each one.

Community.

A place for growth and discipleship, with a rich environment for developing friendships and relationships that will last a lifetime.





Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference

MORE THAN *Conquerors*



*We are more than conquerors
through Him who loved us.*

ROMANS 8:37



TRAINING



RESOURCES



ENCOURAGEMENT

JUNE 17-19, 2021

DENVER, COLORADO

COVID Risk-Free Registration at RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com

Homeschooling is a JOURNEY

... AND IT'S INCREDIBLE
IF YOU HAVE THE RIGHT
TRAINING, RESOURCES, AND ENCOURAGEMENT
ALONG THE WAY.



Download the app!

Get speaker bios,
workshop descriptions,
maps, and more when
you download the
CHEC Homeschool
app from iTunes or
Google Play.



So come to the



Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference

KEYNOTE
Speakers



STEPHEN KENDRICK
Kendrick Brothers movies



DR. CARLTON MCLEOD
Pastor & Author of Jesus is Enough



DR. AL MOHLER
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

SPONSORED BY





Training

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. (Luke 6:40 ESV)

Here's a sampling of sessions you'll find at the conference...

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

- ▶ Escapism: Avoiding the Snares of Media
- ▶ Breaking the Shackles - Why Parents Should Trust Themselves, Not Schools
- ▶ The Marks of Pseudo-Christian Cults
- ▶ Logic & the Christian Faith
- ▶ Political Truth of Abortion
- ▶ Biblical Response to Government Overreach
- ▶ 10 Principles to Empower You and Your Kids to Stand for Freedom

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- ▶ Call to Arms: The Guts & Glory of Courageous Fatherhood
- ▶ Preparing Girls as They Near Graduation
- ▶ Why Good Parents Are Losing Their Children
- ▶ Ten Crucial Years: Training and Milestones from 10-20
- ▶ How to Parent Without Provoking Children to Anger
- ▶ Vaccinations, Other Parental Issues, and Your Parental Rights

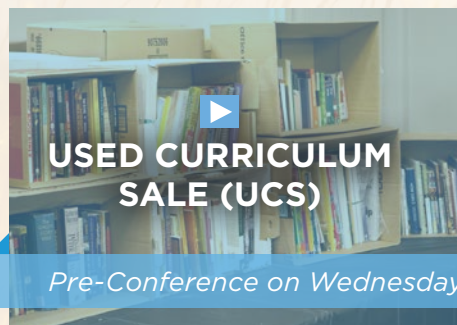
HOMESCHOOL HOW-TOS

- ▶ 3 Strategies to Encourage a Love of Learning
- ▶ Building a Framework: Strategies for High School Success
- ▶ Fundamentals of Writing Fiction
- ▶ Homeschooling and Preschoolers Too?
- ▶ Top Ten Myths About Homeschooling Math
- ▶ Homeschooling Your Unique Child: Adopted, Gifted, Special Needs, and Struggling Learners
- ▶ Homeschool Tech: What You Need and How to Use It



Resources

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. (1 Peter 1:3 ESV)



USED CURRICULUM SALE (UCS)

Pre-Conference on Wednesday, June 16th



COGNITIVE LEARNING & HEALTH SCREENINGS



EXHIBIT HALL SHOPPING



Encouragement

He set my feet upon a rock. (Psalm 40:1 ESV)



FAMILY RUN THRU THE BIBLE

In two hours, Randy Osborn will lead you in an exciting event that teaches the big picture of God's Old Testament story



MOM'S NIGHT OUT

Relax and enjoy this fun evening, hosted by author and speaker Ginger Hubbard



FATHER-SON LUNCH

Join Dr. Carlton McLeod for lunch as he reveals a Manhood Manifesto to help you grow as a Christian man



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Designed for children ages 6-12, each program is professionally run with adult supervision



YOUTH FEATURES

Teens and young adults will be challenged and equipped in specially designed workshops and activities

Conference **SPEAKERS**



Antoinette
Lagrossa



Art Middlekauff



Buck Beckholt



Vicki Bentley



Bill Jack



Bradley Pierce



Brandee
Gillham



Carolyn Martin



Chuck Black



Tom Clark



Dara Halydier



Dianne Craft



Gary Bloom



Ginger Hubbard



Jan Bloom



Dr. Jason Lisle



Joe Tyler



Jonathan Brush



John Sowash



Kenny Sargent



Kerry Black



Kevin Swanson



Kim Ransom



Davis Carman



Logan Wilson



Marcia
Washburn



Marilyn Boyer



Mike Donnelly



Norm
Wakefield



Rachael
Carman



Randy Osborn



Rick Boyer



Sean Clifford



Shari McMinn



Dr. S.M. Davis



Steve Craig



Susie Overmyer



Tara Roehl



Teri Spray



Zan Tyler

FULL CONFERENCE PASS

LIMITED TIME EARLY REGISTRATION PRICE!

All general sessions, workshops, and exhibit hall

\$65

ENTIRE FAMILY

or \$55 for individual

Free for CHEC

Independent School

Members: see website

for details

This
Pricing
Expires
March 1,
2021!

SHOPPING PASS ONLY

\$31

ENTIRE FAMILY

or \$21 for individual

STAY ONSITE AND ENJOY YOUR CONFERENCE GETAWAY

The Crowne Plaza Convention Center

is located just off I-70 at Chambers Road.

Make it a fun family weekend by staying

at the hotel (exclusive limited-time

rate of \$149.00+tax for attendees).

Get a full hot breakfast buffet at

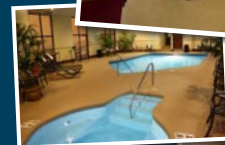
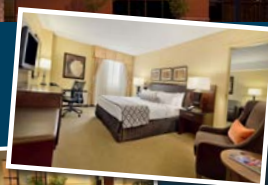
the Terrace Restaurant (for room

occupants), then walk across the

grand atrium to attend the conference!



FREE PARKING FOR ALL!



REGISTER AT

RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com



Christian Home Educators of Colorado

CHEC envisions families honoring Jesus Christ by embracing home discipleship that is Christ centered, parent directed, and free from government control.

CHEC.org | 877.842.CHEC | Call Monday—Friday, 10am to 5pm

YOU GOT THIS,
Mom!



©2021 BJU Press. All rights reserved.



Biblically based K–12 textbooks and video lessons

bjupresshomeschool.com | 800.845.5731      

If you are a leader for a homeschool group, you already know you have the tremendous privilege of positively impacting the success of homeschool families throughout Colorado — and we know you need support, fellowship, and resources to thrive in that role.

CHEC has been providing this and more to homeschool group leaders around the state for many years, and we want to help **you** succeed, too!

The **CHEC Homeschool Group Network** accomplishes this by providing

encouragement, building community, equipping you with training and resources, and helping you reach more families!

Joining the Network is simple and free; perks include:

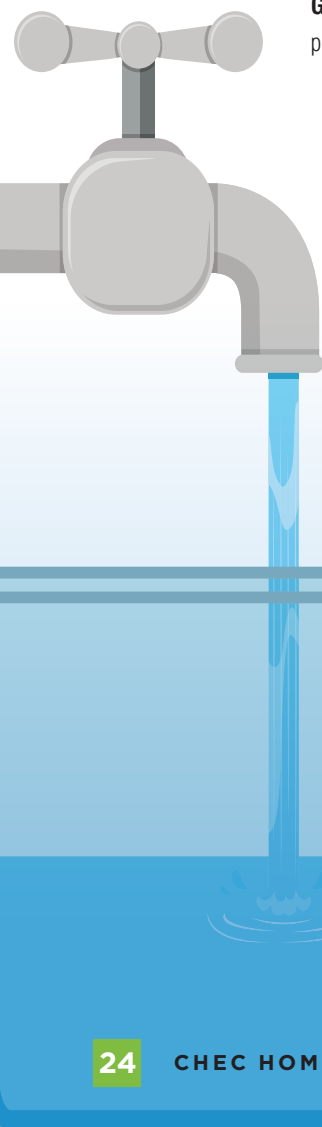
- Personal, monthly emails from us with helpful leadership advice, first-word news, and biblical encouragement
- Publication in the online CHEC Homeschool Group Directory (or choose to be unlisted if desired)
- Membership in the private Homeschool Group Leaders discussion group on Facebook
- Opportunity for CHEC team speakers to share with your group (simply contact us with your interest) on topics including:
 - ▶ 2nd Generation's Perspective
 - ▶ Homeschooling Vision
 - ▶ Christian Family Eldercare
 - ▶ Homeschool Law
 - ▶ Legislative Issues & Involvement
 - ▶ Apprenticeship & Mentorship
 - ▶ Beginning Homeschooling
 - ▶ Beginning High School

- Exclusive opportunities at the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference, including a networking session and luncheon just for leaders
- One complimentary family registration to the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference
- The Homeschool Group Leaders' Retreat
- Access to G-Suite for Education (if your group meets the requirements)

Join the Network and access all your benefits at CHEC.org/groupleaders! ■

Are you the leader of a Christian Homeschool Group?

Be strengthened and encouraged through CHEC's private Leaders' Facebook group, conference luncheon, exclusive email updates, and other opportunities. Want to stay connected so you don't miss opportunities to grow as a leader? Make sure your group is part of the CHEC Homeschool Group Network: **CHEC.org/groups**.



FILL UP Your Leadership TANK

BY THE CHEC HOMESCHOOL
GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM

DO *you* HAVE THE *best* HOMESCHOOL GROUP LEADER?

As a homeschool parent, you know how much developing community with other homeschool families impacts your own family's success.

And none of this can happen without the visionary, sacrificial service of homeschool dads and moms who step up to lead homeschool groups.

One way CHEC extends our appreciation to them is through the annual CHEC Homeschool Leadership Award, presented at the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference.

And we need YOU to tell us who to honor this year!

Submit your nomination by May 15th: CHEC.org/nominate



Finding community IN COLORADO



- **Homeschool Groups** → Parent support, co-ops, and so much more! Find a detailed list of Christian homeschool groups in Colorado at CHEC.org/groups
- **Community Calendar** → Upcoming free days, homeschool days, contests, and always-free opportunities are at CHEC.org/events/community-calendar
- **Discussion Group** → Join the CHEC Colorado Homeschool Discussion group to ask questions, share your perspective, and connect with other parents at CHEC.org/fbgroup

BY CAROLYN MARTIN

CONTENDING for Truth

God's creative genius established the family as a place to love, to learn, and to grow. Since its inception, the family has been under attack. Today, statisticians who have replaced God with the state, and have ordained their experts as priests for their religion, seek the destruction of the family. Lawmakers are increasingly granting children separate rights (without the corresponding responsibility), which serves to restrict parental involvement. Rulemaking boards encourage the elevation of medical, mental health, and education experts in children's lives over their parents and God, ensuring complete state conformance.

Statist

- Definition from the 1828 Webster Dictionary:¹ "A statesman; a politician; one skilled in government."
- Definition from today's Merriam-Webster Dictionary:² "An advocate of statism."

Statism

- The word did not exist in 1828. Definition from today's Dictionary.com:³ "The principle or policy of concentrating extensive economic, political, and related controls in the state at the cost of individual liberty."

Statisticians have made it clear that their highest value is conformity of thought and behavior. Despite differing opinions within the medical community concerning the recent COVID-19 crisis, only one voice is allowed to be heard by the masses. Big Tech, Hollywood, and the mainstream media are pushing the state's narrative. All other voices are silenced or ridiculed. A lot of those alternative voices also happen to be Christians and their highest value is truth. In addition, Christian voices are being silenced in the areas of family, marriage, and parental rights because we do not subscribe to the statistician's belief system.

Power and control are the currency of the statisticians. They possess it in abundance in our state of Colorado. The policies they promote and implement go against everything our Lord ordained and our founders established in our country. Over the past 30+ years, God has prospered and sustained the homeschool movement. And now, the statisticians of today bring new challenges.

In the past, we have been able to show our influence through the number of emails sent, phone calls made, in-person visits, and showing up to speak to legislators. But the past two sessions saw thousands of parents occupying the Capitol to oppose changes to the immunization law and spending countless hours contacting legislators — and yet, the medical lobby was overwhelmingly more powerful than the voices of parents who daily struggle to provide care for their vaccine-

injured children. Our efforts seemed unsuccessful — until homeschoolers were exempted from this legislation in the final hours. What we do, matters!

What will it take to preserve the homeschool law in Colorado? We know it will take great faith and a great movement of God. It will also take great sacrifice. To homeschool is to sacrifice. Yet it will require more from each of us until the statisticians are defeated. Assess how much of your time, talent, and treasure you are willing to give to engage in the battle for liberty for your posterity. Educate yourself on the battle before us. Strengthen your voice and make it heard in every arena you find yourself. **Join the Colorado Homeschool Freedom Prayer Team (CHEC.org/freedom) to stay informed of what is going on at the Capitol.** The question we must ask is not if the Lord is on our side but, are we on His side? The Lord will fight for us if we stay true to Him and His Word, but we must contend for truth and liberty in order for it to prevail. ■

Footnotes · ¹<https://1828.mshaffer.com/d/search/word/statist>; ²<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/statist>; ³<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/statism>



Carolyn Martin, CHEC's Director of Government Relations, and her husband, Todd, began homeschooling their three children in upstate New York before moving to Colorado in 2004. Her passion is to see homeschooling remain free from government intrusion for future generations.



You must guard your own **COLORADO HOMESCHOOL** *freedom!*

Every family in Colorado has an opportunity to make a difference for their liberty now — and for future generations.

Sign up at CHEC.org/freedom for:

- Legislative updates (sent every other Wednesday, January – May)
- Prayer updates (sent every Monday, January – May) that include requests for help with special projects (research, bill review, and more)



\$49 Individual STAR Assessment
or
\$99 Family Special

Mention "HOMESCHOOL" to Take Advantage!



Sylvan Partners with Homeschool Families

STAR Testing

We offer STAR testing in-center or live online to help you understand where your child's strengths and opportunities for growth are.

NEW In-Home Tutoring

Sylvan In-Home tutoring is an online marketplace designed to help families find & connect with qualified, professional tutors who deliver 1:1 instruction anytime, anywhere, any day for K-12 students in a variety of subjects.

Visit sylvaninhometutoring.com to learn more!

In-Center Instruction

Sylvan offers a wide range of tutoring options to fit your family's needs. We have programs to help your child catch up, keep up and get ahead!

Call, Text or Visit sylvanlearning.com to Learn More!
North Denver: 303-920-7424 | South Denver: 720-240-9764

When your child is distracted and disorganized,

the world can be overwhelming and exhausting. As the parent and teacher, it can be discouraging and even frustrating. The child who struggles to clean up a space, keep track of their items, follow along with a story, think before they act/speak, start their work in a timely manner, or remember what you just said to them may be struggling with developmental delays in their Executive Functioning Skills.

What are Executive Functioning Skills?

Executive Functioning Skills help control and direct the rest of the brain. It is a group of nine skills that involve strong self-talk and mental imagery skills which help us understand ourselves and the world. These nine skills are:

1. Working Memory
2. Planning & Organization
3. Self-Monitoring
4. Metacognition
5. Flexibility
6. Response Inhibition
7. Task Initiation
8. Sustained Attention
9. Goal-Directed Persistence

Executive Functioning Skills are known as higher level cognitive functions. When they are missing or are weak, the brain depends on lower level cognitive functioning — fight, freeze, or flight mode.

What Can You Do?

All children benefit from strengthening these skills. When these skills need support, day-to-day life and schoolwork can be stressful. Families can help this by first working on these skills through play. It's even

beneficial with your teenagers. Play refreshes their heart and mind while demonstrating the benefits of these important skills.

Five Games That Help

Here are five helpful games you can start playing today with your child and grow executive functioning skills in the process. These are commercially produced games that are available for purchase at most retailers or online.

Memory Top Three Skills: 1, 2, 5

Overview: Using a deck of cards, players take turns flipping over the cards to find matches. Start with only a few matches and work on developing strategies that work.

EXECUTIVE Functioning *Fun*

BY TARA ROEHL

PHOTOGRAPH BY ISTOCK

Headbanz *Top Three Skills: 4, 6, 8*

Overview: Players wear a headband holding a card out of sight. They then ask the other players questions to try and determine which picture is on their own head.

Blokus *Top Three Skills: 2, 4, 9*

Overview: Players begin in separate corners with a variety of single colored blocks. Then need to connect their blocks to reach the other side following a series of rules and navigating around other players.

Set *Top Three Skills: 1, 7, 8*

Overview: A series of cards are placed on the surface and players race to find a "set" — three cards that are all alike or different according to key features (shape, color, pattern, number).

Pictionary *Top Three Skills: 2, 4, 7*

Overview: Player one is given a word and must draw it for the other players to guess.

Additional Help

Executive functioning skills are also pivotal life skills that our children need to successfully launch into adulthood. Taking time to play with them now will help these skills develop while also creating lifelong memories. If you think your child might need more support, you can reach out to Speech-Language Pathologists covered by your insurance and ask them if they have had Executive Functioning training. ■



Tara Roehl is a homeschool graduate who runs two homeschool co-ops in Colorado. She is a nationally certified Speech-Language Pathologist who operates a private telepractice clinic for social cognition and executive functioning. In addition to her practice in Colorado, she has worked in California, Illinois, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Rwanda in public schools and private practices. To learn more about Tara's work, check out her website: SpeechyKeenSLP.com or contact her directly via email at Tara@SpeechyKeenSLP.com

Celebrate your student's HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

You've worked faithfully to bring your son or daughter to the close of their high school years. Now, it's time to commemorate the occasion in a big way! Invite family and friends to join you for a unique, classy ceremony that recognizes graduates, honors parents, and ultimately gives glory to God. Hosted in May 2021 (dates TBA online).

**We take care of the coordination —
you take care of the celebrating!**



plan now to join the celebration!
Register at CHEC.org/Graduation



A SIMPLE Reminder

BY AMY PENTIMONE

As homeschool families, we are probably very familiar with the word “busy.”

Then again, being busy is not just a homeschool thing — pretty much anyone you run into will tell you they have been busy lately. It's not all a bad thing either. The book of Proverbs is full of encouragement to be diligent. Wise men and ants have productivity in common!

When we are too busy, we tend to step back and evaluate everything that is going on. Perhaps there is something that can or should be cut out to create a little extra bandwidth. Again, this is wise. But the funny thing is, sometimes when we are the busiest is just when we need to linger a little less on our schedules and a little more on God's Word, instead.

This past week, I memorized Psalm 131 (NKJV), a short Psalm with only three verses. Those three verses were exactly what my busy week needed.

Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me. Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the Lord, from this time forth and forever.

Numerous times, when I've felt anxious about something I'm facing or overwhelmed with the things filling my schedule, God has brought these three verses to quiet my heart. By simply knowing that I need not worry over the “great” or “profound” situations pressing on my mind, I have felt peace and have been able to turn to God instead.

So here is a simple reminder for your homeschool week: **God's Word can do wonders for your mind and heart, whether in busy, overwhelming, or peaceful times!** ■



CHEC BLOG

Visit [CHEC.org/blog](https://chec.org/blog) for weekly encouragement, with articles like:

- Loving My Neighbor
- Thoughts on Teaching Science
- Finding Space for Rest



Amy Pentimone is a Gen 2, who for 30 months (while attending college) worked remotely for CHEC, writing posts and managing our blog, and coordinating our social media. She has now moved on to full-time employment in the Kansas City, KS area while she finishes her degree. We will miss her skills, gracious attitude, spirit of teamwork, and wish her great success in all future endeavors. This article was first published on the CHEC.org blog.

Do you have friends *considering* homeschooling?



Invite them to get their free **HOMESCHOOLING IN COLORADO STARTER PACKAGE!**

It's a simple and quick way for you to share
the facts of how homeschooling works,
right here in Colorado, with your friends.

Spread the word. You could be the catalyst for your
friends to begin their own homeschool adventure!



INCLUDES:

- Access to the online **Homeschooling in Colorado Educational Mini-Course**
- Downloadable **Guide to Homeschooling in Colorado**
- Downloadable copy of the book **Upgrade: 10 Secrets to the Best Education for Your Child**

CHEC.org/New

ENCOURAGING Writing

BY CINDY PUHEK

PHOTOGRAPH BY ISTOCK

The ability to craft articulate sentences into well-thought-out paragraphs that grow into an expressive essay are some of the skills that mark an educated person.

Writing well is one of the fundamental education skills on which all other areas of learning are built. Most language arts programs contain essay and research paper writing assignments as part of the curriculum. But what can parents do to help their students grow into accomplished writers when they feel ill equipped to evaluate their children's writing or give them suggestions for improvement? Thankfully, there are multiple ways to cultivate writing skills in our children, and there are some innovative programs available which are accessible from home.

When kids are in the early grades of elementary school, writing might seem tortuous to them. While some young kids are ready to put words on paper, many are not. It is best to keep writing light and fun until a child is developmentally ready. One way to cultivate writing

during this stage is to give your child a steady diet of good writing with rich vocabulary. This often occurs through reading aloud quality literature and looking up words the child does not know. This trains children's ears so they recognize proper sentence structure and grammar usage.

Many children become frustrated when asked to come up with their own ideas for their writing assignments. So when a child is ready to begin writing, programs that allow them to imitate other people's writing are often a great place to start. In programs such as **Teaching Writing: Structure and Style** and **Structure and Style for Students** by Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) and **Imitation in Writing** by Logos Press, the child is given a well-written passage, and is asked to outline it, reproduce it, and embellish it. Imitation was the method used by Benjamin Franklin to learn to write well, and it can produce wonderful results.

Another way to encourage writing is to make writing correspondence letters part of your curriculum. Have your kids write letters to grandma and grandpa, aunts and uncles, cousins and friends. After a parent checks the rough draft of the letter for mistakes, the child can complete the missive and enjoy brightening someone's day while completing schoolwork.

When students reach middle and high school, they need to begin writing different types of essays and

research papers. There are two very good online writing programs designed to train proficient writers.

Write At Home was begun by Brian and Melanie Wasko in 2001 when Brian put his homeschool writing lessons online. The classes are scheduled to provide accountability and structure but still have flexibility for family trips and other emergencies. The students have a writing coach to evaluate their writing. Another program is **Time4Writing**. These lessons also have writing coaches, but the lessons are self-scheduled. Both of these programs give personalized feedback to students so they can improve.

Children who are immersed in well-written books tend to become very good writers themselves. And with the aid of these programs, those natural skills can be developed so the homeschooled student can be well-equipped for any college classroom or business writing assignment. ■



Cindy Puhek resides in Colorado Springs and has been married to Peter for more than two decades. They are well into their second decade of homeschooling their six children who range in age from toddler to high schooler. Cindy holds a master's degree in chemistry and has written dozens of articles to encourage others in their homeschooling journeys. You can visit her blog at HomeschoolEnrichment.com/blogs.



Home-based therapy for struggling kids

“Last year my son had so many meltdowns during school that I almost didn’t try homeschooling him again. This year, he is a new kid. I can’t believe how much happier he is!”

-Mom S.

COMMON SYMPTOMS

- Poor emotional control
- Sensory sensitivities
- Anxiety
- Anger
- Meltdowns/over-reactions
- Difficulty with reading and writing
- Difficulty with math
- Difficulty following directions
- Poor attention
- Difficulty staying still
- Poor balance and coordination
- Poor social skills
- Much more

Early Roots is a drug-free intervention program for children with learning, behavioral, social, or emotional problems. We assess each child for signs of immaturity in the central nervous system, also known as Neuro-developmental delay (NDD). We look to find the lowest point of breakdown in their development and then we create a program that works up from there. This allows us to target the root problem rather than focusing on the symptoms. If this sounds like your child (or a child you know) then visit our website at www.earlyrootstherapy.com to learn more.

405-388-1972

earlyrootstherapy.com

NEXT with CHEC



Visit **CHEC.org/events** to learn more!

DONATE BOX TOPS TO CHEC

It's all digital now! Just download the Box Tops app, create an account to link to "Christian Home Educators of Colorado," and then scan your receipt. The app will automatically find participating products and add cash right to CHEC's earnings online — no clipping or mailing required!



CHEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Bill Roach, President
George Sechrist, Vice President
Brenda Kelly
Chad Roach
Ian Serff
Steven Vaughan

CHEC DIRECTORS:

Steve Craig, Executive Director
Kevin Swanson, Director of Generations

HOMESCHOOL Update

The CHEC *Homeschool Update* is published triannually by Christian Home Educators of Colorado, 19039 Plaza Drive, Suite 210, Parker, CO 80134.

The purpose of the *Homeschool Update* is to provide information, resources, and leadership for home educating families while effectively communicating the activities, opportunities, and needs of Christian Home Educators of Colorado.

The *Homeschool Update* is free to all who request it. Donations are gladly accepted.

The views expressed by contributors and advertisers in this news magazine do not necessarily reflect those of CHEC.

Permission is granted to reprint any portion of this magazine, except where noted, provided the following credit is given: "Reprinted from the CHEC Homeschool Update, Volume 1, Issue #109, 2021; 720-842-4852, CHEC.org."

Editor:

Shari McMinn, sharimcminn.com

Creative Designer:

Sarah Lee Bryant, sarahleephoto.com

Advertising Policy:

Ads are published on a space-available, first-come, first-served basis and are subject to approval. Payment must be made by the deadline to reserve ad space. New advertisers must include complete product description. We reserve the right to refuse any ad submitted.

CHEC's mailing list is *not* sold or rented. Advertising in this magazine provides an excellent opportunity to reach homeschooling families likely to be interested in your product or service. Questions may be directed to admanager@CHEC.org.

Circulation: V1 & V3: 5,500 • V2: 6,500
Next Advertising Deadline: March 1, 2021

For advertising opportunities with CHEC, go to **CHEC.org/advertise**.

Copyright © 2021 by CHEC



A Biblical solution to health care

Christians sharing
health care costs
with one another.

Samaritan[™]
MINISTRIES

SamaritanMinistries.org/CHEC • 877.978.1663

Reformed, member since 2017



Christian Home Educators of Colorado

19039 Plaza Drive, Suite 210
Parker, Colorado 80134

Change Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
DENVER CO
PERMIT #792



Dear families: If you no longer want to receive this magazine, please contact the CHEC office and ask to be removed from our mailing list. Thank you.

720.842.4852 | 1.877.842.CHEC | office@CHEC.org

THE *God-Centered* Homeschool

AN ONLINE SUMMIT

FREE EVENT • APRIL 5-9, 2021

Reorient your everyday homeschooling to revolve around Jesus Christ — and see Him *transform* your family.

Biblical, start-today *help & hope* for your family's education and discipleship is coming your way!

Speakers include
Stephen Kendrick,
David & Jason Benham,
Rosaria Butterfield,
Nancy Campbell,
Eric & Leslie Ludy,
and many more!



Sign up for free: HomeschoolSummits.com/Centered

THIS 8TH HOMESCHOOL SUMMITS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

