

# HOMESCHOOL



# Update

2022 | VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 113

A MINISTRY PUBLICATION OF CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS OF COLORADO



## Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference

JUNE 16-18, 2022

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*"We have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus."*

HEBREWS 10:19

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BY STEVE CRAIG

# ARE YOU Qualified?



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ISTOCK

**In a culture that too often measures competency by degrees and credentials, it is not surprising that one of the biggest barriers to homeschooling is the false idea that parents are not qualified to teach their own children. One private school even published the following (false) statement on their brochure.**

"There is a misjudgment among some circles that a teacher does not need to be university trained or carry the appropriate credentials . . . unqualified persons should not perform brain surgery."

Sadly, most parents share the sentiment that they are not qualified to teach their own children. They may not deny that OTHERS can pull it off, but they firmly believe "I could never do THAT!"

But before you decide that this article isn't written to YOU because, well, you obviously know that you can successfully homeschool your child since you ARE homeschooling, I would like to ask you a question.

## **What teacher qualification is most important to God?**

Here at CHEC, we are passionate about the idea that homeschooling is much more than doing school at home. We believe strongly that all education involves discipleship and that a child is either being disciplined toward Christ, or away from Christ. And, homeschooling provides an AMAZING context in which discipleship TOWARD Christ can happen.

Most homeschoolers are familiar with the passage in Deuteronomy, in which God commands parents toward the walk-a-long, talk-a-long form of discipleship that I believe homeschooling is best suited for. However, we easily miss verses 5–6, which provides the very foundation for verse 7.

***You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that***

***I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise (Deuteronomy 6:5–7 ESV).***

Based on Deuteronomy 6:5–6, **I would submit that the teacher (make that "discipler") qualification that is most important to God is wholehearted love for God and His commandments.** That is the kind of love that just automatically spills out on to your kids, spouse, and everyone else around you, because you just can't hide that kind of love.

This is what matters most to God. In the Christian homeschool world, we rightly talk about giving our children a "biblical worldview" and "raising the next generation for Christ."

But what about you, Dad and Mom? Do YOU love God with all your heart, soul, and might? Are His commandments on YOUR heart?

If you're like me, then you know that we fall short of this wholehearted love for God, even on our best

days. Here are three heart motivations that satan wants to substitute for real love for God. Maybe some of them will be familiar to you.

## Fear

This is the motivation (or demotivation) that arises in our heart when we focus on our own weaknesses, our obstacles, or the enemy's strength. Fear is very powerful. It is one of the main reasons why so many Christians choose not to homeschool ("I could never do that!"). And it is one of the reasons why many Christian homeschoolers choose mistaken priorities in their homeschooling.

1 John 4:18 (ESV) says, *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.* You can't be both a love-driven and a fear-driven parent. It will be one or the other.

## Comparison

This is the motivation that arises from a heart which cares more about what people think than what God thinks. As long as you look good, you feel good. If your public school is better than most and your child is seeming to thrive, you look good, and you feel good. If your homeschool is neat and organized and your children excel academically when compared to other kids, you look good, and you feel good. Comparison judges by externals. But God looks at the heart.

*But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart"* (1 Samuel 16:7 ESV).

## Duty

This is the motivation of a slave. It is not the motivation of a son or daughter. A slave says "I homeschool my children because I think this is what is expected of me and I will be judged if I don't." A son or daughter says "I love my Father and I want my children to love my Father, and THAT is why I homeschool them."



If you are like me, you can identify with the motivations of fear, comparison, and duty. Perhaps as you read this, you sense the Holy Spirit showing you that wholehearted love for God is not the main driver of your parenting and homeschooling. I encourage you to repent, seek God's forgiveness, and pray for the Holy Spirit to help you to love God with all of your heart.

At the end of the day, we are all unworthy and "unqualified" sinners deeply in need of the grace of God in our lives. And when we know this, and we know God's love for us in spite of it, then we have taken the first step to loving God more. After all, we can only love Him when we know that He first loved us (1 John 4:19). ■



Steve Craig is the Executive Director for CHEC. He and his wife Tara are second generation homeschoolers and have a passion to inspire others toward biblical discipleship in the home. Steve and Tara live in Franktown with their six children: Carson, Christiana, Angelina, Jewel, Ariel, and Michelle. They are excitedly anticipating the birth of their new son, Jackson, in June!



**SPEAKER**

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**Register for the FREE Homeschool Intro Seminar, held on Wednesday, June 15th. 8:00am - 3:00pm.** Learn why homeschooling is such a life-changing educational path, and receive step-by-step help for getting started right here in Colorado.

tures

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# Exclusive INTERVIEW

*with Joni Eareckson Tada*



**FROM THE EDITOR** • As a prelude to her simulcast workshop with live Q&A at the RMHC this June, we are honored to share this CHEC exclusive interview with the world-renowned inspirational Christian speaker, Joni Eareckson Tada.

**Q • WHY WERE YOU INTERESTED IN SPEAKING AT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOMESCHOOL CONFERENCE?**

**A** • I have such admiration and respect for parents and educators in the homeschool movement, especially given the enormous challenges and cultural pressures which young people face today. Our country is in desperate need of young leaders who reflect solid character, integrity, and the desire to make a positive impact in their communities. And so, anything that I can do or say to encourage parents and young people, count me in! One more thing. I also know that many homeschool families include children with disabilities, and so I want to share my thoughts on ministering to this special population.

**Q • WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL OUR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES ABOUT YOUR LIFE TO INSPIRE THEM TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN IN FAITH, WITH COURAGE?**

**A** • Every child has a story, and this means there will be many chapters filled with pain and disappointment. I want to help parents and young people grasp the biblical truth that life is supposed to be difficult. Given that we live in a broken world, God has wired it to be filled with challenges. And, how we approach those hardships can make all the difference. When I broke my neck at the age of 17, I'm grateful that my parents taught me how to steward my suffering well. I pray that as I share my story, families will see how God can use affliction to unite the family unit, rather than splinter it!

**Q • AS A CHRISTIAN LEADER, WHAT DO YOU THINK OUR YOUTH TODAY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BECOMING LEADERS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS IN OUR GLOBAL SOCIETY?**

**A** • When it comes to influencing culture, Jesus used the powerful metaphors of salt (Matthew 5:13) and light (Matthew 5:14). I don't want homeschool youth to shun our culture but engage it. It means making friends with those who do not share your life values, and finding creative, compelling ways to make **your** values attractive to them. Changing a culture is all about relationships, transforming one heart at a time. People in our world may not realize it, but they are hungry for authentic relationships built on trust and respect. Students graduating out of the homeschool movement are ripe to have a huge impact on our culture, whether in their careers, universities, or in their communities.

**Q • WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT CHARACTER TRAITS AND SKILLS YOU HAVE DEVELOPED OVER YOUR LIFETIME OF SERVING CHRIST?**

**A** • There is only one place in the Bible where Jesus described who He is at His core, and it's recorded in Matthew 11:2b (NIV), *learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart*. I believe we are



truly reflecting Christ when our lives reflect humility; that is, a willingness to give credit where credit is due and to look out for others' interests before your own. We also reflect Christ when we demonstrate gentleness; that is, a quickness to resolve conflicts gracefully and mercifully. It seems to me that both qualities — humility and gentleness — show up most often when we serve with happy hearts, for even Jesus came not to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:28). When a young person strives for such character traits, they are definitely on the path to righteousness!

### Q • WHAT IS A FAVORITE SCRIPTURE THAT HAS HELPED YOU STAY STRONG DURING YOUR TOUGHEST BATTLES, AND HOW DID IT GIVE YOU STRENGTH?

A • I have so many favorites that have helped me over the years, but a mainstay is often James 1:12 (NIV), *Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.* Patience may be required during a short season of trials, but perseverance is required when that season stretches far into the future. I have lived nearly 55 years as a quadriplegic. James 1:12 encourages me, for I know that as I persevere, I have the confidence of a 'crown,' and the Bible indicates that crowns represent an increased capacity for joy, worship, and service in heaven.

### Q • WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PRO-LIFE MESSAGE WE CAN SHARE WITH OTHERS?

A • *Let us make man in our image*, God says in Genesis 1:26 (NIV) and, oh, what a beautiful image it is! We reflect God in the way we create beauty, love selflessly, and judge fairly. At Joni and Friends, we want intellectually impaired kids and adults to gain confidence that, despite their challenges, they reflect the awesome God of the universe. However, that you reflect the image of God is a high and glorious truth, but it is not a particularly hopeful one.



John Piper puts it this way, "Every human is made in the image of God, which means that God's enemies are created in his image, unrepentant rebels are created in God's image ... to focus on helping people feel created in God's image is not a saving effort. There is a spectacularly higher, more hopeful message. When we offer Christ, we invite people to be not the created image of God, but the recreated child of God — a new creation in Christ."<sup>1</sup> And so, the most pro-life message we can share is the Gospel.

### Q • WHAT FINAL WORDS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS?

A • Having traveled to 57 countries, I've seen countless disabled people in impoverished places trying desperately to eke out a living. Once when I was in the Philippines during the monsoon, I saw a paralyzed woman drag herself through a muddy street to the back door of a small restaurant. I was told she was hoping to receive leftover food. Our Filipino host shook his head and lamented, "Things shouldn't be this way." On the flight home, I kept praying, "Oh, God, if you would graciously use my life to make a difference, I'm all in!" It is why when it comes to the needy and the afflicted, the Bible constantly uses words like 'rescue,' 'defend,' 'help,' 'speak up for,' and 'care for.' God doesn't want us to simply 'remember the afflicted,' or 'pray for the poor,' although both are important. He calls us to be his hands and feet to actually do something. He calls us to "lift the needy from the ash heap" (Psalm



**GIVEN THAT WE LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD, GOD HAS WIRED IT TO BE FILLED WITH CHALLENGES. HOW WE APPROACH THOSE HARDSHIPS CAN MAKE ALL the difference.**

113:7 NIV). It's what Jesus would do, especially now in a world of pandemics where people with disabilities are at even greater risk. And so, I hope that young people in the homeschool movement might consider careers in disability service, demonstrating Christ in the world of physical therapy, nursing, or special education. It's where the needs are greatest! ■

FOOTNOTE • <sup>1</sup>[desiringgod.org/interviews/how-can-i-serve-my-disabled-friends](https://desiringgod.org/interviews/how-can-i-serve-my-disabled-friends)

Joni Eareckson Tada is the founder and CEO of Joni and Friends, an organization that provides Christian outreach in the disability community. Joni is the author of numerous bestselling books, including *Joni and Ken: An Untold Love Story* and *When God Weeps*. Joni and her husband, Ken, reside in Calabasas, California.



**SPEAKER**

# Precious IN HIS SIGHT

BY ACACIA STRAWSER



Do you ever wonder if homeschool graduates are successful in life as adults? Our Gen 2 column seeks to encourage you that the answer is, “Yes!” We hope you’ll enjoy reading this story of one homeschool graduate’s journey.

**A**s a young lady, have you ever wondered if what you are doing is enough? If the work you accomplished today even mattered? I don’t know how many countless times well-meaning friends, family, or strangers have asked me, “So, what are you doing after high school?” My response was usually, “Well, I’m going to help my family, work part-time with a Christian ministry, help with my dad’s real estate business, serve families in our church with their littles, and volunteer at church and homeschooling events.”

The more people asked and the more I repeated the same answer, it started sounding less and less wonderful. I was tempted to believe that since I’m not getting credit for a job well done or doing the

up-front work where the “special” people are, that my work isn’t important, that it’s just, well ... work.

While I never had a great desire to go to college or have a career, I’ve asked myself similar questions like, “Is this work beneficial?” Yet, as I have thought about my life ahead, I see that what I am doing in these years is very important. Washing dishes, serving a mom with lots of little ones, making a meal, or volunteering in the background at some event is all priceless work! The work that the Lord has set apart for you to do is amazing! God has called us to serve in His Kingdom.

I came across this Bible verse, and though I have read it so many times, the last part stood out to me in a new way. *But let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious* (1 Peter 3:4). Did you catch that? When His daughter is working for Him with a gentle and quiet spirit, it is precious to Him! Being precious to God is much more valuable than man’s praise. Once your focus is off of what man can give you to what God has for you, you can fully pursue it with joy. You don’t need to look for worldly fulfillment on your own. Instead, seek God for what He has for you. He may give you countless opportunities that

are right in front of you or direct you to others not so nearby.

One of those opportunities is to volunteer at the CHEC Homeschool Conference. This is an amazing way to serve and love others! I have volunteered with CHEC for over seven years and learned so many valuable lessons. From working at the customer service desk to getting coffee for the next speaker about to give a talk and everything in between, there are numerous positions available for you to jump in and use the skills that the Lord has given you.

I encourage you to find what the Lord has for you, be it serving a family with young children, cleaning someone’s home, studying and reading to further your education, or volunteering at the homeschool conference! There are so many amazing opportunities that the Lord gives us, and He loves to see His daughters using their gifts as unto Him. Soli Deo Gloria! ■



Acacia Strawser is a homeschool graduate who loves the Lord Jesus. She is the oldest of eight children and lives with her family in Colorado. She invests her time at home, serving her church family, and volunteering for CHEC. Acacia currently serves as Coordinator for both Registration and the Silent Auction at RMHC 2022.



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# FAMILY WORSHIP

The Power Center of the Christian Home

BY ROB RIENOW

PHOTOGRAPH BY ISTOCK

**In the summer of 2004, God brought me to a deep place of brokenness. I had served as a youth pastor for ten years. Amy and I had been married for the same amount of time, and God had blessed us with four children. The problem was that my heart was at work, not at home. My passion was to make disciples of the children and youth at church! But, I had no vision and no plan to disciple my own children. God brought me to repentance, and turned my heart to my most important ministry — leading my family to love and follow God.**

In Matthew 22, Jesus points us to the "first and the greatest commandment," which is found in Deuteronomy 6.

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise (Deuteronomy 6:5-7 ESV).*

Immediately following the Great Commandment, God focuses our attention on family life. He speaks specifically to parents to live out their love for Him by doing all in their power to pass their faith to their children. Are we serious about loving God? Then we must be serious about teaching God's Word diligently to our kids. At the heart of the Great Commandment is family discipleship, with parents being the primary spiritual trainers of their children.

## The Essential Practice of Family Worship

There is a practice which is an essential foundation for the Christian home. It is found in Deuteronomy 6:7.

*[You] shall talk of them when you sit in your house.*

God calls heads of households to bring the family together for what is referred to in Christian history as "family worship." *You shall talk of [the Word of God] when you sit in your house (Deuteronomy 6:7).*

Family worship is the time when a family gathers for prayer, Bible reading, and spiritual conversation. Your family eats physical food together to nourish your bodies. Family worship is a spiritual meal to nourish your souls.

Here are a few practical encouragements to help your family grow in your spiritual life together.

## Just Get Started

While it is great to have a plan for your family worship time, don't let a spirit of perfectionism keep you from praying together and reading God's Word as a family. It's OK if you are not prepared with a specific teaching. It's OK if some family members are out for the evening. If you are stressed or feeling scattered, just invite the family together to read a portion of God's Word and ask if someone would close the day in prayer. Simple family worship is better than none at all.



## The "High-Low" Prayer Approach

Consider using the "high-low" method of prayer. Invite each person in the family to share their "high point" of the day. After people have shared, ask someone to pray and thank God for those good things. Then invite family members to share their "low point" of the day. What was the hardest thing they faced? After sharing, ask someone to pray and lift those difficult things up to the Lord, asking for His grace and strength to face them.

## Avoid the "Bible Class" Trap

One of the common questions we receive is, "How do you do family worship with such a wide range of ages?" Behind this question is the "Bible class" trap. They are asking, "How do you teach content for a 20-year-old and an 8-year-old at the same time?" Family worship is not first and foremost about teaching content. It is coming into the Lord's presence with shared prayer, worship, and time in His Word. We can all pray. We can all read (or hear)

God's Word. Sometimes our conversations tilt more toward older kids. Sometimes they tilt more toward the younger. Sometimes our conversations go nowhere! That is OK. If you get the sense that people are ready to "wrap it up" or "keep it short" — just conclude with a short, warm prayer of blessing, and try again tomorrow.

## Start, or Re-start Your Family Worship Time

It is never too early to start family worship! Do you have a child in the womb? Now is the perfect time to read Scripture to that baby and worship God through singing. Do you have a toddler? This is a vital time to connect your hearts with prayer, singing, and reading God's Word together. Perhaps you have a teenager, and when he or she was younger your spiritual time together as a family was stronger, but now it has fallen by the wayside. Now is the time to restart.

Open your heart to your teen and confess to them that you have let this essential practice slip. Show them the Scripture from Deuteronomy 6. Have a

family conversation about how you can "reboot" your family worship time in a way that would help everyone engage.

Our ministry would like to provide you with a free resource to help your family enjoy growing together through prayer and Scripture. It is a family worship guide through the book of Genesis, and you can get your free copy at [VisionaryFam.com/Grace](http://VisionaryFam.com/Grace). ■



*Dr. Rob Rienow's most important ministry is loving his wife and leading their seven children to know and love God. He serves as the co-founder of Visionary Family Ministries,*

*VisionaryFam.com, and is the author of several books including Visionary Parenting and Healing Family Relationships. The Rienow family lives in West Chicago, IL. We hope our readers will enjoy hearing Rob as a Keynote Speaker at RMHC 2022.*



**SPEAKER**

# Resources for Your Family from CHEC



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# ALL RISE!

## Court is Now in Session

BY THE HONORABLE MICHAEL E. HEGARTY

PHOTOGRAPH BY ISTOCK

**The third branch of our constitutional republic has had a profound impact on American society. Since *Marbury v. Madison*, a United States Supreme Court decision written in 1803 by Chief Justice John Marshall, the principle of judicial review (the power of federal courts to strike down laws and statutes that they find to violate the Constitution of the United States) has profoundly affected the direction of our culture.**

Consider the decisions upholding the “New Deal” legislation in the 1930s which entrenched social welfare in this country; the enforcement of desegregation in the 1950s (due to *Brown v. Board of Education*); the “wall of separation between church and state” doctrine that eliminated prayer in public schools and often pushes religious expression into the corner; the discovery of a constitutional “right of privacy” in *Roe v. Wade* prohibiting many laws that regulated abortion; the affirmation of an individual’s right to bear arms; and on and on. Our daily lives are significantly affected by judicial decisions.

Believing that the church cannot abandon this field at the risk of becoming irrelevant in the marketplace of ideas, in 2016 I started a program that introduces homeschool students to the practice of law and gives them a unique opportunity to present their skills against the most prestigious schools in the state. For many years, the Colorado Bar Association (CBA) (the governing body for licensed attorneys in the state) had sponsored an annual mock trial competition for Colorado high schools. This endeavor involves a team working on an actual lawsuit (with facts and names changed to suit its use by teenagers) and presenting the case at a jury trial before a real

judge, competing against other high school teams. Meanwhile, I had also participated in the Classical Conversation (CC) annual Challenge B mock trial competition for eighth graders. Local (and even regional) CC groups came to my courtroom to perform their case, watched by parents, siblings, grandparents, and others. I also began holding a yearly mock trial “boot camp” to help equip parents to teach their eighth graders the basics of trial practice.

Against this backdrop, it dawned on me that these two programs (CC and the CBA competition) could be melded to create a homeschool team that would compete against the best schools in the state of Colorado, both public and private. The CBA competition takes a real life fact situation (sometimes criminal, sometimes civil) and creates a “case problem” presented in the form of a packet of materials issued annually on November 1. The packet includes a summary of the case, witness statements for six witnesses (both fact and expert), jury instructions, trial exhibits, and all the information necessary for presenting a real case in a real courtroom. Each team must prepare to present both sides of the case problem (prosecution and defense in criminal cases, plaintiff and defendant in civil cases). Each trial requires three attorneys and



three witnesses per side, so the number of team members can range from six to twelve.

Therefore, in 2016, under the umbrella of Faith Christian High School (FCHS) in Arvada, I started a team of mixed FCHS and homeschool students. The CBA competition draws approximately 150 schools statewide annually. Both at the regional and state rounds, the team presents a complete trial four times (morning and afternoon on a Friday and Saturday) in a real courthouse. That first year, our team finished third in the regional and advanced to the state, finishing in the top ten.

As the years progressed, the team became more of a homeschool team, and this year was composed entirely of homeschoolers who lived anywhere from Parker to Erie to Evergreen. In its six years, the team has finished first in Jefferson County three times, and third three times, advancing to the state championships every year and almost always finishing in the top ten in the state. Our homeschool team has achieved numerous individual awards at regional and state, including twice winning the “top attorney in the state” and twice the “top witness in the state” awards. Some of those winners are on their path to law school right now.

The actual mechanics of the trials include opening statements by both sides, the plaintiff/prosecution calling three witnesses, involving the introduction of trial exhibits and cross examinations by the opposing side, the defense calling their three witnesses, and closing arguments. To present an entire trial requires about two and a half hours, and the attorneys must be prepared to make or defend numerous evidentiary objections during the trial. Thinking on your feet is a hallmark of the competitions. The competitors (both attorneys and witnesses) must learn their role and compete without notes.

The time commitment is not insignificant. Practices are typically in the downtown Denver (federal courthouse) and Arvada areas. Each year beginning in September, I instruct the team once or twice a week on the rules of evidence. Indeed, by the time we compete in February for the regionals (state championships are in March), the team often knows the



“THE KNOWLEDGE OF CIVICS, LAW, AND JUSTICE THAT COMES FROM THE MOCK COURTROOM EXPERIENCE IS CRUCIAL FOR OUR SOCIETY TO *remain strong* UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS LAND.”

rules of evidence better than most lawyers who appear before me in court. When the “case” problem comes out November 1, we break it down, study it from all angles, and begin to assign and learn roles. Then we put the entire package together and learn courtroom procedure and etiquette, including how to speak to the judge, examine and cross examine a witness, present credible and dramatic testimony as witnesses, intelligently and zealously address objections to evidence, effectively present argument to the jury, and conduct oneself as a professional in the solemn setting of a courtroom. The educational instruction is equivalent to a doctorate level course. By the time competition arrives, the team is truly something to behold.

My goal in the coaching of mock trial is manifold. I want to introduce exceptional homeschool students to the practice of law, including common law,

statutory, and constitutional principles; equip them to be effective advocates for truth and righteousness; open an avenue to showcase their skills against organized schools (an opportunity that may be unique in the state); and prepare them to make a difference in the world. This is the first and only homeschool team (of which I am aware) in the history of the CBA Mock Trial competition.

After qualifying in regionals, the team finished the state tournament with a record of 3-1, losing by only three points to Niwot (308 to 305) on a split ballot. They finished within the top 6 in a field of 20 teams. Mock trial attorney Rachel Kidder received awards for #2 best closing argument, #2 best defense attorney, and #3 best attorney overall.

Because we can field multiple teams, there is always room for more talent. I encourage your family to consider mock trial competition as a way for one or more of your students to become leaders of their generation. The knowledge of civics, law, and justice that comes from the mock courtroom experience is crucial for our society to remain vital and strong under the laws of this land. Men and women of Christian faith can and should stand together for the truth of God and His Word in the public square.

A description of the CBA Mock Trial program can be found at [ColoradoHighSchoolMockTrial.com](http://ColoradoHighSchoolMockTrial.com). ■

*The Honorable Michael E. Hegarty is a United States Magistrate Judge in Colorado's federal courts. He and his wife Cathy homeschooled their eleven children from their kitchen table in Arvada, where they have resided for more than thirty years. Of their twelve (and counting!) grandchildren, those who are of school-age continue this legacy. Judge Hegarty speaks regularly to homeschool groups about the courts, civics, government, and the importance of maintaining your faith in your professional life. The comments in this article are those of Judge Hegarty and not the United States Courts. You can contact Judge Hegarty at [quiverfull1@msn.com](mailto:quiverfull1@msn.com).*

*Photo: Left to right, Landon Stucky, Elizabeth Gray, Kenya David, Violet Thompson, Emma Helgesen, Esther Phan, Elizabeth Peterson, Rachel Kidder, Magistrate Judge Michael E. Hegarty (coach).*

BY MARCIA WASHBURN

# TEACHING *Young Children*

PART 2

PHOTOGRAPHY BY UNSPLASH

In Part 1 of "Teaching Young Children" (see my article in the last issue<sup>1</sup>), we discussed basic routines, a philosophy for teaching the early grades, and some language building activities leading to actual reading. This article will continue with activities for other subject areas.

## *Math Activities*

- 1** Use lots of counting activities. Make a small pile of beans. Count how many there are. Take two away; how many are left? Count to find out. Add one bean. How many are there all together? Let your child count to find out.
- 2** Make a counting game. Draw a slice of watermelon on each of ten index cards. Write one number (1–10) on each card. Draw the same number of seeds on the watermelon picture. Give your child a bottle of exactly 55 watermelon seeds. Have him match one seed to each seed in the picture, counting aloud as he goes. Point out the number you've written at the bottom. If he matches them all correctly he will use exactly 55 seeds. Later, use a watermelon picture with no seeds drawn on it and let him place the number of seeds you tell him by counting only, instead of matching.
- 3** Use cotton balls in an empty egg carton for counting, adding, subtracting, and counting by twos. The advantage of cotton balls: they don't make noise or roll away when they're dropped!
- 4** Let your child help you in the kitchen. Have them experiment to find how many half-cups are in a cup, how many teaspoons are in a tablespoon, etc.
- 5** When you shop for groceries, teach your child how to choose good produce. Explain why you buy things on sale. Help them to understand that we must pay money before we can take something out of the store; let them hand the clerk the money. Play store at home using empty or full cans and boxes of food. Use prices your child can understand; if they can only count by ones, use only pennies for prices. After they can count by fives, they can use nickels. When your child can count by tens, they will be ready for dimes. If you have toddlers in the house, be careful that small objects like coins don't get into their hands or mouths!
- 6** Use a toy clock to teach how to tell time, or make your own clock with a paper plate, two construction paper hands, and a brad fastener. Telling time is a complex task and most children are not ready for it until about second grade. Instead of counting by tens to one hundred, it requires counting by fives up to sixty. At first teach only the hours (e.g. 2:00)



and use words like “It’s a little before (or after) 2:00.” Later use phrases like “It’s half way past 2:00.” Teach your child to say the number that the little hand points at first. Take it slowly; this is often a year-long project.

**7** For fun, save the next round cardboard from your frozen pizza to make a pizza wheel. Divide it into pie-shaped sections with a marking pen and write a single digit number in each section. Insert a string through a hole in the middle and tie a big knot on the bottom side. Holding the string, spin the pizza wheel. Your child grabs the wheel to stop it. He must identify the number in the section he grabs. Later, if you’re working on “twos,” have them add two to whatever number they grab. An older child can multiply by two instead, making this a multi-grade activity. This can be adapted for subtraction and multiplication, as well as identifying letters of the alphabet.

## Science Activities

**1** Go for a nature walk around your yard or at the park. Set a goal for yourselves. (“Let’s try to find ten different kinds of leaves today.”) When you find something of interest, stop and try to learn as much as you can by observing it (e.g. an ant pile or animal tracks). Or mark off a one-foot square area to study for five minutes; you will see more than you ever imagined as you quietly study it. A magnifying glass is a useful tool. When you go to the library, find more information about your subject.

**2** Learn how seeds grow. Place several uncooked dry beans (pinto or lima) inside a wet paper towel; keep it damp. They will sprout in a few days. You can put the seedlings in dirt in a disposable cup and grow some nice little plants. Teach your child that plants need minerals (from the soil), air, water, and sunshine to grow. Put one plant in a dark place for a few days to find out what happens if it doesn’t get sunshine. Stop watering one plant to see what happens if it doesn’t get

water. Spread Vaseline on the leaves of one plant to block out the air to find out what happens if the plant can’t breathe. Take one plant out of the dirt; it will stop growing after it has used up all the minerals in the seed. Checking the plants will become a favorite daily activity. Have them tell you what to write and/or draw in their science notebook about their observations; watching you write down their words will be an important learning activity for reading and writing, too.

**3** Talk about the five senses and use them to learn new things. Taste several liquids without seeing them first (milk, orange juice, water, etc.) and try to identify them. Put items in a sack and see if your child can identify them by touch only. Have them smell several foods and try to identify them without seeing them. Stir a spoon of sugar into one glass of water, a spoon of salt into another, and nothing into the third glass. Have them try to tell what they will taste like by looking only, then by smelling, then by tasting.

**4** Have your child lie down on a large sheet of freezer paper; trace around their entire body. Have them tell you what labels to put on the different parts of their body (arm, leg, etc.). Let them draw on their eyes, nose, mouth, etc. One of our boys, at age six, insisted on drawing in his liver, a body part we had not even discussed. He is a physician today! Use Psalm 139 to teach them that they were specially made by God.

**5** Each day, check the weather. Draw symbols for sunshine, clouds, rain, or snow on a calendar. Talk about the seasons. What is the weather like in summer? Winter? Fall? Spring? What clothes do we wear then? What activities do we do? What foods do we eat only during certain seasons?

“Teach your children  
HOW SEEDS GROW.  
YOU CAN PUT THE  
SEEDLINGS IN DIRT  
IN A DISPOSABLE CUP  
AND GROW SOME  
LITTLE PLANTS.  
TEACH YOUR CHILD  
THAT PLANTS NEED  
MINERALS, AIR,  
WATER, AND  
sunshine to grow.”

Teaching young children is one of the most challenging yet rewarding times in a parent’s life. Their exuberance, excitement, and enthusiasm for life, learning, and love are unmatched. How blessed we are as homeschoolers to get to see the “light bulbs” come on as our little ones begin learning to read and write, sing and dance, work and pray! ■

FOOTNOTE • '2022 Volume 1 (February); <https://CHEC.org/subscribe/the-homeschool-update/>



© 2002–2022 by Marcia K. Washburn. Marcia homeschooled five sons for nineteen years. At RMHC, she will be presenting workshops on teaching hands-on math and home business

management. For more math and science ideas, plus literature, history, geography, music, art, and physical education, see Marcia’s book, *Activity Days for Homeschool Groups and Families*. It is available at [MarciaWashburn.com](http://MarciaWashburn.com).



**SPEAKER**

# PRESCRIPTIONS for Dads

BY J. AARON GRUBEN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY UNSPLASH

***The living, the living  
man, he shall praise  
You, as I do this day; the  
father shall make known  
Your truth to the children  
(Isaiah 38:19 NKJV).***

Puritan thinker George Swinnock wrote, "Some parents, like Eli, bring up their children to bring down their house."<sup>1</sup> So monumentally important is the office of fatherhood, that it should not surprise us to find it replete with a labyrinth of ways to fail.

Homeschool fathers need to spend more time with their children and bear the great weight of responsibility for their children's development and training. From my own journey helping teach my kids, I have noticed four broad weaknesses we dads can tend toward.

## 1. Distractions

Every busy guy knows there is an army of distractions and duties pulling him away from the critical job of training his kids. It's too easy to leave the work to your wife or ignore it.

**Remedy:** Motivation. Remember how vital a task this is. Years from now you won't care if you got that promotion or went to that game, but you'll weep fat tears over the times you could have taught your kids. Take charge, make sure schoolwork happens, keep your children's discipleship on point.

## 2. Spiritual neglect

Even if your children's grades and test scores qualify them to be sent to a top tier university, you risk sending their souls to hell if you have neglected their spiritual training. Or less dramatically, you could set them up for a lifetime of clever failures from a systemic lack of wisdom. Your kids need so much more than academics! They need you to teach them how to live life. They need you to introduce them to Christ.

“YOUR KIDS  
NEED SO  
MUCH MORE  
THAN ACADEMICS!  
THEY NEED YOU  
TO TEACH THEM  
*how to live.*  
THEY NEED YOU TO  
INTRODUCE THEM  
*to Christ.*”

**Remedy:** Spiritual attention. Take your family to church regularly, carve out time for family devotions, and keep yourself in good spiritual condition. A man whose heart is drifting from God is not a man who can lead his children to Him.

Likewise, we can fail by taking our children's training too seriously in these two problem areas:



### 3. Burnout

A strenuous pace may be good sometimes for academics, but it can make our children crazy and resentful.

**Remedy:** Free time. Make free time! Become an expert at time management and take time to have fun and learn in ways outside a textbook.

### 4. Anger

This can become a problem when we get too intense. Already kids have an innate ability to push a father's buttons, and it's even easier to lash out at children who are lazy in school or don't seem to value the wisdom we offer.

**Remedy:** Patience. Yes, harder said than done, but always patience. Try not to expect more than they can do. Slow down and make time to really get to know your kids by doing life with them.

Though we often fail, we have remedies, the greatest of which is love. Care deeply about your children and the rest will likely follow. Treasure these infinitely valuable, eternal souls so much that you covet every minute you have with them. ■

*FOOTNOTE • <sup>1</sup>Thomas, I.D.E. Editor. A Puritan Golden Treasury. The Banner of Truth and Trust. BannerofTruth.org. Edinburgh, UK. 2011. p. 204.*



J. Aaron Gruben is a Texas veterinarian, dad of six, and author of varied literature genres, including chivalry studies, time travel novels, and more. Aaron travels to conventions with Post Tenebras Lux Books, a company that strives to improve lives and revitalize old truths through quality Christian stories and studies. You can learn more about his work at [NMGrubens.com](http://NMGrubens.com), and email him at [contact@posttenebrasluxbooks.com](mailto:contact@posttenebrasluxbooks.com).



**SPEAKER**

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# Creating a Family *Homeschool* BLUEPRINT

BY YVONNE STRACHAN

**W**hen homeschool moms get together, a depth of emotion is released and conversations delve into topics very close to their hearts. Recently, I was in the midst of a profound conversation with another homeschool mom when laughter turned to silence and tears unexpectedly filled her eyes.

I knew this emotion all too well and, from experience, I knew that her tears formed from deep love for her child. My response? A big hug and a listening ear.

With the reassurance that her emotions were valued, she began to reveal her heart.

Whisperings of overwhelmed and fragmented aspirations filled the room. The seal of self-doubt and uncertainty were evident as she spoke.

***"I don't know what to do or even if I should keep homeschooling."***

As her words echoed in my head, I recalled a time long past when I spoke that same phrase to my husband. You see, we have a child with special needs, and after a few years of homeschooling her, I started to doubt my abilities. As my husband and I discussed the possibility of enrolling her in school, I only became more distraught. But one night that all changed. Drowning in a mess of tears, I tucked my child into bed. I suddenly realized that I was no longer worried about my own insecurities. I was worried that my child wouldn't be reassured of her value in Jesus Christ if we sent her to school. God's message to me was clear: I had to keep homeschooling!

Insecurities are common among homeschool parents, but what if I told you that you can help prevent self-doubt by having a family discussion on the topics outlined below? In the end, you will have

created a blueprint for a fulfilling and memorable homeschool experience that you can return to when the insecurities threaten to surface.

## **Discuss your motivations.**

Given that each family has unique dynamics and circumstances, it is important to write a personalized list of your own family's motivations to homeschool. As you discuss your reasons for homeschooling with your family, you will gain insight into your family's thoughts, stimulating discussion and giving you the opportunity to answer questions that arise.

## **Discuss the value of virtuous character and include those lessons in your homeschool plan.**

Virtuous people are loving, honest, respectful, diligent, humble, grateful, and forgiving. They don't bend to impulses or selfish desires, but instead act according to values and principles. When your child exhibits these virtuous qualities, he invites trust and respect. When you work with your child, keep these virtues in mind, making every effort to cultivate them.



## Discuss the benefits of learning.

With expansion of knowledge, your child will experience increased ways in which he can serve. Have a discussion with your child about the types of jobs he can get with various levels of education. Chat about what he might need to do to serve in the military, get into college, or further a career.

## Discuss each family member's vision for your homeschool.

Children take better ownership of their learning when they are part of the planning. Furthermore, when they delve into something that interests them, their studies become more relevant. List ideas your family would like to incorporate in your homeschool. Then, separate them into groups and summarize them. Here is an example:

- Include family Bible study.
- Include field trips for first-hand experience.
- Include entrepreneurial experience.
- Include practical life skills.
- Include a solid foundation of academic courses.
- Include interest-related extracurricular activities that will sharpen their gifts.

## Discuss what life might be like after homeschooling.

What interests, skills, and gifts does your child have? How might your child contribute to the community as an adult? Keep in mind that as you help your child identify and sharpen his gifts, you are preparing him to thrive the way God made him, with the ability to pair his knowledge and gifts with compassion as he serves others throughout his personal and professional life.

## Summarize your discussion topics.

Now it is time to narrow down key points from your conversations and make a homeschool blueprint. Refer to this blueprint as you make decisions related to coursework, extracurricular activities, and commitments during each homeschool season (and as self-doubt tries to discourage you).

Here is an example of my family's homeschool blueprint:



During your yearly discussions, much of your blueprint will be reiterated. But, as family dynamics and circumstances change, revisiting these topics will help you easily make updates. This personalized homeschool blueprint will keep you all on the same page, allowing you to better work together in support of each other. Your blueprint will help you stay better focused on what matters to you and your family. It will help you lead a more purposeful homeschool. And best of all, it will help keep insecurities at bay. You have created a blueprint for a fulfilling and memorable homeschool experience! ■



*With over twelve years of experience homeschooling five children, including a child with special needs, while dealing with chronic illness, working, consulting, and teaching, Yvonne Strachan understands the concerns and needs facing homeschool families. She provides encouragement and resources through her book, *Inspirational Homeschooling*, social media, and website, [InspirationalHomeschooling.com](http://InspirationalHomeschooling.com).*



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## *Encouragement*

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

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Conference Extras for the Family



## *Training*

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

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Full Conference Schedule



## *Resources*

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

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Exhibit Hall Shopping

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# CONFERENCE EXTRAS FOR THE

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After the Exhibit Hall closes on Friday evening, stay for a memorable night of fun! While mom steals away for a special FREE pampering event just for ladies, Dad gets to have fun with the kids and experience a Night of Adventure!



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*All activities are available as an add-on to your full family conference pass when you register. Spots are limited!*

### ► Thursday

- Artistic Adventures 1 (Creating A Masterpiece) — \$8/Student ages 6+
- What is a Leader? and Tools for Leadership (Paul Hastings) — Free/Student ages 13+
- Music Makers (Wonder) — \$5/Student ages 4-7
- CHEC out the Wildlife: Animal Classification (Nature's Educator) — \$5/Student ages 6+

### ► Friday

- Walk thru the Bible OT Live (Luke McMeans) — \$10/Student ages 6-12
- Story Time with *Lucy the Ladybug* (Kayla White) — Free/Student ages 4-7
- Calling God's Storytellers Interactive Workshop (Kenny Sargent) — Free/Student ages 13+

### ► Saturday

- Artistic Adventures 2 (Creating A Masterpiece) — \$8/Student ages 10+
- The 10 Commandments of Chivalry (J. Aaron Gruben) — \$5/Student ages 10+
- Story Time with *Melody the Monarch* (Kayla White) — Free/Student ages 4-7
- Science of the Human Body: All About the Eye (Brandee Gillham) — \$15/Student ages 8-12 (with accompanying adult) or 13+ (alone)



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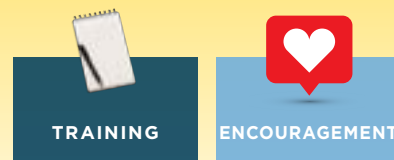
**Friday: 10am to 6:30pm**

**Saturday: 10am to 4:30pm**

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# Keynote SPEAKERS



## Ken Ham

Answers in Genesis | [AnswersinGenesis.org](http://AnswersinGenesis.org)

The CEO and founder of Answers in Genesis-US, the highly acclaimed Creation Museum, and the world-renowned Ark Encounter, Ken Ham is the author of more than 30 books and an in-demand Christian speaker.

Ken's emphasis is on the relevance and authority of the book of Genesis to the life of the average Christian, and how compromise on Genesis has opened a dangerous door regarding how the culture and church view biblical authority. Ken and his wife, Mally, reside in northern Kentucky. They have five children and 18 grandchildren.

- ▶ **The Relevance of Genesis and the Christian Worldview**
- ▶ **Parenting Kids to Face Giants**



## Allie Beth Stuckey

The Relatable Podcast | [AllieBethStuckey.com](http://AllieBethStuckey.com)

Allie Stuckey is the host of the podcast, "Relatable," where she breaks down the latest in culture, news and politics from a Christian, conservative perspective. She is a frequent guest on Fox News, contributor to World Magazine, writer and the author of *You're Not Enough (and that's okay)*. In addition to podcasting, writing, and making the occasional satirical video, Allie's goal is to help young women think critically and biblically about the world around us. Allie and her husband, Tim, live in Texas and have two young children.

- ▶ **Homeschooling with Courage & Clarity in an Age of Cowardice & Confusion**
- ▶ **How to Escape the Culture of Self-Love**
- ▶ **Analyzing Culture, News & Politics from a Biblically Reformed, Conservative Perspective – Q&A**



## Dr. Rob Rienow

Visionary Family Ministries | [VisionaryFam.com](http://VisionaryFam.com)

Dr. Rob Rienow's most important ministry is loving his wife Amy, and partnering with her to help their seven children follow Jesus. He and Amy are co-founders of Visionary Family Ministries, whose mission is to build the Church through a global reformation of family discipleship. He trains family ministry leaders around the world and is the author of the new book *Visionary Church: How Your Church Can Strengthen Families*. When Rob is not fishing for men he enjoys fishing for fish.

- ▶ **Parenting Through Spiritual Struggle**
- ▶ **Helping Siblings Become Best Friends in Christ – Casting Christian Vision and Practical Principles for Sibling Relationships**
- ▶ **Your Family and God's Plan for the World**
- ▶ **The Power of Family Worship – How to Pray and Read the Bible as a Family Without Killing Each Other**
- ▶ **Parenting Priorities in Challenging Times**



## Joni Eareckson Tada

Joni & Friends | [JoniandFriends.org](http://JoniandFriends.org)

Joni Eareckson Tada is founder and CEO of Joni and Friends, an organization that accelerates Christian outreach in the disability community. Joni and Friends provides practical support and spiritual help to special needs families worldwide. Joni is the author of numerous bestselling books, including *Joni and Ken: An Untold Love Story*, *Diamonds in the Dust*, and the Gold Medallion Award-winning *When God Weeps*. Joni and her husband, Ken, reside in Calabasas, CA.

- ▶ **When Life Is Hard – Simulcast Workshop – LIVE! Q&A**

**Special Simulcast Session**

# Workshop **SPEAKERS**

## Chuck Black

Perfect Praise Publishing | [Perfect-Praise.com](http://Perfect-Praise.com)

- ▶ The Battle Within: Understanding The Raging War Between Spirit and Flesh and How To Live In Victory
- ▶ The Power Of Fiction: Influencing The Hearts of Our Youth
- ▶ The Revelation Generation: Preparing Your Children For The Days To Come
- ▶ Defending Your Faith: Building On The Cornerstone of Jesus Christ



## Dell Cook

Worldview Academy | [Worldview.org](http://Worldview.org)

- ▶ The Excellent Life
- ▶ Christian Ethics
- ▶ The Problem of Pain



## Stephanie Buckwalter

Art of Special Needs Parenting | [ArtOfSpecialNeedsParenting.com](http://ArtOfSpecialNeedsParenting.com)

- ▶ Teaching Your Special Needs Child with an Eye on the Future
- ▶ 5 Make or Break Issues Encountered When Homeschooling a Special Needs Child
- ▶ Focusing on the 3 N's for Better Homeschool Outcomes



## Steve Craig

Christian Home Educators of Colorado | [CHEC.org](http://CHEC.org)

- ▶ New to Homeschool Seminar — How to Homeschool Legally in Colorado



## Davis Carman

Apologia | [Apologia.com](http://Apologia.com)

- ▶ Exploring Creation
- ▶ Homeschool Leaders Forum Luncheon (by invitation only)
- ▶ Radically Intentional Parenting
- ▶ Praise Him in the Storm



## Karen DeBeus

Simply Living For Him | [SimplyLivingforHim.com](http://SimplyLivingforHim.com)

- ▶ 10 Things Every New Homeschooler Must Know
- ▶ A Firm Foundation: Using The Bible In Daily Child Training
- ▶ Bible-Based Homeschooling: How We Used the Bible As Our Main Textbook For One Year



## Rachael Carman

Apologia/Rachael Carman | [RachaelCarman.com](http://RachaelCarman.com)

- ▶ How to Die to Yourself and Live to Tell About it
- ▶ Seven Simple Steps to Sanity
- ▶ Mom's Night Out — An Evening of Real Refreshment
- ▶ Pace vs. Perseverance
- ▶ Family Reading Time



## Mike Donnelly

Home School Legal Defense Association | [HSLDA.org](http://HSLDA.org)

- ▶ Grades and Graduation: Do These Belong in a Homeschool?
- ▶ Juggling on a Tightrope



## Andrea Elston

Shine-A-Light Press | [ShineALightCorp.com](http://ShineALightCorp.com)

- ▶ Beyond Book Reports: Integrating Literature to Enhance Learning For Upper Elementary Students



## Michelle Christensen

Granny's Guidance | [GrannysGuidance.wixsite.com/website](http://GrannysGuidance.wixsite.com/website)

- ▶ A Home of Hospitality
- ▶ Your Race Your Pace
- ▶ Mornings Only; Home School in 4 Hours/Day



## J. Aaron Gruben

Post Tenebras Lux Books | [PostTenebrasLuxBooks.com](http://PostTenebrasLuxBooks.com)

- ▶ So, You Want to Be a Veterinarian?
- ▶ The 10 Commandments of Christian Servanthood — Youth Activity







TRAINING



ENCOURAGEMENT

## Paul Hastings

PaulHastings.me | CompelledPodcast.com

- ▶ What is a Leader? — and Tools for Leadership — Youth Activity
- ▶ Entrepreneurship 101
- ▶ A Homeschooler's Guide to Political Involvement



## Amber O'Neal Johnston

Heritage Mom | HeritageMom.com

- ▶ Books As Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors
- ▶ Worldschooling: Taking The Show On The Road
- ▶ Sparking Curiosity and Delight in Childhood



## Susan J. Heck

With the Master | WiththeMaster.org

- ▶ To Plan or Not To Plan
- ▶ Scripture Memory
- ▶ What Will You Wear Today?
- ▶ What to Flee From, What to Run to, What to Fight For



## Brian Mariani

Alpha Omega Institute | DiscoverCreation.org

- ▶ Proving God and the Bible
- ▶ Astronomy: The Heavens Declare The Glory of God!



## Brandi Huerta

RickThomas.Net | RickThomas.net/author/brandi-huerta/

- ▶ Redeeming the Mother / Daughter Relationship



## Carolyn Martin

Christian Home Educators of Colorado | CHEC.org

- ▶ "I'm From The Government, And I'm Here to Help!"



## Danny Huerta

Focus on the Family | FocusontheFamily.com

- ▶ The Beauty and Sacredness of Sexuality — Teaching Your Teen from a Biblical Perspective
- ▶ Navigating Personality Differences in Your Home
- ▶ Cultivating a Mentally Healthy Home
- ▶ Raising Contributors Rather than Consumers in God's Kingdom
- ▶ Conquering Common Parenting Challenges with the 7 Traits of Effective Parenting



## Steve Maxwell

Titus 2 | Titus2.com

- ▶ A Homeschool Dad's Loving Leadership
- ▶ Preparing Sons Who Can Provide for a Family
- ▶ Keeping Our Children's Hearts: A Parent's Highest Priority (Q&A with Teri)



## Teri Maxwell

Titus 2 | Titus2.com

- ▶ Keeping Our Children's Hearts: A Parent's Highest Priority (Q&A with Steve)
- ▶ Help for the Time-Pressured Mom
- ▶ The Family Chore Team: Using Chores to Facilitate Homeschooling



## La Nissir James

HSLDA | LanissirJames.com

- ▶ Homeschooling Through Highschool — You Got This
- ▶ Developing a Plan for High School: Sample Four-Year Plans
- ▶ Charting Your Way Through High School For College, Career, or Military
- ▶ The College Admissions Process: The Homeschooled Student's Guide
- ▶ Essential Skills For Successful Teens: Study and Time Management



# Workshop SPEAKERS

## Shari McMinn

Christian Home Educators of Colorado | [CHEC.org](http://CHEC.org)

- ▶ New to Homeschool Seminar — How to Actually Homeschool, Nuts & Bolts 1 and 2
- ▶ Homeschooling Your Unique Child: Adopted, Gifted, Special Needs, and Struggling Learner



## Peggy Ployhar

SPED Homeschool | [SpedHomeschool.com](http://SpedHomeschool.com)

- ▶ Shedding Light On Depression
- ▶ Flipping Special Needs Homeschooling
- ▶ Incorporating Mom-Care Into Your Homeschooling Schedule
- ▶ An Eclectic Approach To Homeschooling Charlotte Mason
- ▶ Homeschooling Special Education High School



## Bridget Mosely

MasterBooks | [MasterBooks/Wozabrain.com](http://MasterBooks/Wozabrain.com)

- ▶ Overcoming Reading Challenges



## Michelle Ross

COSMO | [CosmoTogether.com](http://CosmoTogether.com)

- ▶ Teens and Tech



## Bradley Pierce

Heritage Defense | [HeritageDefense.org](http://HeritageDefense.org)

- ▶ Vaccine Mandates for Homeschool Children
- ▶ 8 Laws Every Colorado Parent Should Know





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Turning Point

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offers program guides,  
advertiser pages, podcasts  
and much more!











TRAINING



ENCOURAGEMENT

## Lisa Schmidt

Association of Certified Biblical Counselors | [BiblicalCounseling.com](http://BiblicalCounseling.com)

- ▶ Responding Biblically to Anger
- ▶ The Proverbs 31 Woman — Is She Relevant for Today?
- ▶ Responding Biblically to Fear, Worry, and Anxiety



## Mike Snavelly

Mission Imperative | [MissionImperative.org](http://MissionImperative.org)

- ▶ The Horror of the Flood
- ▶ Night of Adventure — The Hunter and the Hunted
- ▶ The Stricken Earth
- ▶ The Mystery of the Dinosaurs



## Yvonne Strachan

Homeworks by Precept | [HomeworksbyPrecept.com](http://HomeworksbyPrecept.com)

- ▶ Identifying and Adapting to the Challenge of Homeschooling



## Kevin Swanson

Generations | [Generations.org](http://Generations.org)

- ▶ New to Homeschool Seminar — Foundational Principles and Vision for Homeschooling
- ▶ A Biblical Worldview for History
- ▶ The Homeschool Highschool
- ▶ Faith of Our Founding Fathers
- ▶ Making Math and Science Meaningful



## Justina Thurston

Jus' Classical | [JusClassical.com](http://JusClassical.com)

- ▶ The Importance of Including Fine Arts in Homeschooling



## Marcia Washburn

Building Tomorrow's Generation | [MarciaWashburn.com](http://MarciaWashburn.com)

- ▶ Hands-on Math Activities
- ▶ Managing a Business While Managing Your Home



## Brook Wayne

Family Renewal | [FamilyRenewal.org](http://FamilyRenewal.org)

- ▶ Handfuls of Treasure: Embracing Busy Family Life
- ▶ Encouragement For Young Moms
- ▶ Choosing Your Homeschool Style



## Israel Wayne

Family Renewal | [FamilyRenewal.org](http://FamilyRenewal.org)

- ▶ The Difference Between Schooling and Education
- ▶ Influence vs. Control: How To Best Motivate Your Child
- ▶ Transform Learning Through The Art of Questions
- ▶ Avoiding and Recovering from Homeschool Mistakes
- ▶ A Biblical Worldview of Economics
- ▶ What to Know about Social Justice and Biblical Justice



## Todd Wilson

Familyman Ministries | [FamilymanWeb.com](http://FamilymanWeb.com)

- ▶ Taming the Techno Beast
- ▶ Every Dad a Homeschooling Dad
- ▶ An Unbeatable Homeschool Team
- ▶ Father/Son Lunch: Raising Dangerous Sons in a Safe and Mediocre World
- ▶ 10 Things You Need to Teach Your Daughter Before She Graduates



## Deborah Wuehler

The Old Schoolhouse | [TheOldSchoolhouse.com](http://TheOldSchoolhouse.com)

- ▶ Education: Why the Teacher Should be YOU!
- ▶ Womanhood and Discipleship: Our Influence and Ministry



# VOLUNTEER *opportunities*

## Did you know it takes more than 200 volunteers to run the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference?

You're invited to use your talents and gifts to help other families become better equipped to homeschool. Our volunteer program is super simple — sign up, get trained, have fun, and still stay focused on the resources, training, and encouragement that you are looking for from the conference! No prior experience is needed.

## *Choose From 6 Areas to Serve...*

1

### **PRE-CONFERENCE Used Curriculum Sale**

Held on Wednesday, before the conference; position is for adults and students age 12 and over. **Benefits:** Priority Early Shopping Time & Additional Commission for Seller

2

### **Tabernacle Set-Up**

Positions are for adults and students age 12 and over. Volunteers are needed on Tuesday and Wednesday, before the conference, and Monday after the conference.

3

### **Workshop Moderators**

Position is for adults over 18; choose the sessions you're interested in to greet the speaker, introduce them at the beginning of the session, distribute handouts and surveys, and maintain order.\*

4

### **Children's & Youth Features**

Positions are for adults and students ages 13 and older; programs are run by professionals, but volunteers are needed to help activities run smoothly.\*

5

### **Registration & Information Support**

Positions are for adults and students ages 13+; help out with greeting new people, assisting with check-in, distributing programs, and other on-call needs.\*

6

### **Facility & Exhibit Hall Support**

Positions are for adults and students ages 15+; help out in various ways such as assisting with parking, directing foot traffic, serving in the Exhibit Hall, and other on-call needs.\*

## *Benefits*

Volunteers who serve for at least 4 hours receive their choice of one of three benefit options. (You may sign up for multiple 4-hour shifts and receive one option per shift.)

*\*Must be registered for the full conference*

- 1 A \$20 discount on the purchase of a full conference recording set (1 per volunteer)
- 2 OR an \$8 gift certificate for use in the exhibit hall (during open hours only)
- 3 OR a \$5 food voucher to be used in the concession area of the exhibit hall

## *Sign up at*

**RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com/volunteer**

## *Then get trained and have fun!*



# GENERAL SESSIONS & workshops



## GET TRAINING & ENCOURAGEMENT FROM WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Our workshops will not only inspire you but also give you the confidence and tools to make successful homeschooling happen!

### ▶ WORKSHOP CATEGORIES

Workshop categories are assigned to each session to give you a quick preview of the content and help you narrow down your interests.

- **Biblical Worldview**
- **Family Discipleship**
- **Homeschool How-To's**

### ▶ WORKSHOP TYPES

Workshop types are varied to bring you fresh ways to learn and leave with valuable training:

- **Traditional** 50 minutes with a featured speaker.
- **Homeschool Hacks** Participants will receive specific strategies that address common challenges homeschool parents/families face in managing life.
- **Interactive** A workshop designed to get your questions answered. Each Interactive workshop will have a minimum of 20 minutes for you to ask the speaker specific questions after a their talk.

### ▶ WORKSHOP TRACKS

Workshop tracks are dedicated sessions that focus on a specific topic.

- **Unique Learner** Learn skills to help you help your children to be the best they can be and reach their full potential!
- **High School & Beyond** For current or soon-to-be high school students and parents, this track will help you plan and execute a high-quality high school career that launches students into next steps.
- **New to Homeschool** Teachings designed to help you lay a solid foundation to build upon for years to come as you homeschool.
- **Child/Youth Activity** Bring your kids & teens for these incredibly fun activities filled with learning opportunities! See website for full list of activities.
- **Family Activity** Exciting activities for families to enjoy together, including Night of Adventure for dads and kids, Mom's Night Out with Rachael Carman, and Experience the Tabernacle.

## DOWNLOAD the app!

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



# Thursday SCHEDULE

8:30-10:00am

Registration  
Opens at 7:30am

## General Session

### Homeschooling with Courage & Clarity in an Age of Cowardice & Confusion



*Allie Beth Stuckey*



10:20-11:10am

The Difference Between Schooling and Education  
*Israel Wayne*



The Battle Within: Understanding the Raging War Between Spirit and Flesh & How to Live in Victory  
*Chuck Black*



Help for the Time-Pressured Mom  
*Teri Maxwell*



Shedding Light on Depression  
*Peggy Ployhar*



Bible Based Homeschooling: How We Use the Bible as our Maint Textbook for 1 Year  
*Karen DeBeus*



The Beauty and Sacredness of Sexuality —Teaching Your Teen from a Biblical Perspective  
*Danny Huerta*



Books As Mirrors, Windows, & Sliding Glass Doors  
*Amber O'Neal Johnston*



Teaching Your Special Needs Child with an Eye on the Future  
*Stephanie Buckwalter*



11:30am-12:20pm

How to Escape the Culture of Self-Love  
*Allie Beth Stuckey*



Exploring Creation  
*Davis Carman*



Handfuls of Treasure: Embracing Busy Family Life  
*Brook Wayne*



Flipping Special Needs Homeschooling  
*Peggy Ployhar*



Navigating Personality Differences in Your Home  
*Danny Huerta*



Sparkling Curiosity and Delight in Childhood  
*Amber O'Neal Johnston*



A Homeschool Dad's Loving Leadership  
*Steve Maxwell*



Hands-On Math Activities  
*Marcia Washburn*



Single Parent  
Used Book  
Gleaning!  
12:30-3:10pm

## Artistic Adventures 1

10:20am-12:20pm (advance registration & fee required, ages 6 and up)

## What is a Leader? and Tools For Leadership

10:15am-12:30pm (advance registration required, ages 13 & up)



Experience the Tabernacle 10:00am-3:30pm (family fee required, all ages)



- General Session
- Family Activity
- High School & Beyond
- Biblical Worldview
- Workshop
- Child/Youth Activity
- Interactive Q&A
- Family Discipleship
- Shopping
- Homeschool Hacks
- Unique Learners
- Homeschool How-Tos

1:10-2:00pm

Analyzing Culture, News & Politics from a Biblically Reformed, Conservative Perspective—Q&A  
*Allie Beth Stuckey*



10 Things Every New Homeschooler Should Know  
*Karen DeBeus*



Influence vs. Control: How To Best Motivate your Child  
*Israel Wayne*



Worldschooling: Taking the Show on the Road  
*Amber O'Neal Johnston*



The Power of Fiction: Influencing the Hearts of Our Youth  
*Chuck Black*



Proving God and the Bible  
*Brian Mariani*



The Family Chore Team: Using Chores to Facilitate Homeschooling  
*Teri Maxwell*



Overcoming Reading Challenges  
*Bridget Mosely*



Responding Biblically to Anger  
*Lisa Schmidt*



**Music Makers**  
1:10-2:00pm (advance registration & fee required, ages 4-7)

2:20-3:10pm

Education: Why The Teacher Should Be You  
*Deborah Wuehler*



How to Die to Yourself and Live to Tell About it  
*Rachael Carman*



A Firm Foundation: Using the Bible in Daily Child Training  
*Karen DeBeus*



Grades and Graduation: Do These Belong in a Homeschool?  
*Mike Donnelly*



Cultivating a Mentally Healthy Home  
*Danny Huerta*



A Biblical Worldview for History  
*Kevin Swanson*



Managing a Business While Managing Your Home  
*Marcia Washburn*



5 Make or Break Issues Encountered When Homeschooling a Special Needs Child  
*Stephanie Buckwalter*



Entrepreneurship 101  
*Paul Hastings*



**CHEC Out the Wildlife Animal Classification**  
2:20-3:10pm (advance registration & fee required, ages 5 & up)

3:30-4:30pm

General Session

The Relevance of Genesis and the Christian Worldview



*Ken Ham*



4:30-8:00pm

Exhibit Hall Grand Opening PARTY!

Shopping Time



Experience the Tabernacle 10:00am-3:30pm

# Friday SCHEDULE

8:30-10:00am

Registration  
Opens at 7:30am

## General Session

### Parenting Kids to Face Giants



*Ken Ham*



10:20-11:10am

Keeping Our Children's Hearts:  
A Parent's Highest Priority  
*Steve and Teri Maxwell*



Transform Learning Through  
the Art of Questions  
*Israel Wayne*



"I'm from the Government, and  
I'm Here to Help!"  
*Carolyn Martin*



Raising Contributors Rather  
than Consumers in God's  
Kingdom  
*Danny Huerta*



Homeschooling Through High  
School—You Got This!  
*La Nissir James*



Mornings Only: Homeschool  
in 4 Hours Per Day  
*Michelle Christensen*



Incorporating Mom-Care Into  
Your Homeschool Schedule  
*Peggy Ployhar*



The Horror of the Flood  
*Mike Snavelly*



11:30-12:20pm

Parenting Through Spiritual  
Struggle (Helping Kids & Teens  
Who Are Apathetic Toward  
Spiritual Things)  
*Bob Rienow*



Seven Simple Steps to Sanity  
*Rachael Carman*



Redeeming the Mother/Daughter  
Relationship  
*Brandi Huerta*



Focusing on the 3 N's for Better  
Homeschool Outcomes Q&A  
*Stephanie Buckwalter*



Developing a Plan for High  
School: Sample Four-Year Plans  
*La Nissir James*



A Homeschooler's Guide to  
Political Involvement  
*Paul Hastings*



An Eclectic Approach to  
Homeschooling Charlotte  
Mason *Peggy Ployhar*



12:20-2:30pm

Homeschool Leaders  
Forum Luncheon (by invite  
only) 12:30-2:00pm  
*Davis Carman*

## Lunch Break and Shopping Time



RESOURCES

Single Parent  
Used Book  
Gleaning!  
12:30-5:30pm

**Calling God's Storytellers Interactive Workshop**  
10:20am-12:20pm (advance registration & fee required, ages 13 and up)

**Walk Thru The Bible OT LIVE**  
10:20am-12:20pm (advance registration & fee required, ages 6 -12)



**Exhibit Hall Shopping** 10:00am-6:30pm



**Experience the Tabernacle** 10:00am-6:30pm (family fee required, all ages)



- General Session
- Family Activity
- High School & Beyond
- Workshop
- Child/Youth Activity
- Interactive Q&A
- Shopping
- Homeschool Hacks
- Unique Learners
- 🌐 Biblical Worldview
- 👤 Family Discipleship
- 🔧 Homeschool How-Tos

2:30-3:20pm

3:40-4:30pm

4:30-6:30pm

6:30-8:00pm

When Life Is Hard—  
Simulcast Q&A Workshop  
*Joni Eareckson Tada*

**LIVE!**



Helping Siblings Become Best  
Friends in Christ: Casting  
Christian Vision and Principles  
for Sibling Relationships  
*Bob Rienow*



Juggling on a Tightrope  
*Mike Donnelly*



Every Dad a Homeschooling  
Dad!  
*Todd Wilson*



Taming the Techno Beast  
*Todd Wilson*



The Excellent Life  
*Dell Cook*



Conquering Common Parenting  
Challenges with the 7 Traits of  
Effective Parenting  
*Danny Huerta*



The Revelation Generation:  
Preparing Your Children for the  
Days to Come  
*Chuck Black*



The Homeschool Highschool  
*Kevin Swanson*



Homeschooling Special  
Education High School  
*Peggy Ployhar*



To Plan or Not to Plan  
*Susan J Heck*



Faith of Our Founding Fathers  
*Kevin Swanson*



Encouragement for Young Moms  
*Brook Wayne*



Responding Biblically to Fear,  
Worry, and Anxiety  
*Lisa Schmidt*



A Home Of Hospitality  
*Michelle Christensen*



Your Race, Your Pace  
*Michelle Christensen*



**Story Time with Lucy  
the Ladybug**  
2:30-3:20pm (ages 4-7)

**Walk Thru The Bible OT LIVE**  
2:30-3:20pm (advance registration  
& fee required, ages 6-12)

## Shopping Time



## Night of Adventure

### The Hunter and the Hunted

*Mike Snavelly*

6:30-8:00pm



## Mom's Night Out

### An Evening of Real Refreshment with Rachael Carman

6:30-8:00pm



**Exhibit Hall Shopping** 10:00am-6:30pm



**Experience the Tabernacle** 10:00am-6:30pm (family fee required)

# Saturday SCHEDULE

8:30-10:00am

Registration  
Opens at 7:30am

## General Session

### Your Family and God's Plan for the World



*Rob Rienow*



10:20-11:10am

Defending Your Faith: Building on  
the Cornerstone of Christ  
*Chuck Black*



An Unbeatable Homeschool Team  
*Todd Wilson*



Teens and Tech  
*Michelle Ross*



Pace vs. Perseverance  
*Rachael Carman*



Charting Your Way Through High  
School for College, Career, or  
Military  
*La Nissir James*



The Stricken Earth  
*Mike Snavely*



The Importance of Including Fine  
Arts in Homeschooling  
*Justina Thurston*



What to Know about Social Justice  
and Biblical Justice  
*Israel Wayne*



**Artistic Adventures 2**  
10:20am-12:20pm (advance fee required, ages 10 & up)

**The 10 Commandments of Chivalry**  
10:20am-12:20pm (advance registration & fee required, ages 10 & up)

11:30-12:20pm

Avoiding and Recovering from  
Homeschool Mistakes  
*Israel Wayne*



Radically Intentional Parenting  
*Davis Carman*



Astronomy: The Heavens Declare  
the Glory of God!  
*Brian Mariani*



Vaccine Mandates for Homeschool  
Children  
*Bradley Pierce*



The College Admission Process:  
The Homeschool Student's Guide  
*La Nissir James*



Beyond Book Reports: Integrating  
Literature to Enhance Learning for  
Upper Elementary Students  
*Andrea Elston*



Identifying and Adapting to the  
Challenge of Homeschooling  
*Yvonne Strachan*



Scripture Memory  
*Susan J. Heck*



12:20-2:00pm

## Father/Son Lunch

Raising Dangerous Sons in  
a Safe and Mediocre World  
(advance registration and fee  
required)  
*Todd Wilson*

## Lunch Break and Shopping Time



RESOURCES

Single Parent  
Used Book  
Gleaning!  
12:30-5:30pm



**Exhibit Hall Shopping** 10:00am-4:20pm



**Experience the Tabernacle** 10:00am-4:20pm (family fee required, all ages)



- General Session
- Family Activity
- High School & Beyond
- Biblical Worldview
- Workshop
- Child/Youth Activity
- Interactive Q&A
- Family Discipleship
- Shopping
- Homeschool Hacks
- Unique Learners
- Homeschool How-Tos

2:00-2:50pm

The Power of Family Worship  
*Rob Rienow*



Choosing Your Homeschool Style  
*Brook Wayne*



The Mystery of the Dinosaurs  
*Mike Snavelly*



Family Reading Time  
*Rachael Carman*



Christian Ethics  
*Dell Cook*



What Will You Wear Today?  
*Susan J Heck*



8 Laws Every Homeschool Parent  
Should Know  
*Bradley Pierce*



The Proverbs 31 Woman:  
Is She Relevant for Today?  
*Lisa Schmidt*



**Story Time with Melody the Monarch**  
2:00-2:50pm (advance registration, ages 4-7)

**Science of the Human Body: All About the Eye**  
2:00-4:00pm (advance registration & fee required, ages 13 & up)



**Exhibit Hall Shopping** 10:00am-4:20pm



**Experience the Tabernacle** 10:00am-4:20pm (family fee required)

3:10-4:00pm

The Problem of Pain  
*Dell Cook*



10 Things You Need to Teach Your  
Daughter Before She Graduates  
*Todd Wilson*



Making Math and Science Meaningful  
*Kevin Swanson*



A Biblical Worldview of Economics  
*Israel Wayne*



Essential Skills for Successful Teens:  
Study and Time Management  
*La Nissir James*



What to Flee From, What to Follow  
After, and What to Fight For  
*Susan J. Heck*



So, You Want to Be a Veterinarian?  
*J. Aaron Gruben*



Womanhood and Discipleship:  
Our Influence and Ministry  
*Deborah Wuehler*



Praise Him in the Storm  
*Davis Carman*



4:20-5:20pm

**General Session**

## Parenting Priorities in Challenging Times



*Rob Rienow*



Homeschool  
Graduation  
Ceremony  
6:30PM

# Shopping OPPORTUNITIES



## EXHIBIT HALL GRAND OPENING *party*

Thursday, June 16th, 4:30-8:00pm

Come to the conference exhibit hall on Thursday for a big kick-off party with exclusive discounts and specials from conference exhibitors. While you shop, stop by the concession area for free popcorn, and then grab a family photo at the CHEC Photo Booth and enter to win a prize!

### ▶ EXHIBIT HALL

Research and shop with 118 exhibitors (whom we've intentionally sought & invited) who are ready to equip you with the resources and the training you need to find the right curriculum and materials.

▶ **ACTIVITY DEMONSTRATIONS** These 15-minute exhibitor-hosted activity demonstrations are a fun experience you (and your children!) will enjoy:

- Wonder: instrumental ensemble
- Fundamentals 4 Kids: social skills skit
- STOA: speech and debate instruction, performance
- Artisan You: ceramic painting instruction
- Colorado Martial Arts Academy
- Rhyme and Reason: Bible story read aloud
- Fragile Glory Impressions: fine art painting
- First Frets: guitar and ukulele instruction
- Children's Music Academy
- Circuit Riders' Ministry
- Denver Eagles: team workout



### ▶ SILENT AUCTION

Place your bid on gift certificates, event tickets, and unique products in the Silent Auction. Prize goes to the highest bidder at the end of the conference, and your purchase goes to support CHEC's ministry at the conference and throughout the year.





**Browse through these booths** to talk one-on-one with curriculum representatives, compare options, and find what works best for you. Don't miss their conference-only specials!

### Abeka

Accelerated Christian Education — ACE  
Actors Company & Theater School

**Alpha Omega Institute — Brian Mariani**

American Heritage Girls  
Americans for Prosperity

Answers in Genesis — Ken Ham

AOP — Alpha Omega Publications

**Apologia — Rachael & Davis Carman**

Art of Special Needs — Stephanie Buckwalter

Artisan You Ceramics

B.I.O.N.I.C Team

Basic Bible Guide

Beaker & Bricks

BibloPlan

**BJU Press Homeschool/HomeWorks by Precept — Yvonne Strachan**

Bob Jones University

Books Bloom — Jan & Gary Bloom

Calvary University

CHEC Independent School

Chem Explained

Chicken Scratch Books

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Choice Program

Christian Heritage Academy of Midwifery

Class 101 College Prep

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Colorado Foundation For Agriculture

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COSMO Technologies — Michelle Ross

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Exceed in Learning

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**Focus on the Family — Danny Hurerta**

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Rhyme & Reason Ministries

RightStart Mathematics

RMHC Exhibitor Services

Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship

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Rod and Staff Publishers

**Samaritan Ministries**

Sargent Family Productions — Kenny Sargent

Scripture Memory Fellowship

**Shari's Communications — Shari McMinn**

Shiller Learning: Montessori at Home

**Shine—A—Light Press — Andrea Elston**

Smudged Pages

**SPED Homeschool — Peggy Ployhar**

SpineGeek Chiropractic

Strum 2 The Beat

Tales & Legends

Teaching Textbooks

**The Old Schoolhouse Magazine — Deborah Wuehler**

**Titus 2 — Steve and Teri Maxwell**

Trail Life USA — Colorado Area

True North Homeschool

U.S. Army

Usborne Books & More

**Visionary Family — Rob Rienow**

With the Master — Susan J Heck

Wonder

Word of Life

**Worldview Academy — Dell Cook**

Write by Number

YWAM Publishing

*Speaker and Add-on Activity booths are highlighted*

**Sponsor booths are in bold**



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or \$85 at the door

FAMILY

**\$75**

or \$100 at the door

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and children of any age who live with  
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FAMILY

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**FREE**

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**FREE**

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UCS on Wednesday and the Exhibit Hall  
on Thursday through Saturday.*



## Registration Includes:

- 5 Keynote General Sessions
- 100+ Workshops
- Exhibit Hall Shopping
- Used Curriculum Sale (Wednesday, page 6)
- Introduction to Homeschool Seminar (Wednesday, page 6)
- Free Parking

## Conference Add-Ons:

*Most are limited space, pre-registration only*

- Tabernacle Tours, \$20 (page 30)
- Child/Youth Activities (page 29)
- Mom's Night Out, free (page 28)
- Father & Son Lunch, \$12 (page 29)
- Learning Screenings, \$10 (page 7)
- Friday Night of Adventure with Mike Snively, \$5 (page 28)
- Conference Recordings, \$50 (save \$25)

REGISTER

[RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com](http://RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com)



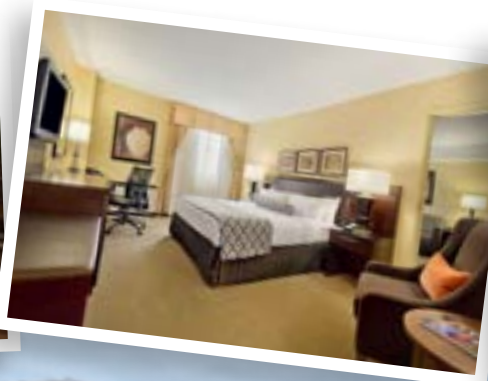
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## ▶ WHERE?

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# 4 LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

BY DAVIS CARMAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY UNSPLASH

**It's easy to lead an organization when your team is winning, when you're on a roll. In other words, things are great when things are great. It feels good to be part of unanimous decisions. But what happens when the vote is split? That's when things can get tough.**

I've spent time in the trenches of leadership. I've dealt with my share of conflicts, with notable successes along with disappointing failures. When working with people, you should expect that conflict will be inevitable. But combat is optional. What are some practical tips? I believe every homeschool leader can be more effective by learning and practicing these four leadership lessons.

## *Lesson #1: Pick Up the Phone*

Don't avoid tough conversations. And for heaven's sake, do not send an email instead. As long as you're not dealing with a serious Matthew 18 issue, you can probably think of your situation as a "simple" confrontation. Most

people will respond positively. And a phone call can go a long way toward a quick resolution. Not everyone will respond in a constructive manner, but don't let that cause you to avoid confronting the issue.

## *Lesson #2: Affirm the Relationship*

Most conflicts happen with people you know and love — friends or family members. Take a cue from the apostle Paul when he confronted problems with church members he knew and loved. He begins many of his inspired letters with these words: "Grace and peace to you." Start the conversation with a good dose of grace and peace and affirm the relationship. Talk about all the things you have in common and what you like about each other. Do this before you tackle the issues at hand. Stay in that conversation long enough to make sure you work things out so you are really good with each other.

## *Lesson #3: Know and Love These People*

I hope you've heard of emotional intelligence. In short, this is being self-aware and others-aware. In other words, make sure you do your best to put yourself in the other person's shoes. Also, take heed of your own spirit. You most likely contributed something to the conflict. Remember to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

## *Lesson #4: Seek to Understand*

Listening is a difficult skill, but one that's critical to resolving conflicts. Seek to understand before you

are understood. You can start by saying, "I really want to understand ..." Remember that listening is hard work. Ask clarifying questions, then sit back and listen closely without thinking about what you will say next, to "correct" their perspective. Don't make it a win-lose proposition. Seek a win-win.

Even if you talk directly with the person, affirm the relationship, love them well, and listen carefully, there are no guarantees that the other party will cooperate. Human beings have free will, which makes things uncertain. However, experience tells me every homeschool leader can be more effective by learning and practicing these four leadership lessons I learned in the trenches.

Walk by faith, and enjoy the homeschooling adventure of a lifetime! ■



© 2022 Davis Carman. Davis Carman is the president of Apologia Educational Ministries Apologia.com, which is the #1 publisher of Creation-based curricula for homeschooling families. He believes that if there was ever a time to homeschool, it is now! He will be the featured speaker at the RMHC Leaders' Luncheon. You can hear more of what he has to say at his podcast, [Anchor.fm/LetsTalkHomeschool](https://Anchor.fm/LetsTalkHomeschool).



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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.

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### Editor:

Shari McMinn, ShariMcMinn.com

### Creative Designers:

Sarah Lee Bryant, SarahLeePhoto.com

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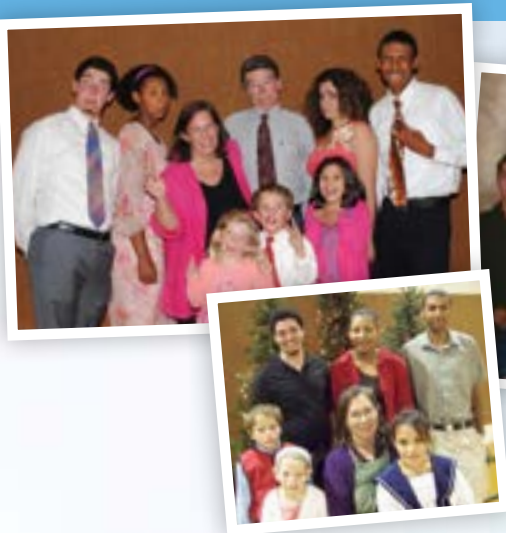


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PHOTOGRAPHY BY MCHINN FAMILY AND ISTOCK

# HOMESCHOOLING to the *Finish Line*

**A**t the end of this month, I will graduate the youngest of my 11 children from our family's homeschool. My 28-year-long career as a teaching mom is coming to an end. I am both excited and relieved. It's been an uphill marathon, but the mountain top is nearing and the view is breathtaking. I would surmise that if you are new to homeschooling, you might need inspiration to continue and finish strong. If you are at the middle or end of the marathon, perhaps I can also encourage you that there is a vibrant new season ahead for you.

People frequently ask me what I will do next after graduating from my homeschool teaching "job." Here's the long story answer...

Throughout our family's nearly three decades of home education, I have been involved with CHEC. I began as a volunteer stuffing envelopes in the former Denver office. I helped facilitate their very first "Introduction to Homeschooling" night by displaying the curriculum I was using and sharing our family's story of how and why we began homeschooling. My good friend and longtime CHEC volunteer, Jody Smith, then asked me to help her with registration at the June conference. A few years later, I joined the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference committee as chair (along with my husband) of the bygone "Gallery Showcase." Seven years ago, I was hired part-time as the *Homeschool Update* Editor and I have taken on several more duties since then. Even now, I continue volunteering my time three times a year to teach the Nuts & Bolts portion of the Homeschool Introductory Seminars.

CHEC has always "had my back," at first when we started homeschooling four children, then eventually a total of nine when we adopted two sets of siblings. Sadly, my godly homeschooling husband, a college professor who was our homeschool administrator (and most fun teacher!), died very unexpectedly nine years ago. At that time, I chose to enroll my five children still being homeschooled in the CHEC Independent School as an "umbrella of protection." I applied for and was granted a Casterline Fund scholarship for the enrollment fee, as I had become a single mom. The CHEC Board, staff, and volunteers assisted my family after my husband's death for months, then years, and even now. I would simply not have survived my grief — let alone continued homeschooling — without their charity, compassion, and faithful prayers, which continue to this day.

When I was invited to speak at the Casterline Banquet last fall, I gave back to CHEC — and the single moms they support — out of the best of what I had been given. I had grown mightily in my Christian faith and moved forward a great distance in time, skills, and



my coping ability since I became a widow. It was my joy and privilege to encourage other single moms that they, too, could get through a tough season and would eventually enter a thriving one.

Single moms like me have had to learn to become the only teaching parent in their home. They also have had to step up to become the sole caretaker, decision maker, and provider. These overwhelming responsibilities with exhausting multitasking have a silver lining: we are well prepared for the day we graduate our last student, then enter a new season of more work, more free time, and more joy.

That is where I am now. As I look around at other homeschool moms nearing the graduation of their youngest, I wonder if they have an exit strategy in-place like I do. What will they do to remain vital and productive when no longer homeschooling? Will they seek a full-time job outside the home? Will they work from home in a family business? Will they develop a speaking, teaching, and writing career as I have? Will they volunteer in Christian ministry? Will they develop their interests in art, music, travel, or other hobbies?

Or, will they be anxious and discontent without a plan in place? I see moms in that situation; it is hard for them to navigate the post-homeschool years. They seem stagnated in the doldrums, stuck on windless waters, not knowing what to do next. Sadly, they are not confident in all the skills they have developed while homeschooling their kids. It is a hard job and they have learned many valuable lessons. They are multitaskers and “logistics magicians,” as my good friend, Marcia Washburn, likes to call highly-skilled veteran homeschool moms — doing 20 things at once and doing them all pretty well!

As I enter the post-homeschool season, I am grateful and glad that I have a part-time job I love. If I choose, I can work more hours to increase my retirement fund. Or, I can have more leisure time to do the things I enjoy most, which include beachcombing, creating artwork, reading, and writing non-fiction.

“ I HAD GROWN  
IN MY FAITH SINCE I  
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IT WAS MY JOY TO  
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THEY, TOO, COULD GET  
THROUGH A TOUGH  
SEASON AND WOULD  
EVENTUALLY ENTER A  
*thriving* ONE. ”

God has been so good to me during my years of homeschooling and Christian ministry. He allowed me to learn many new job skills that prepared me for such a time as this. I will continue to work remotely for CHEC, having learned helpful technology hacks from my younger work colleagues. I am thankful for God's leadership, even though I had no idea where He was leading me! Under His wing, I flew to a better place, with greater opportunity, and a more abundantly blessed life than I ever could have imagined.

So, momma, what's your exit plan for wrapping up your homeschool career? Whether it comes this year or sometime in the next decade (or two!), there will be a day when you celebrate the last graduate, then retire from being a teaching mom. Maybe, like me, you'll continue in your teaching skills by reading to and crafting with your grandchildren! Or, maybe you'll be doing something altogether different.

As you look ahead to life post-homeschool, I encourage you to start or continue serving with CHEC. We always need capable, hard-working, veteran homeschool moms (and dads) to volunteer or work part-time on staff. And you don't need to live in Parker, along the front range, or even in Colorado. Some CHEC staff, including me, work remotely from out-of-state.

Here are some questions to consider for your post-homeschool life:

- What do you think the Lord may be calling you to do in this next season?
- What do you enjoy doing in your free time?
- What do you think are your strengths?
- What does your husband (or children if you are a single parent) think you should do next?
- What have you always wanted to learn more about for your own education and training?
- What skill sets do you possess that could keep you productive while serving the Lord?

Plan now for your transition. If you wait too long, there might be a restless season, which could become a wasted season. An important caution is that most of our graduated children do not want us to hover over them. Let them be adults. Focus the bulk of your time on something other than worrying about them. Encourage them as a coach or friend, not a meddling mom who still constantly corrects them. Most importantly, pray by name every day for them, their spouses, and your grandchildren.

Seek the Lord for His purpose in your life as you finish raising and educating the children He gave you. God loves it that you sacrificed your own desires for many years to raise up your kids with a Christian home education. It was all part of His larger plan for your life in this next season. Pray for His wisdom. Follow His lead. Serve Him with a glad heart and helpful hands. And, congratulations! You made it, momma (or almost)! ■



Shari Howard McMinn can be reached through [ShariMcMinn.com](mailto:ShariMcMinn.com) or [Shari@CHEC.org](mailto:Shari@CHEC.org). After 45 years in Colorado, she is now a resident of the Fort Myers, Florida area, working remotely for CHEC.

She returns to Colorado in January, June, and August for in-person CHEC events and to visit her children still residing there. Shari has four published non-fiction books.



**SPEAKER**



# THIS IS THE POWER OF GOD AND THE HOMESCHOOL COMMUNITY

***Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And  
hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. Prov 24:11***

Sadly, Colorado's most wicked abortion bill, HB22-1279, Reproductive Health Equity Act, just passed its way through our legislature....a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state.

## POWERFUL TESTIMONY GIVEN IN THE COLORADO HOUSE AND SENATE:

"Why is it that people who are pro-choice don't want to look at pictures of Abortion?" -Mike

"My name is Scott and my pronouns are, Don't Kill Babies. There is no fundamental right to murder as that would encroach upon another's individual right to life, the most innocent of lives, a baby." -Scott

"No matter how long it takes, I will fight for the babies, even with my last breath." -Caelyn 13

"A human does not get his worth by being wanted or able-bodied". -Maxime

"What exactly is a birthing individual?" (language from the bill) -Dmitri

"At the moment of fertilization was the very beginning of your life. No one can argue with this because it's factual, true and obvious to even a child." -Cheryl

"My parents homeschool me and have taught me what abortion is, I am very thankful for this." -Lili 13

"People who do the right thing end up on the right side of history. But those who fail to protect the innocent, especially those in a position of governmental authority, must be exposed. And my intent is that anyone voting for this bill will be remembered for voting to kill babies in the womb." -Will

"They claim abortion is just a medical decision but fail to see that the same logic can be used to assert that stealing is just a financial decision." -Brian

"This bill puts a woman's lifestyle and convenience for 9 months only (because there are plenty of people eager to adopt) over a person's right to live and you don't see how selfish and wrong that is?" -Gina

"We, as a nation, have bought into the propaganda that in order to be 'empowered women' we must be allowed to murder our poorly-timed children." -Natalie

"This bill is arbitrary, it is unjust, it is evil. We need to shut it down." -Hudson

"A person's worth is not based on who wants them to live or die. Value and worth are inherent." -Danielle

"Even though I'm only 11 years old, I know life begins in the womb." -Gavin

"At the end of the day, abortion is wrong because it's a baby, and it's always wrong to intentionally kill a baby." -Dominic

"Anyone who advocates for the murder of babies, you should be deeply ashamed of yourself." -Nicole

"Stop murdering babies." -Susan

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOU CAN

# · SPEAK FOR THE WEAK ·

PLEASE VISIT OUR BOOTH AT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOMESCHOOL CONFERENCE AND [COLORADORTL.ORG](http://COLORADORTL.ORG).







**E**conomic collapse; crookedness; chicanery; the “Everything Bubble” bursting—whether this will be “the Great Reset” or the “Great Recession,” economic turmoil has now become the rule of the day. Some people make things happen. Some people watch things happen. And the others wonder what happened. But here is a book that explains what happened. Finally, here is a book that explains economics for everyone.

#### — TOPICS COVERED —

- Human Motivation: What Makes the World Run?
- The Laws of Supply and Demand
- Wealth Inequality: Why Some Nations are Rich and Others are Poor
- The Reality of Sin, the Effects of Sin, and God’s Judgment in the World
- Economic Theories: Biblical Economics and the Economic Systems of Mankind
- Getting Your Job: Work in the Economy
- Investing Wisely: Don’t Bury Your Talents
- Seeking Good Government: How Governments Ruin Economies
- How to Be Successful in Business
- Running a Business: How Companies Operate
- Identifying Your Calling in Life

The worldly, Keynesian, socialist, heavily-manipulated, and robbing-cheating-stealing systems of macroeconomics have steadily lost all internal integrity throughout developed nations over the past hundred years or so. This disintegration has finally led to a collapse. How will our families and our young people respond to this economic conflagration? Here is a game plan for every person who needs to find a way in the world. You need to know how the world runs and your part in it.

Economics is something that affects us every day. Economics is 95% of life. Economics is practical. Economics always begins in the micro. Here is a book about everything a Christian needs to know about economics to get along in the world economy. This is a book that will be particularly helpful for the young person just starting out.

Most importantly, within this course, God’s Word is brought to bear upon the subject. While the foolish man loses his house in the storms of life, the wise man will build his house and his household economy on the rock. That’s the rock of Jesus’s words. If there was ever a time to bring hundreds of relevant biblical truths back into our economics lessons, that time would be now. Whether building or rebuilding, here is the place to begin—on the foundation of divine revelation for every household economy.

Here is a book that weaves a seamless thread through macro and microeconomics, written for a high school audience.



# WHAT CHOICE?

BY CAROLYN MARTIN

To stay up-to-date on legislative matters, join the Colorado Homeschool Freedom Team at [CHEC.org/Freedom](https://checc.org/freedom)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ISTOCK

**C**hoice. The act of choosing. Some choices are easier than others. Vanilla or chocolate ice cream? Black or blue socks?

Other choices in life are progressively harder and more consequential. What do you want to be when you grow up? Where do you want to live? Then there are those that if you truly understood the choice, you would realize that there really is no choice. For instance, the pro-abortion movement calls themselves pro-choice. But, once you understand when life begins, the choice literally becomes life or death, and morally, there is no real choice. Whether we choose to accept or reject Jesus is one of those choices that has severe consequences if we choose wrongly. Eternity with God or without God? Choosing wisely comes with knowing and understanding the fullness of the choice set before you.

Today, the school choice movement is growing and gaining power in political circles. It promises something no one seems to have enough of — money. Their mantra is “the money should follow the student.” Yet, they never tell you what comes with the money. It's more than just strings; it's shackles to the government system. Those who have been around awhile and understand the insatiable

appetite of the government know that what the government funds, the government controls.

As this movement spreads across the country and gains momentum, due in part to so many students leaving the public school system, we've seen a lot of new homeschoolers jumping onto the school choice bandwagon. They don't know how hard-fought homeschooling freedom is. In the not-so-distant past, school districts in Colorado would deny a family's application to homeschool or would not approve their curriculum plan just because they could. There were threats of jail time if they didn't put their children in public school. Parents had to teach their children escape plans in case the authorities came to arrest them. We must never forget what those pioneers went through so that we could homeschool in peace without government intrusion.

Homeschool freedom is in danger if we willingly put on the shackles that come with government funding. Only a few months ago, an Alabama bureaucrat said, “If we start giving homeschoolers money, there's got to be state accountability.”<sup>1</sup> We all want accountability when it comes to how the government spends our tax dollars. We demand it from our public schools. Why would we think there shouldn't be accountability when it comes to homeschoolers who receive taxpayer dollars? The Alabama bureaucrat

went on to explain home visits were a part of the accountability he desired. **It is not far-fetched to say that taking government money is a doorway for them into our very homes.**

Freedom always requires sacrifice. If homeschooling was easy, everyone would do it. The choices offered to you through the school choice movement are not trivial, like choosing between vanilla and chocolate. If homeschooling becomes just another flavor of the government school system, we lose everything unique about this movement. God has so graciously carved out home-based education to allow His people to disciple their children in the way they should go.

What choice do we really have if we are to stay free? ■

FOOTNOTE • [hslda.org/post/government-funding-for-homeschooling-has-a-high-cost](https://hslda.org/post/government-funding-for-homeschooling-has-a-high-cost)



*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.*



**SPEAKER**



# *Finding community* IS SIMPLE!

Connect with other homeschooling families for fun, fellowship, and field trips throughout the year.

**Here are a few quick ways to get started:**

## ***Homeschool Groups***

Parent support, co-ops, and so much more! Find a 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 and connect with other parents at **CHEC.org/fbgroup**



## 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.

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# Keeping the End IN MIND

BY STEPHANIE BUCKWALTER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ISTOCK

**The special needs homeschool road can feel long and hard. Things may be so stressful, or your child's problems so severe, that you haven't had a chance to look down the road to what happens after graduation.**

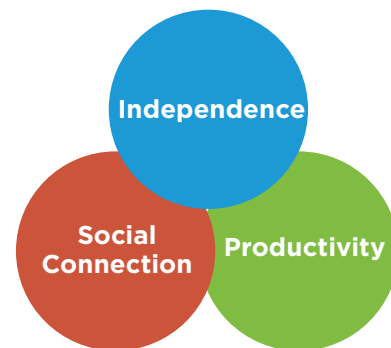
Fair warning: not having a vision for your child's future can lead to years of heartache and frustration. You will likely end up floundering through each year simply trying to get through one day at a time. It's time to pause and set a straight course.

As I began to contemplate my own child's future, I struggled with finding meaning and purpose for her education. She is nonverbal and has moderate intellectual disabilities, so I suspect she is not destined for college or even a full-time job. She will likely be at home after high school, with hours of time to be filled.

I kept coming to the question, "What can I teach now that will make her life meaningful?" After much soul searching, I realized that we all are created for three things:

- Relationship, Genesis 1:28, 2:18 (with God and others)
- Work, Genesis 2:15 (for personal fulfillment and service to others)
- Self-governance, Genesis 2:16-17 (the responsible use of free will)

With these three things in mind, the big picture becomes clear. We teach:



Everything we need to teach is toward these ends and falls into these three categories:

Because we were created for **relationships**, we teach **social connection**.

Examples: manners, societal rules, conflict resolution, kindness, community

Because we were created for **work**, we teach **productivity**.

Examples: chores, academics, practical skills, a trade, service, beauty, creativity

Because we were created for **self-governance**, we teach **independence**.

Examples: hygiene, self care, home care, money management, ethics, character

Visit the CHEC Unique Learners page at [CHEC.org/unique-learners](https://www.chec.org/unique-learners)



No matter what our children struggle with, or what character traits we want to instill, all things we teach fit into one of these three circles. Keeping this simple diagram in mind makes homeschooling a special needs child so much easier.

Our children can learn almost anything, but they have to be taught those things in small steps. Notice that academics is only a small piece of everything we need to teach our kids. It's one of the reasons homeschooling a special needs child or struggling learner can be so overwhelming.

Because you have to teach so much more than academics, it is important that you have written goals with milestones of success along the way. When you take the time to do this, you know you are always working on the big picture and can see and measure the progress your child makes. You can also weed out unnecessary lessons or advanced subjects that will not be needed for your child's unique future.

A word of caution: Don't set your child's future in stone at the beginning. If you are teaching with the assumption of intelligence, regardless of how your child performs academically, your child will go much further than you would ever have imagined. Stay flexible and grow your plan as your child grows. It's never too early — or too late — to plan for your child's future. ■



*Stephanie Buckwalter has homeschooled her five children for over 17 years. Inspired by her nonverbal daughter with moderate learning disabilities, Stephanie developed ELARP™, a homeschooling method designed specifically for students who are two or more years delayed in foundational skills. You can contact her and learn more at [ArtOfSpecialNeedsParenting.com](http://ArtOfSpecialNeedsParenting.com). Stephanie will be a speaker at the RMHC with several workshops for the Unique Learners track.*



**SPEAKER**

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BY CINDY PUHEK

# IS DUAL ENROLLMENT *the Right Fit?*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ISTOCK

**D**ual enrollment has become very popular in recent years.

Getting college credit for the school work a student is already accomplishing seems very efficient and economically smart. However, there are both positives and negatives to dual enrollment that we would do well to consider.

**Let's look at the positives first.** Dual enrollment college credits are typically a fraction of the cost of the same credits once a student is full-time enrolled in college. For example, a 3-hour college course through Liberty University Online costs \$549 as a dual enrolled high school student, which is half the \$1,170 price tag an online student will pay for the same course as a full-time college student. Not only are the credits less expensive, but finishing school on an accelerated schedule saves money and allows students to finish their education, enter the workforce, and begin their adult lives earlier. College level courses also can provide accountability, deadlines, and test-taking practice for homeschooled students, preparing them for classroom settings they will encounter when they enter college after high school graduation.

**Now let's explore some negatives.** Not every institution of higher education accepts every dual enrollment class. Some universities are very agreeable, but others are quite particular. If students don't know where they want to attend college, their extra efforts in high school may not have the payoff they thought it would. Dual enrollment classes are also often on a set schedule, robbing homeschooling families of some of the freedom they enjoy setting their own schedule. Choose wisely your dual-enrollment provider because not all teach from a biblical worldview.

Additionally, there is no prize for finishing first in the education game, but there is a "price tag." Childhood only happens once, and there are opportunities for sports, music, and team involvement which only happen during this season of life. An accelerated student might have to forgo those opportunities because of a heavy academic load. A professional musician I work with says the youth symphony is often better than the adult symphony because the teens have more time to focus on music while the adults must split their focus between music and taking care of their families. It would be sad for a violinist to not have time to be part of the symphony because she is taking nine college credit hours as a dual enrolled student at 14 years of age. Finally, is a young, homeschooled teen able to safely navigate the "older crowd" found in a college-level setting?

I've heard two cautionary tales associated with accelerated learning. One was about a bright young man who finished high school, college, and law school very young. He worked very hard and made many sacrifices to do so. But on entering the workforce, he could not find the job he wanted because of his youthful appearance. The other tale is from an extremely gifted student who entered college at 16 years of age as a sophomore. He discovered that his instructors expected him to know how this college system worked. He wished he had had at least one freshman level class where the instructors teach the students how to do everything associated with their higher academic institution.

Students in today's world are blessed with many exciting opportunities to learn and grow. While dual enrollment sounds amazing from an economic and academic perspective, it comes with some sacrifices. Each family should carefully and prayerfully consider what is best for their students. ■



*Cindy Puhek resides in Colorado Springs and has been married to Peter for over two decades. They are well into their second decade of homeschooling their six children who range in age from toddler to high school graduate. Cindy holds a Master's degree in chemistry. You can visit her blog at [HomeschoolEnrichment.com/blogs](https://HomeschoolEnrichment.com/blogs).*

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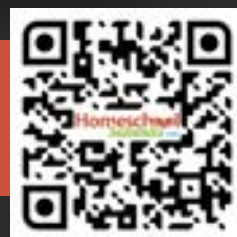
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