



HOMESCHOOL Update

2024 | VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 119

A MINISTRY PUBLICATION OF THE COLORADO HOMESCHOOLERS' ASSOCIATION



**Rocky Mountain
Homeschool Conference**

**PRESS
ON**

JUNE 13-15, 2024 | DENVER, CO

PAGE
24

ARTICLES INSIDE THIS ISSUE INCLUDE

6

**Faith or
Fear?**

10

**Missionary Books
Kids Love**

16

**Raising Up
Men**

20

**Releasing Our
Arrows Into
the World**



CHEC INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

An Umbrella School for Homeschool Families

Experience the
SECURITY, PRIVACY, FLEXIBILITY, & PERKS
that come with your family's *enrollment!*

OVER \$400 IN PERKS are included in your enrollment...

- Exclusive pricing on Generations Christian curriculum through the CHEC Independent School
- Free family admission to the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference
- One year membership to HomeschoolSummits.com
- Discounts on HSLDA and Heritage Defense memberships
- and more!

**Enrollment for the 24/25 school year
opening in June!**



CHECIS.org



Father Son Retreat p. 60

CHEC Homeschool Update | Volume 2, 2024 | Issue 119

Feature Articles

6

Fear or Faith
BY KEVIN SWANSON

16

Raising Up Men
BY KEVIN BOUREN

10

Missionary Books Kids Love
BY KIM SORGIUS

20

Releasing Our Arrows Into the World
BY MARCIA WASHBURN

14

Parent-Led Daily Bible Devotions
BY ISRAEL WAYNE

50

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made
BY ANDREA PITMAN

CHEC Events

24

2024 Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference
JUNE 13-15, 2024

60

Father Son Retreat
AUGUST 15-18 OR 22-25, 2024

Columns

4

Director's Desk

48

Homeschool Leaders

18

Government Relations

52

Resource Review

22

Best of Blog

56

Partners' Page

Parents love their children and want what is best for them. It is something that is hard-wired into us by God and it is one of the reasons why homeschooling is so effective. Because we care so much for our children, we are willing to make the many sacrifices that homeschooling requires (I am sure you could help me count them), and we make them happily because we believe it is going to make a difference in our children's lives.

One of the big sacrifices that homeschooling parents make is giving up the safety net of relying on someone else for how our children “turn out” and assuming all of that “risk” ourselves. If our kids do not turn out or do not succeed, it is pretty hard to blame anyone else! This can be a scary thing for parents.

However, it is important to remember that God loves your children even more than you do. And, He has an even greater vested interest in their well being and future success. He has even put His own reputation on the line through the commands and promises that He gives to Christian parents. You do not control your children's destiny, God does. And that should be a big relief!

I have recently been memorizing Psalm 112 with my two oldest children, and I love the way this Psalm begins and the hope it gives me for my children's future. It says, *Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments! His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed* (Psalm 112:1–2 ESV).

God has a vision for your children's future, and that vision is that they would be mighty and blessed. It is a vision of great influence and prosperity. It is not just a good vision. It is an AMAZING vision! It is so good in fact, that it makes me want to sit up and pay attention to what I can do to help secure it!

As parents, we typically focus on the things that we give to our children as the primary drivers for their success. We focus on things like giving them good training, customized education, academic rigor, and curriculum with a biblical worldview, all of which are good and important things.

But Psalm 112:1–2 gives us a paradigm that runs counter to this natural tendency in our thinking. It teaches us that it is actually our own heart orientation toward the Lord as parents — specifically our fear of God and delight in His commandments — that is most important to our children's future success.

I do not know about you, but I find God's recipe for success to be refreshingly simple, straightforward ... and uncomfortably convicting. Because as parents, it is easy for us to spend lots of time analyzing our kids and not enough time analyzing our own hearts. What is more important to us, our children's academic achievement score or our personal fear of God and delight in His commandments?

Fear and delight is an unusual, powerful, and distinctly Christian combination of heart characteristics. A fear of God without delight in God and His commandments is what demons experience (James 2:19). But a delight in God without a proper fear of God and His commandments brings about the discipline and judgment of God. For example, in 1 Chronicles 13, we read that, *David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all their might*, as they transported the

Mighty in the LAND

BY STEVE CRAIG

PHOTOGRAPH BY J. L. HARRIS

ark to Jerusalem. But their delight was not properly accompanied with godly fear, which resulted in disobedience and the death of Uzzah.

Dads and moms, if we want our children to be mighty in the land and to be blessed, we need to be fearing God and delighting in His commandments ourselves. And it is not difficult to see how our own heart orientation and example will leak into our children's lives. After all, we all know that more is caught than taught.

Many children are raised in homes where there is fear without proper delight. This teaches children to doubt the goodness of God, which is at the heart of all sin. On the flip side, many children are raised in homes with emotion and experience driven Christianity, which leads to a delight that is not properly anchored in a godly fear and reverence for God. This teaches children to prioritize their feelings over obedience to God and His Word, which is equally deadly.

“
GOD HAS A *vision*
FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S
FUTURE —
A VISION OF GREAT
INFLUENCE AND
PROSPERITY.
It is an amazing vision.
 ”

If you are like me, you probably feel like you need more of the fear of God *and* delight in God's commandments in your life. I encourage you to cry out to God for these things and to ask for the help of His Holy Spirit. I would also encourage you to spend time reading and meditating on passages like

Psalms 112. And of course, make sure that you are part of a faithful church where the fear of God and delight in God is both taught and modeled.

Remember, God loves your children and wants what is best for them even more than you do. Follow His plan and trust His promises. You will not be disappointed! ■



Steve Craig is CHEC's Executive Director. 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 seven children: Carson, Christiana, Angelina, Jewel, Ariel, Michelle, and Jackson. He can be reached at Steve@CHEC.org.



SPEAKER



Watch all ten summits online!













HomeschoolSummits.com

Brought to you by  Generations and  CHEC.org



Are we teaching algebra or faith? Are we educating or disciple-ing our children? Are we stuffing facts into the brains of our children, or are we training the whole person of our child — emotions, mind, body, and soul — at the same time?

These are the essential questions that every parent in the world must answer before making decisions regarding their children's educational program. Haphazard handling of our child's education, or turning our children over to "experts" without first answering these questions, will be disastrous.

That is why Generations and CHEC encourage a full-orbed discipleship of the whole child when it comes to the education of children. Above all, the focal point for every parent — the highest concerns — should remain the character and faith of the child. This drives everything in the life of the child. What could be more important to the character of the child than to increasingly realize the awesomeness of God, the trustworthiness of God, and then to trust God? The believer lives by faith. She does algebra by faith. He grows in all areas of character by faith. Boiling all matters of character down to this, the child becomes more diligent, more honorable, more honest, and more conscientious — by faith.

When training the whole child, are we intending to teach algebra or faith? When "enforcing" the

study of math in homeschool, are we stuffing facts into the brains of children, or are we still training emotions, mind, body, and soul — at the same time?

But, here is the tough thing about this faith and character business. As mentors and teachers, we (the parents) will need to exemplify what we are attempting to teach. How easy is it to give way ourselves to fear, anxiety, faithlessness, or hopelessness?

Drawing from the story in the Gospels (Matthew 14), we find Jesus praying in the mountains while his disciples were rowing and rowing against winds and waves on the Sea of Galilee. Around 3:00 in the morning, He takes a saunter across the lake, sits down in the boat with the men and, we read, "immediately" they were on the other side. Such is the life of faith.

Now, what may be said about the "tiger mom" who is insisting upon excellence, but resorts to nervous admonitions? Any of us can slip into this at some point. She calls out to her child, "Why aren't you getting this math? You're going to be a failure in life! You'll never get into a good college! I will have failed! We will all turn out to be one big failure!"

At the moment of failure and frustration, we still need to be asking the question, "What are we teaching our children? Are we teaching Algebra 101 or Anxiety 101? Or, shall we teach Faith 101 and Prayer 101?" Jesus was not teaching Rowing 101, as much as He was teaching Prayer 101 and Faith 101 on the Sea of Galilee. This should also be the focus of the godly homeschool.

Confidence is essential in math class and everywhere else in life. But, where is that confidence placed? At any point of personal struggle, two words are most valuable for every one of us: **"LOOK UP!"**

Do not look down. Do not look sideways to the winds and waves. Do not look at anybody else. Do not look inwards to oneself. LOOK TO GOD! *For we walk by faith, not by sight* (2 Corinthians 5:7 ESV). We pray by faith. We move by faith. We live by faith. We teach by faith. We learn by faith. Faith is every day, all day!

This means that every teacher or exemplar will pay attention to their words in daily conversation and instruction. What characterizes our language day-to-day in home and school? Faith or fear? Hope or despair? Using the words "I can't," as the go-to

FAITH

or

FEAR

BY KEVIN SWANSON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ISTOCK

standard is a problem. Actually, there are two problems with “I can’t.” “I” and “can’t.” Scripture introduces a different language: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me* (Philippians 4:13 NKJV). Let us be overwhelmed not as much by the problems but by the absolute capability of God to handle the problems we face.

The tendency for all of us is to look for the sure deal, the easy solution, and the professional help for whatever our children need. We tend to want to walk by sight. But, Jesus tells us, “It’s time to get out of the boat.” Walking on water is tough. You are going to need to peel your fingers off the sides of the boat, look to Jesus, and start walking!

So the important question is this: Are we teaching our children faith? Or are we teaching them anxiety, self-reliance, pride, and fear of failure? While much of secular education today emphasizes the pride of man, self-sufficiency, and self-confidence, of course none of this is enough for walking on water and facing the greatest challenges of life and death (let alone algebra!). We must teach our children steadfast faith in God, the awesomeness of God, the trustworthiness of God, and prayer. Tell them stories of faith — Moses at the Red Sea (Exodus 14), facing the most impossible situation in the world, lifting the rod, and calling out, “Watch what God can do!”

Today, let us walk out the thrilling, daring, wonderfully exhilarating, tremendously rewarding, life of faith. God loves faith! He is looking for faith in us and in our children. There is nothing like stepping out in faith — walking, waiting, and watching God work!

“ JESUS WAS NOT
TEACHING ROWING 101,
AS MUCH AS HE WAS
TEACHING PRAYER 101
AND FAITH 101 ON THE
SEA OF GALILEE. THIS
SHOULD ALSO BE THE
FOCUS OF THE GODLY
HOMESCHOOL.”

Hey, my friends ... look up! Pray big. Pray in faith. Walk on water, by faith. ■



Kevin Swanson is Director of Generations, a subsidiary of Christian Home Educators of Colorado. A homeschool dad, pastor, and host of the

Generations radio program, Kevin is the author of Upgrade: the Ten Secrets to the Best Education for Your Child, Taking the World for Jesus, The Proverbs Bible Study Guides, The Story of Freedom, Epoch: the Rise and Fall of the West, and Worldview — What We Believe, What They Believe, and Why They are Wrong. He will be a keynote speaker and workshop presenter at the RMHC, June 13–15, 2024. Kevin can be reached through the [Generations.org](https://www.generations.org) website.

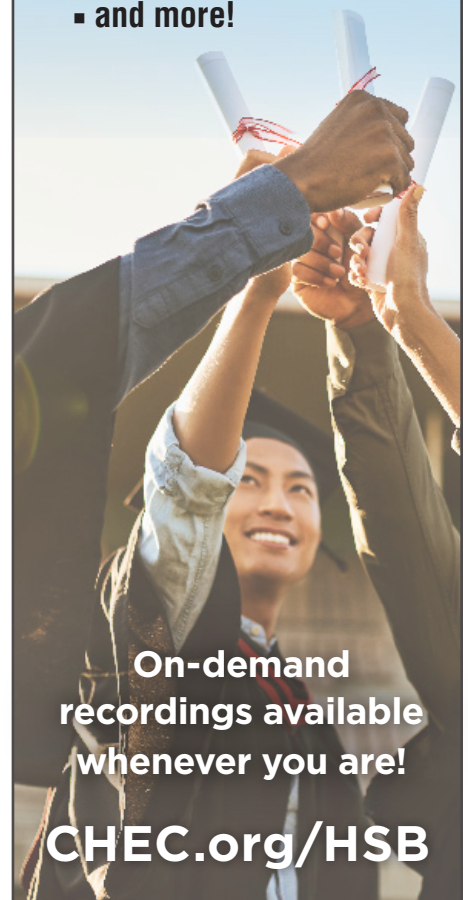


SPEAKER

HIGH SCHOOL ahead?

Whether you’re just beginning homeschooling or have done it for years, high school can feel like a whole new game. We’ve created the High School & Beyond Seminar for you:

- Vision
- Developing a 4-year high school plan
- High school transcripts and record keeping
- and more!



On-demand recordings available whenever you are!

CHEC.org/HSB



Kim Almas | Homeschool wife and mom
CO, CA and FL licensed teacher
30+ years in education
mosacad.com

ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

Serving homeschoolers since 2010

Evaluations in lieu of standardized testing
Convenient online option • Curriculum and transcript guidance



Mosaic Academy
ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS • CONSULTATION

FROM THE KENDRICK BROTHERS • CREATORS OF WAR ROOM, OVERCOMER AND COURAGEOUS

**FREE
Pre-Release
Screening**
for RMHC conference
attendees
SEE PAGE 28

CAMERON
ARNETT

PRISCILLA
SHIRER

KAREN
ABERCROMBIE

AND INTRODUCING
ASPEN
KENNEDY

THE FORGE

WHOEVER WANTS THE NEXT GENERATION THE MOST WILL GET THEM

EXCLUSIVELY IN THEATERS AUGUST 23

THEFORGEMOVIE.COM @FORGEMOVIE



©2024 AFFIRM FILMS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



Samaritan™

MINISTRIES

Samaritan members care for one another spiritually and financially when a medical need arises. Join today.



SamaritanMinistries.org/CHEC · 877.978.1663

Brendon and Nina, members since 2018

Introduce your kids to the courageous men and women who have spread God's Word worldwide!

Rarely can our family be found without a great missionary book in hand. But it has not always been that way. When I was growing up, we gave money every year to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. I do not remember ever knowing what that meant or where the money was going, but I know we gave it proudly. I am sure there were missionaries our church gave to, but I just do not recall knowing about any until well into adulthood. Honestly, I was not too concerned about my lack of knowledge in this area. I did not know what I was missing!

One day we picked up the biography of Hudson Taylor. I will be honest and tell you that I did not know who he was. But the lines surrounding that booth at the homeschool convention were really long, so I figured reading missionary books was the right thing to do. (Go ahead and laugh!)

It took many months for us to crack open the book, but one night we finally did. The kids huddled around me in silence as I read every word of the first chapter. And the second. And the third. After over an hour of reading, I had to put a stop to it, and the sighs in the room were heavy. This book may have been the most captivating one that we had ever read!

I was probably the most shocked of all. I had been putting off reading this because I had grossly misjudged the value of doing so. Um, and I kind of thought it would be boring. By the time we finished Hudson Taylor, I had ordered a dozen more missionary books, and we were changed forever.

There is just something so mundane about our little problems when you start looking at the problems that these amazing men and women faced. They risked their lives time and time again just to share the Gospel with the lost. Meanwhile, we are getting

annoyed with the guy who pulled out in front of us or the lady who took up the whole aisle at Walmart. It really puts things into perspective, huh?

Studying the Lives of Missionaries Has Benefits

I do not ever want my kids to have idols, but they need good role models. Sure, parents can fill that role, but I am convinced kids need to see more than that. They need to see other Christians living out the faith both when times are good and when times are bad, truly trusting God. Missionary biographies provide this in a wonderful way, without making the child personally experience the same hardships.

Of course, missionary books reach further than faith, too. Kids become exposed to historical events, geography, world culture, church history, and more. There is nothing more fun than reading about an event in a textbook or resource and then having that same event show up later in a biography you are reading. This makes connections for kids and strengthens their knowledge.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ISTOCK

Missionary Books

KIDS LOVE



“YOUR FAMILY WILL SEE FIRSTHAND *how to trust God* EVEN IN THE MOST DIFFICULT OF CIRCUMSTANCES AS YOU JOURNEY THROUGH THE *stories of missionaries around the world...*”



The first series that we learned about was the “Christian Heroes: Then & Now” by YWAM Publishing. They have 42+ volumes of missionary biographies set in various time periods and countries. They do go in order by date, but you can read them in any order you prefer. The books are written for kids to understand easily, but young kids will need you to read them aloud as they are pretty meaty chapter books. (They now offer these books in e-book, Mp3, and CD format.)

YWAM Publishing also offers a “Christian Heroes for Young Readers Series” designed to introduce young children to the lives of Christian heroes. These are shorter and make it easier for elementary readers to read the books for themselves. These books are also great to read aloud if you want something shorter — especially for little ones who do not sit still long! They are written for ages 4–10, and kids just love the captivating rhyming text and unforgettable color illustrations. [YWAM Publishing will be selling these at their RMHC booth.]

Once I realized how important studying the lives of missionaries was in mine and my kids’ lives, I knew we needed more. To meet that need, and after lots of research and study, I came up with a history curriculum that focuses on the biblical truths we can learn from Christian heroes of faith that use missionary books as its foundation.

Your family will see firsthand how to trust God even in the most difficult of circumstances as you journey with these missionaries around the world and learn history, language arts, geography, and more! From perseverance to compassion, *To Every Nation* is a 36-week study of real missionaries and their walk with God through the struggles of life. Through the biographies of these precious warriors, your family will grasp the depth of God’s provision, deepen their faith, understand suffering, and become equipped to walk through life’s trials.

More of Our Favorite Missionary Books

We make the study of missionaries an integral part of our homeschool history curriculum from the beginning by either using a curriculum focused there or adding in some of our favorite missionary books.

- **Missionary Stories With the Millers** — These missionary stories are a great place to start, especially with little ones, because they are a little gentler. They are also shorter in length. But do not mistake that for weak. This book is packed full of adventure-filled stories that the whole family will love!
- **Trailblazer Books** — We inherited a few of these missionary books two years ago in a bag of clothes that was given to us. What a gift they have been! The stories are much shorter than the two series above, making them a good fit for middle elementary age to read. My 3rd-grade son really enjoys them. [Christian Focus Publications will have some of these at their 2024 RMHC booth.]
- **The Adventure Series** — This series is unique in the way it shares God’s amazing creation through stories about missions. There are 15 books in the collection, and they promise a great geography lesson along with inspiration that will melt your heart toward missions.

• Hidden Heroes —

A true series suitable for ages 9–12, Hidden Heroes promises all the adventure and history of a missionary biography. Enjoy both well-known stories as well as not as commonly known.

- **The Brinkman Adventures** — This series has provided countless hours of wholesome entertainment while we travel in the car. So far, there are two CD sets, both containing about five hours of audio drama based around real stories, but fictitious characters.

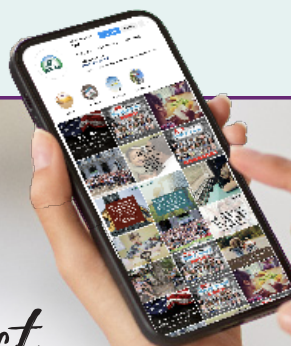
Life-Long Impact

I saw a marked difference in the way my kids viewed the world once we began studying missionaries. It is my hope that any of these suggestions do the same for you and your family. There are so many great resources out there; I encourage you to find and use them. ■



Kim Sorgius is passionate about helping families grow in faith, so they are Not Consumed by life.

Her practical and heartfelt resources will equip you to homeschool without feeling overwhelmed by circumstances. She has had the privilege of homeschooling her four children and has authored popular kid’s devotional Bible studies and practical homeschooling tools. You may contact her through her website, NotConsumed.com.



Connect
**with CHEC
online!**





Live events | Hands-on projects | Leadership training

Training Young Adults to Thrive through Project-Based Education



Visit: beunbound.us

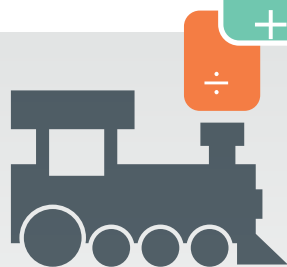
STUDENT FRIENDLY MATH

Learning math takes a lot of mental muscle regardless of curriculum. Christian Light Math uses a spiral learning method to make learning easier for students in Grades 1-9:

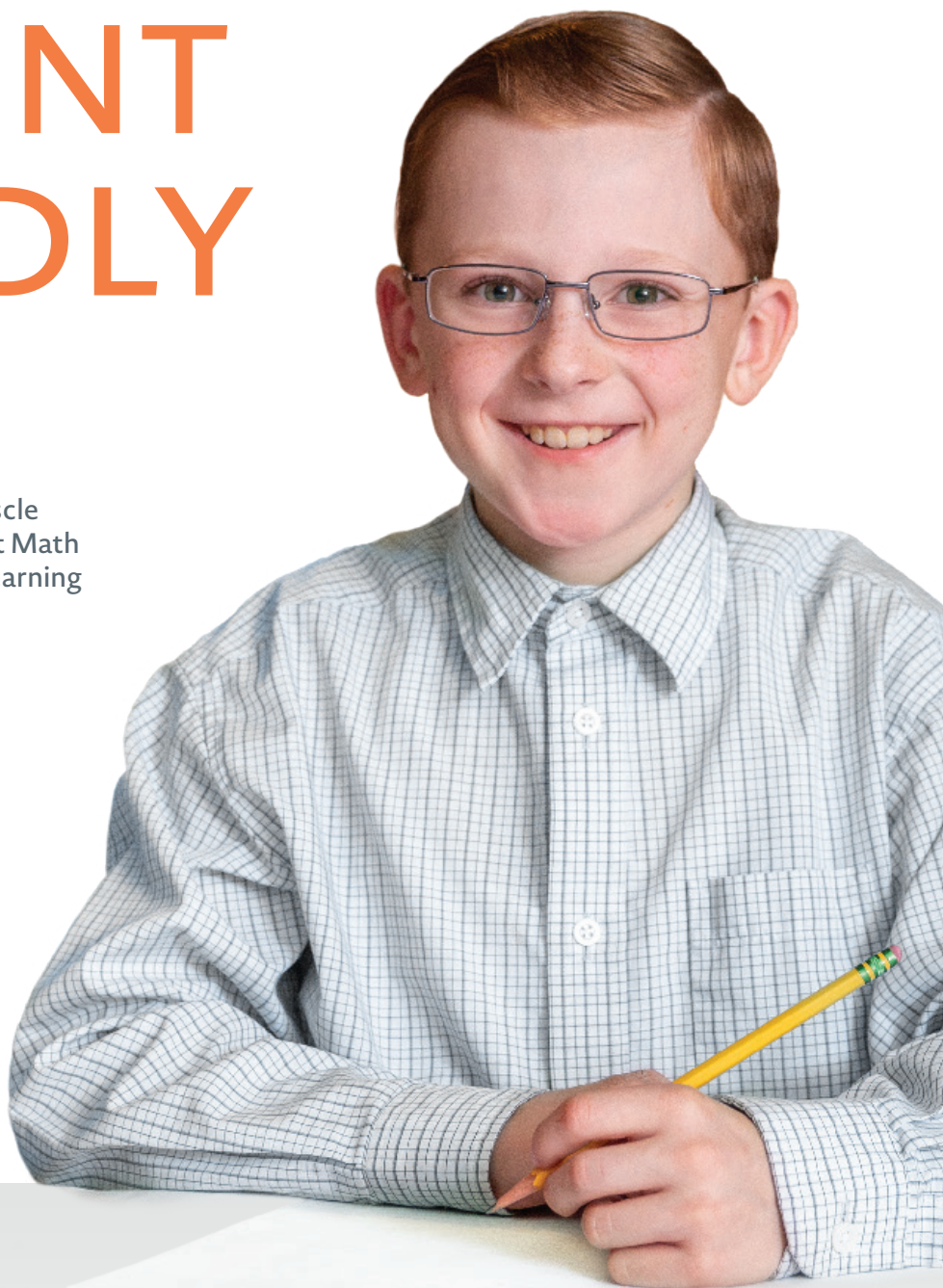
The learning thread on a particular concept is simple at first and then expanded in later lessons so that learning is cumulative.

New material is introduced in small steps, making the learning process less overwhelming.

Students review a new concept multiple times through exercises in following lessons.



Picture a train winding up a mountain. For example, the fraction train starts in first grade with cars carrying a light load of simple fractions. As the train chugs up the track, it pauses at stations to add more difficult concepts to the cars that were partially filled. It also picks up new cars carrying small loads of new concepts.



Visit our website to see sample pages from workbooks and Teacher's Guides, or to request a free catalog.



CHRISTIAN LIGHT
EDUCATION

1.800.776.0478
CHRISTIANLIGHT.ORG

BY ISRAEL WAYNE



Parent-Led Daily BIBLE DEVOTIONS

I can not possibly say how important it is for fathers to lead their families in daily family worship time. I know this is intimidating for many men because their fathers have not led them in teaching the Scriptures, so they have little to no example from which to draw. But we must start somewhere.

For single mothers, or wives who have unsaved husbands, or husbands who, for whatever reason, are unable or unwilling to lead family devotions, you need to serve as the sanctifying spouse in that situation and lead the children in family worship time yourself.

It is not the job of the church to teach your children in the Scripture (although they certainly can assist and supplement!). It is the responsibility of the parents. Please take your calling seriously.

Family devotions are very important to our family. We finished reading Revelation 22 this morning, which means we have read, studied, and discussed every verse in the entire Bible as a family. This whole project has taken us something like five–six years to complete. We often include Bible maps, commentaries, supplementary videos, church history, word studies, and even music (playing Handel’s Messiah for example, when we read passages that are set to music) into our family worship time. Our ideal is to get through an entire chapter per day, but this rarely happens because I encourage my children to ask questions as we go. It is not uncommon for us to spend the entire 30–45 minutes on only a half dozen verses.

I discuss our approach to “Bible Time” in my book, *Raising Them Up — Parenting for Christians*, in a chapter entitled, “How I Taught My Children to Sit Still and Be Quiet.” I also discuss the importance of teaching through the entire Bible on a cycle of at least every seven years (three times before your children leave home) — as outlined in Deuteronomy 31, in my chapter, “The Seven-Year Teaching Method.”

There really is not a “right” or “wrong” way to lead Bible devotion time with your children. Just do what works best for your family. I met one father who was so intimidated to lead family devotions he would not even open the Bible to read it aloud to them. He told

me the only thing he knew how to do was operate a remote control to the TV. But he felt convicted to do something, so he ordered a bunch of Bible teaching videos from major Christian ministries he trusted. Each morning his family would watch 30 minutes of a sermon from a leading Bible teacher. They did this for several years before he felt confident in his knowledge and skill to start teaching his own children. But during that time, his family heard hundreds of hours of solid teaching and grew immensely in their spiritual lives as a family.

The main thing is to do something. Even if it is five–ten minutes a day. Just reading a few verses together, singing a worship chorus, and closing in prayer, if done consistently, will bear much fruit in your family’s life over time. ■



Israel Wayne is the founder and director of Family Renewal, LLC. He is the author of a new catechism, Foundational Truths, which is a question and answer resource that teaches vital Bible doctrines. His resources can be found at FamilyRenewal.org. Israel will be a speaker and exhibitor at the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference, June 13–15, 2024.


SPEAKER

CHEC RESOURCES

FOR YOUR FAMILY

Find an overflowing amount of resources available to you as a homeschooling family, including curriculum, activities, and support — all at your fingertips at CHEC.org/resources



Join the movement and guard your freedom to homeschool!

THE COLORADO HOMESCHOOL FREEDOM TEAM

is ready to equip and educate you on what you can do to guard your freedom.



Please pray for:

- God to raise up godly legislators
- God to continue to preserve homeschool freedom and parental rights
- Carolyn Martin, CHEC Director of Government Relations

Join us at CHEC.org/Freedom

BY KEVIN BOUREN

Raising Up MEN



Many dads are wondering how they can be deliberate about raising the next generation of men.

The Colorado Father Son Retreat is designed to equip fathers and sons to do just that. This retreat is serious about providing tools and a fitting context to train men to confidently raise sons with great joy and great success. I have been to a number of retreats over the years, but we keep coming back to this one year after year because it is an environment that hits three major passion points for me:

1) Schedule: The schedule facilitates rewarding relationships, excellent experiences, and fruitful fellowship with other fathers and sons as we study God's Word together.

2) Relationship: Learning from and playing with other fathers and sons from around the world has produced fruit in our lives that

extends well beyond the retreat. The one-on-one time with my sons is priceless, and I am tremendously grateful for the resources and questions the retreat provides us to facilitate meaningful dialogue and connection with each other.

3) Fun: It is exciting to come to a beautiful part of the country in the summertime — the Colorado Rockies — where we feel the cool, crisp mountain air, see amazing wildlife in God's creation, and participate in many activities to build memories with my sons.

God tells us in Malachi 4:6 that He will *turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers* (ESV). I have personally witnessed this reality in my life and the lives of so many other fathers and sons at this retreat. Being with my sons as we pursue the Lord together is transformative!

Sometimes you do not realize that you are not connecting as much at home as you would like. Going out to the mountains where you have no other distractions and you are not bothered by the busyness of work or other responsibilities is a superb environment for relationship growth. You get focused time with your sons to pour into them, read Scripture together, hear solid biblical teaching that both encourages and challenges you, eat amazing food, and enjoy healthy competition with activities such as

bowling, racquetball, volleyball, pickleball, archery, water slides, ziplines, and many more!

So, what are you waiting for? Come fellowship with other like-minded Christian men who are catching the vision of discipling their sons, building fun memories together, and making sure that we pass on our faith to the next generation. To top it off, you will do all of this in one of the most beautiful places on earth! Register for the Colorado Father Son Retreat today at ColoradoFatherSon.com. ■



Kevin Bouren is a soldier in the Lord's Army. After serving for more than 30 years in the US Army, he co-founded *Set Shepherds*, a nonprofit ministry that shepherds the movie cast and crew for Christ. He has co-produced two feature-length films: *Birthright Outlaw* (October 2023); and *The Forge* (in theaters August 2024 with a special pre-release screening at the 2024 June RMHC). For 26 years, he has been married to Adra, who homeschools their four delightful children. You can reach Kevin at Kevin@SetShepherds.com and learn more about the Bouren Family at SetShepherds.com.



Register to attend a Father Son Retreat on August 15-18, 2024 or August 22-25, 2024 at ColoradoFatherSon.com!



PALS 2024 Homeschool Chess Clubs and Summer Camps

At PALs Chess Academy SUPER-FUN Homeschool Summer Chess Camps and Clubs, we know how to make chess FUN for ALL levels and ages. With a unique, world-class club and camp curriculum created by National Masters and 14-time Colorado State Chess Champions, Griffin and Sullivan McConnell, your child will be immersed in an interactive chess adventure! This all-new Homeschool-specific offering is sure to fill up;

REGISTER TODAY!

**LOCATIONS INCLUDE:
DENVER • GOLDEN • BOULDER • WESTMINSTER
CASTLE ROCK • PARKER • SOUTH DENVER
COLORADO SPRINGS**

Be sure to check out our entire offering of summer camps and clubs by visiting us online:

720-504-8765 | palschess.com



PLAY • ASPIRE • LEARN • SUCCEED

Standing Together FOR FREEDOM

BY CAROLYN MARTIN

A tsunami of legislation across the nation has hit the shores of homeschool freedom over the past several years in the name of either providing choice or keeping children safe.

States where government-funding mechanisms exist have seen efforts to bring independent homeschoolers under the same regulations as those receiving government money. Rules governing some existing programs have been tightened to constrain the definition of eligible expenses due to abuses and, in addition, causing the restriction of approved curriculum.

Impacts of government funding on independent homeschoolers:

- Conflation of all homeschoolers
- Dependence on government
- Market constraints
- Increased regulations
 - ▶ Centralized database & data tracking
 - ▶ Required teacher licensing
 - ▶ Home visits
 - ▶ Curriculum & state standards
 - ▶ State testing
 - ▶ Background checks

Several states, in response to alleged child abuse, have attempted to further regulate homeschoolers by creating a centralized tracking registry for homeschooled students or requiring background checks for every adult in the home.

Colorado was in the top ten worst states in which to homeschool before our current homeschool statutes regulating home-based education were enacted. Despite being a moderately regulated state, we have enjoyed a long period of relative freedom in peace. But in the last few years, the school choice wave to use government funds for homeschoolers has placed pressure on our freedom and the cohesiveness of our community. The eyes of legislators and bureaucrats are now focused on our community — asking questions that have never been on their minds before.

Imperative to the survival of our freedom is our ability to understand the bondage we left behind, the current trajectory of our education system, the nature of government, and the price of freedom.

The public education system from its inception was designed to produce a socialistic society, not an educated people capable of living in a free country. Recent trends of guiding emotions instead of training the mind have produced students who are failing academically and are saddled with mental health issues. (Check out The Art Club documentary at ArtClubMovie.com for a recent example of what's happening in Colorado schools.) School districts continually override parental authority and undermine

the family. Homeschooling, at its core, is a movement to preserve the foundations of the family as orchestrated by God.

Government by its very nature is force. As it grows, instead of securing our rights and protecting our freedoms, it gains more power to control those being governed. **Home education is the only form of education in the state where the government has no control — allowing us to exercise our freedom of conscience and to establish a family life —** directed by we, the parents — where our children can thrive and become who God made them to be.

Edmond Burke once stated, "The people never give up their liberties but under some delusion." It is essential that we wake up to the dangers that lay before us. It is for the freedom of our posterity that we must stand united against the encroachment of the state apparatus into our homes and our children's hearts and minds. Freedom requires sacrifice in the temporal, but God will reward us in eternity. ■



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. Email her at Carolyn@CHEC.org.



SPEAKER

CHEC.org

Christian Home Educators of Colorado



CHEC exists to defend your family's

freedom

and help you homeschool

with confidence

When you support the ministry of CHEC with
a financial donation or by volunteering your time, you become a
part of this mission here in Colorado and around the world!

Funds You Can Support:

- Casterline Single Moms
- Colorado Homeschool Freedom
- General Fund
- Homeschool Crisis Relief Fund
- New Homeschooler Outreach
- Unique Learners

CHEC does not receive government funding. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization; all donations are tax-deductible. This means we need you to partner with us today to make a difference in the lives of Christian homeschoolers!

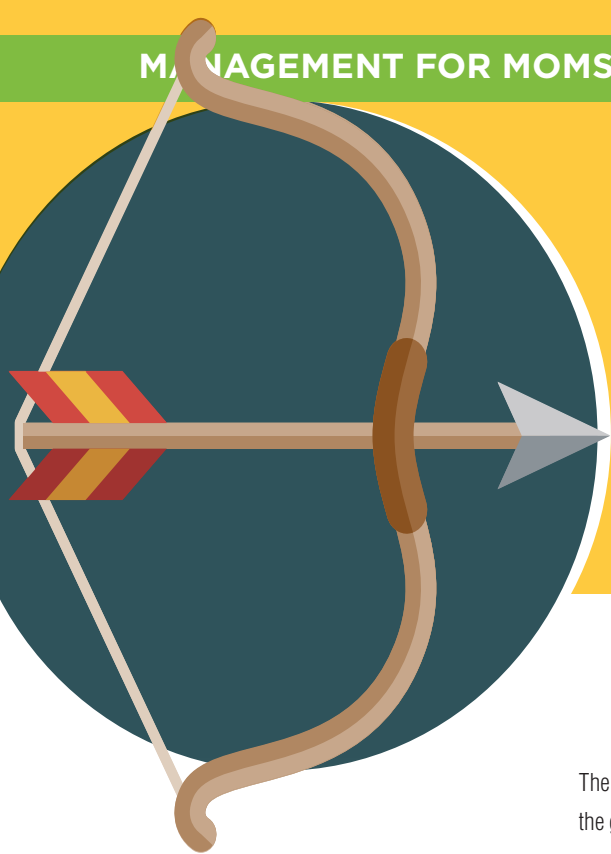
Stand with CHEC at
CHEC.org/Donate



Has CHEC made a difference in your family?

Take a minute and write a Google review for CHEC!





Releasing Our ARROWS

Into the World

BY MARCIA WASHBURN

Spring is a time of new beginnings. New beginnings imply changes — some welcome and some not so welcome. Our focus this time is on the many times of letting go that will occur in our lives as parents — releasing our little and not-so-little children into the world.

Psalm 127 tells us that our children are like arrows in the hands of a warrior and that the man who has a quiver full of children is blessed. My husband is a bowhunter. Through the years, our family has enjoyed the venison, elk, moose, and wild turkey that his skills have brought to our table. I have never seen him go out hunting with less than five arrows in his quiver, although he seldom needs to use more than one. He makes and examines his arrows carefully before leaving for a hunt. The fletching — the synthetic feathers that make the arrow fly straight — must be well-designed and carefully glued into place.

The shaft must be straight and the proper weight for the game he is hunting.

As we raise our little ones unto the Lord, we must use exquisite care to help them to develop into godly men and women. When we are ready to release them into the world, they must fly straight and true. Initially, we send them out on little practice flights, always with a string attached to pull them back to the nest for more teaching and coaching. As they grow older, we can trust them with longer and more difficult flights until, finally, they are shot without strings into the world to serve the kingdom as mighty warriors for the Lord.

Parents are commissioned to watch over their little flock. But how easy it is to act as if our children are safe only with us. We need a balance between sheltering and trusting. How easy it is to forget that children all over the world manage to grow up without antibacterial soap, patented vitamins, and personal bodyguards (aka “mothers!”) hovering over their every move. I found it helpful to picture my child sitting on my hand, outstretched to the Lord, knowing that even if I closed my fist to hold him tight, I could not totally protect him from all the world’s dangers — only His loving heavenly Father could do that.

Sometimes, we are called to release our children much earlier than we would have wished. In the Old Testament record of 1 Samuel, chapter 1, Hannah was called to give up Samuel to the Lord’s service when he was only about five years old, the typical

age of weaning among Hebrew mothers. In my own life, we were called to release a preborn son who died at eighteen weeks gestation — heart-wrenching, to be sure — but heart-warming to know that our little arrow had flown straight into the arms of Jesus.

In order to be sure our “arrows” will fly straight, we must set boundaries that limit what they are allowed to do. Toddlers may be briefly placed in a playpen during times when no one can actively supervise them. Soon they graduate to a baby-proofed room with a security gate. Before we know it, they have the run of the house, then the yard, and even the neighborhood, with parents needing to still monitor friendships, activities, and curfews.

These early limits not only protect the child from physical harm, but train him to obedience. God tells us in His Word, the Holy Bible, that we are to, *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it* (Proverbs 22:6 ESV). The picture here is one of staking up a tomato plant. If the plant is not tied to the stake, the tomatoes do not develop properly. The very thing that restricts the young plant is what allows it to mature into all it was created to be.

The principle of balancing additional freedoms and privileges with additional responsibilities is an important one, particularly in a large family. Our five sons span almost ten years in age. The youngest obviously could not be allowed the same privileges as

the oldest. On each birthday, they were granted new responsibilities, as well as new privileges.

We were pleased to discover the unexpected benefits of training our oldest child to obedience. As the younger ones came along, we as parents were already trained in the self-control necessary to be consistent in following through with discipline. We strove to create a culture of righteousness in our home — younger siblings noted how the older one acted and tended to follow in his path. This is not to say that they never challenged us. Each child had his own temperament and needed correction from time to time, but the expectations had been set. They learned that this is how people in our family act — a positive peer pressure that has been a powerful motivator in their lives. They do not want to disappoint God or their family members. This has been especially helpful during the teen years when increasing privileges permit additional temptations.

Several resources were especially helpful as we have learned when and how to give our sons additional freedom. The authors of each of the following books are Christians, although not all homeschoolers:

1 *And Suddenly They're Thirteen* by David and Claudia Arp was a real help as we came into the

teen years. I recommend it for parents whose children are about eleven years old, so they can begin planning some of the rite-of-passage celebrations the authors recommend.

2 In *Spiritual Milestones*, by Weidmann and Ledbetter, the authors offer detailed suggestions for celebrating these and other events. They also have large sections about “Crossing Into Adulthood” for young teens and “Committing to Purity” ceremonies.

3 A great resource to begin reading when your oldest is about fourteen is *Give Them Wings*, by Carol Kuykendall. The author discusses driving, curfews, career choices, graduation, etc., with special emphasis on helping parents through the emotions of letting go as their child becomes an adult member of the family. She also deals with self-care, laundry, budgeting, cleaning their rooms, and other responsibility issues. This tender book really helped me as our first-born left for college.

As parents, we will release our children many times throughout their lives, whether for an overnight at Grandma’s or a field trip with other homeschoolers. When they leave home for college, career, or mar-

riage, there will be another release. You may even face releasing your child to the foreign mission field or military service, realizing that they are safer there in God’s will than at home but outside His will.

Eventually, the circle of authority between parents and child becomes a circle of counsel — you are no longer in charge. As our children establish their own homes, they will make their own decisions. Some choices will be wise, some not so wise. In other words, they will be much like us!

What a blessing it is to have an adult child — when he is considering marriage — come and say to you, “I want what you and Dad have.” And what a privilege it is then to see them raising their own children (your grandchildren!) to be arrows properly prepared to shoot God’s blessings out into the world. ■



© 2024 by Marcia K. Washburn. Marcia writes from northeastern Colorado where she and her husband homeschooled five sons for nineteen years. She is the author of *Management for Moms*, *Activity Days for Homeschool Groups & Families*, the award-winning *Beethoven Who? Family Fun with Music*, and many other resources. See MarciaWashburn.com for more information.



“ There comes a time — many times, actually — in the lives of our children where we have to put the basket in the water.

WE HAVE TO LET GO AND TRUST THE PLAN OF THE FATHER.

The world is a scary place — a place where we fear our children could drown. But we must remember that we have to let go so that God CAN DRAW THEM FROM THE WATERS for His great purpose.

He has called us to be their parents, **BUT THEY WERE HIS FIRST.**

Whatever water you may be getting ready to put your basket into — remember that you have to put them in the water for God to draw them out and PLACE THEM INTO HIS PERFECT PLAN.

Though you might not be physically present with your child as much during the next phase of life, you can always

PETITION THE HEART OF THE FATHER ON THEIR BEHALF. ”

—ELIZABETH ELLIOT



BY MEGAN BURGOS

Not So Complicated *after all*

When God was first calling me to homeschool, I questioned my abilities.

"Where am I going to set up a learning space?"

"When am I going to find the time to teach?"

"How are my kids going to respond to me as their teacher?"

"Where do I even start?"

These were the thoughts that ran through my head. Solidifying our decision to homeschool was a challenge. But the truth is, we were over complicating it, which is easy to do when you are comparing it to the traditional education system.

I had an idea of how I wanted our learning space to be. There was a part of me that felt like I needed to have an aesthetically pleasing space. A space that met every need, with all the best supplies and all the best books about all the subjects that I felt obligated to teach. I was prepared to spend hours a day teaching my 4-year-old. I was stressing myself out trying to create an ideal learning space for her, so that I felt worthy of educating her.

One of our first homeschool lessons was a family outing to Garden of the Gods. My husband took the lead on this day. We would stop and read the information boards while we

walked through the park. We kept track of how many types of birds we saw and picked wild flowers. After our stroll, we drove down the road to some picnic tables next to a creek. We prayed over our lunch and then the kids played in the creek with my husband. I could see the light in my daughter's eyes as we learned about nature together and embraced God's creation. It was at the end of that day that I realized the perfect learning space included all of us being together, experiencing the world.

I started following homeschooling pages on social media and researched accurate requirements for homeschooling a preschooler. I soon realized that having a perfect classroom set-up and hours of tightly, structured curriculum are not part of those requirements. The point of homeschooling is not to mimic the education system. It is to show kids and parents that there is a way to gain knowledge outside of classroom walls. This allows kids and parents to connect and learn alongside one another through immersion and interaction. I now know that the most impactful tools I have while educating my children are intention and connection.

There are learning spaces all around us that have more to offer than books and paper. Since our children are young, we utilize nature as a primary learning space and when that is not accessible, we turn to play-based [also called "hands-on"] learning and skill building!

There is a Scripture I often refer to when I am feeling ill-equipped and unqualified. It is such a beautiful reminder that when we invite Jesus into everything we do — no matter how scary or unprepared we may feel — He will equip us with everything we need to succeed within His will.

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

(Hebrews 13:20, 21 ESV)

If you are feeling a call to homeschool or are feeling discouraged on your journey, I encourage you to re-evaluate your expectations. Relinquish your need for perfection and do not over-complicate it. Invite God in. He will guide your steps and help you create the learning space that best suits you and your children. Embrace the differences that homeschooling brings, where monotony and pressure to perform do not need to exist. It is not so complicated after all. ■



Megan Burgos is a stay-at-home mom who is dedicated to raising children that serve Christ. She is in the early years of homeschooling her two young children in Colorado. She loves to connect with other families who share the same values. You can follow her and her family's journey on Instagram!

prepared for POSSIBILITIES



© 2024 BJU Press. All rights reserved.

As a homeschool parent, you're not just teaching.

You're preparing your child for a future full of exciting possibilities.

BJU Press Homeschool curriculum gives you the tools you need, rooted in the solid biblical foundation you want. Our textbooks, video lessons, and digital learning tools can flex to fit your homeschool style and ensure your student confidently steps beyond homeschool, ready for whatever God has next.



Learn more at bjupresshomeschool.com



Early Bird
Registration!
\$139 ~~SAVE \$18~~
FAMILY
Save \$18 with coupon
UPDATE18; discount
ends 5/31/24!

Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference

PRESS ON

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the
upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 3:14

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



DR. GEORGE BARN
Arizona Christian University



ABRAHAM HAMILTON III
American Family Association



HEIDI ST. JOHN
Family Firmly Planted



KEVIN SWANSON
Generations

JUNE 13-15, 2024

DENVER MARRIOTT TECH CENTER

GET *equipped* FOR THE GREAT TASK OF RAISING UP CHILDREN FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.



Encouragement

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

PAGE
28

Family Activities



Training

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

PAGE
26

Bonus Day

PAGE
31

Speakers & Topics

PAGE
37

Workshops

PAGE
38

Full Conference Schedule



Resources

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

PAGE
45

Exhibit Hall Shopping

JOIN US ALONG THE WAY



INSTAGRAM
[RMHomeschoolConference](#)

#rmhomeschoolconference
#rockymountainhomeschoolconference



FACEBOOK
[RockyMountain
HomeschoolConference](#)



DOWNLOAD THE CHC HOMESCHOOL APP

*from the App Store or
Google Play for current
schedule, speaker details,
and announcements!*

APP SPONSORED BY **abeka.**



SPONSORED BY





BONUS DAY *feat*

Used Curriculum Sale | Homeschool Introductory Seminar | U



Now
open two
days!

USED CURRICULUM SALE

Wednesday Book Drop Off: 7am-11am

Wednesday Shopping: June 12th, 12:00-4:30pm

Thursday Shopping: June 13th, 9:00am-3:00pm

Need school books? Come shop at the CHEC Used Curriculum Sale! Single parent shopping is open both days — register today!

Selling your used curriculum is **EASY!**

Just log them into our online entry system, then drop them off and our volunteer team will sell them while you shop. Then, get your earnings in the mail!

Volunteer Bonus: You can volunteer and get first-pick early shopping time plus an additional 5% commission on your sales!

Single Parent Gleaning: Single parents can shop for free (restrictions apply). See website for details!



BONUS DAY SCHEDULE

8:30-9:20am

9:30-10:30am

10:45am-12:00pm

12:30-1:30pm

1:40-2:40pm

2:50-3:50pm

4:00-5:00pm

UCS Book Drop-off and Set up 7:00-10:45am

UCS Volunteer Entry
11:00am-12:00pm

Used Curriculum Sale 12:00-4:30pm

Homeschool Introductory Seminar

How to Homeschool Legally in Colorado
Steve Craig

Foundational Principles and Vision for Homeschooling
Kevin Swanson

Nuts & Bolts: How to Homeschool
Aimee Fuhrman

Unique Learners Seminar

Homeschooling Your Unique Child: Adopted, Gifted, Special Needs, and Struggling Learner
Shari McMinn

Assessing Your Special Needs Child
Teri Spray

Fearfully & Wonderfully Made: Using the Gift of Neuroplasticity to Overcome Learning Difficulties
Andrea Pitman

Unique Learners Homeschool Community Meet-up
Kashia Davis

Español Homeschool Introductory Seminar

Principios fundamentales y visión de la educación en el hogar
Doug Pietersma

Cómo educar en casa legalmente en Colorado?
Doug Pietersma

Seminario introductorio sobre tuercas y tornillos
Doug Pietersma

Executive Function Learning Assessments by Tara Roehl of Speechy Keen (appointment only)



Learn more about the
Conference Bonus Day and register to attend!

tures

Unique Learners Seminar

LOCATION FOR ALL BONUS DAY EVENTS!

Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church
10150 Belleview Ave.
Englewood, CO 80111

UNIQUE LEARNERS SEMINAR

Wednesday, June 12th, 12:30-5:00pm

We invite you to attend this **FREE** half-day seminar that will help you home educate your unique learners. Topics and speakers include:

- Homeschooling Your Unique Child: Adopted, Gifted, Special Needs, & Struggling Learner (Shari McMinn)
- Assessing Your Special Needs Child (Teri Spray)
- Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: Using the Gift of Neuroplasticity to Overcome Learning Difficulties (Andrea Pitman, NBC-HWC, CMCT)
- Immediately following the Unique Learners Seminar: Unique Learners Homeschool Community Meet-up. Refreshments served. See page 49 for more information.

New!

HOMESCHOOL INTRODUCTORY SEMINAR

Now in English *AND* Español!

Wednesday, June 12th, 8:30am-12noon

Interested in homeschooling but want some help to get started? CHEC's Homeschool Introductory Seminar is coming to the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference in this **FREE** pre-conference, half-day training event — **one in English and one in Español!** The content is crafted to bring you confidence and tools by learning from veteran homeschool parents about the why, how, what, and where questions of homeschooling in Colorado. Get ready to launch your homeschool successfully!

**\$40/
FAMILY
free!**



ENCOURAGEMENT

FAMILY ACTIVITIES



KENDRICK
BROTHERS

PRE-RELEASE MOVIE SCREENING

THE FORGE

Saturday, June 15th, 5:20–7:10pm

(Included in your family's full conference pass.
Limited seating, on a first come first served basis.)

From the Kendrick Brothers comes *The Forge*, a faith-filled new movie about a young man, the prayers of his mother, and biblical discipleship from his mentor as he discovers God's purpose for his life. You'll have the opportunity to screen this movie at the conference before it is released in August 2024!

BECOMING MOMSTRONG

with Heidi St. John

Friday, June 14th,

6:30–8:00 pm

(Included in full
conference passes)

Homeschool moms are in for a treat on Friday evening as Heidi St. John will draw on truths from God's Word to prepare moms to meet life's challenges head-on and to be able to answer the tough questions this generation of kids is asking.

THE AMAZING CHEMISTRY SHOW

*with
Josh Denhart*

Friday, June 14th, 6:30–8:00 pm

(\$15/family)

Bring your whole family on Friday night to The Amazing Chemistry Show — filled with fire, explosions, and foam. All ages will enjoy this time of audience involvement, laughter, and fun. The message of Jesus Christ will be clearly communicated using powerful illustrations!



petting ZOO

Only Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm
(\$15/family or \$8/individual)

Step inside the corral of the Two-By-Two Petting Zoo on Thursday and pet the animals, offer them treats, and even hold smaller animals. Animals scheduled to be present include rabbits, goats, sheep, cows, donkeys, and alpacas.



KIDS & TEEN ACTIVITIES

Sells out fast!! Bring your kids & teens for these incredibly fun activities filled with learning opportunities! All activities are available as an add-on to your Full Family Conference Pass when you register.

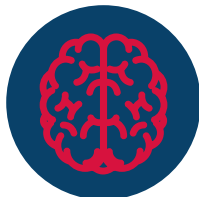
Adult volunteers have undergone background checks, and we use a safe check-in and out wrist-band system for children 12 and under.



Details at RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com/activities



Imagination



Science



Wildlife



Stories



Art



Music



ENCOURAGEMENT

SPECIAL CONFERENCE *features*



Fatherhood BOOTCAMP

SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH

Calling all
dads!



WHAT IS A *Father*?

Come to the Fatherhood Bootcamp and learn
four key biblical traits of a godly father:
wise, faithful, courageous, and loving.



Jason Young (M.Div.) is a pastor, speaker, and father. He serves as elder at Heritage Baptist Church in Buckeye, Arizona. Jason is a certified biblical counselor and focuses on marriage and family matters. He also specializes in biblical epistemology, the art of seeking and defending the truth from the Scriptures.

SPONSORED BY



KENDRICK
BROTHERS

AND

THE
FORGE

FATHER & SON LUNCH THE BAYONET CHARGE OF 1863

with Logan Wilson

Saturday, June 15th, 12:45pm

(\$14/person with lunch or \$5/no lunch as add-on to family conference pass)

Fathers and sons can enjoy lunch together then buckle up while Logan Wilson delivers a powerful dramatic presentation of the 1863 Bayonet Charge at Gettysburg. In costume and with a soundtrack, hear about history's most courageous, influential, God-fearing men, and the character and resolve that set them apart.



Keynote SPEAKERS



TRAINING



ENCOURAGEMENT

George Barna

Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University | GeorgeBarna.com

George Barna is a professor at Arizona Christian University and Director of Research at its Cultural Research Center, focusing on worldview assessment and development and cultural transformation. He was the founder of the Barna Group (which he sold in 2009), the Barna Institute, the American Culture and Faith Institute, and Meta-formation. Through those entities he has conducted groundbreaking research on worldview, cultural transformation, ministry applications, spiritual development, and elections, and to date, Barna has authored or co-authored 60 books addressing these issues. George and his wife, Nancy, married in 1978 and have three adopted daughters, all homeschooled, and three grandchildren. They currently live on the central California coast and in Phoenix.

► Raising Spiritual Champions: Nurturing Your Child's Heart, Mind, and Soul



Abraham Hamilton, III

American Family Association | AFA.net

Abraham Hamilton III (Abe) is a husband, father of six wonderful children, homeschool dad, lawyer, Bible teacher, and a national radio and television talk show host. He serves as American Family Association's General Counsel and host of "The Hamilton Corner" which airs Monday through Friday at 5pm CT on the American Family Radio Network (AFR). He also hosts "The Hamilton Corner" television program, which airs Friday evenings at 8pm CT on the National Religious Broadcasters Television Network (NRB TV). He has an undergraduate degree in New Testament Biblical Literature and a Juris Doctor degree. Abe is a Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) Board Member and is licensed to practice law in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi.

► Fortified for Launch



Heidi St. John

Firmly Planted Family | HeidiStJohn.com

Heidi is the author of several books, including *Becoming MomStrong: How to Fight With All That's in You for Your Family and Your Faith*, as well her latest, *MomStrong 365: A One Year Devotional to Encourage and Empower Everyday Moms*. Her podcast, *Off the Bench with Heidi St. John*, has been downloaded over 20 million times and is available wherever podcasts can be found. Heidi has been married to Jay since 1989, and they reside outside beautiful Vancouver, Washington, where their non-profit organization, Firmly Planted Family, and the Homeschool Resource Center are based. The St. Johns have seven children, all of whom have been homeschooled, and four grandchildren.

- Sex, Lies and Childhood: How You Can Identify and Inoculate Your Kids (and Yourself!) Against the Biggest Lies of Woke Culture
- A Surrendered Soul: God's Heart for the Anxious Mom
- Becoming MomStrong
- Monogamy for Tired Moms: A Women-Only Workshop
- The Busy Mom's Guide™ to Daylight: How to Fit Your Size 16 Day Into a Size 10



Kevin Swanson

Generations | Generations.org

Kevin Swanson was homeschooled in the 1960's and 70's, and with his wife, Brenda, homeschooled five children out on the eastern plains of Colorado. After graduating college with a degree in engineering, he went on to other leadership positions in corporate management, church, and other non-profits. Kevin now serves as the Director of Generations — a ministry he founded to strengthen homeschool families around the country. For the last 20 years Kevin has hosted a daily radio program — Generations Radio — the world's largest homeschooling and biblical worldview program that reaches families across the US and in over 100 countries. Kevin has authored several books for homeschoolers, and currently serves as a teaching elder at Reformation Church of Elizabeth, CO.

- Homeschool Intro Seminar: Home Educating Vision
- Foundation: The God-Centered Homeschool
- Teaching the Thrill, the Theme, the Triumphs, and Tragedies of History
- The Homeschool High School — What Matters Most to Your Child
- Come What May: Faith, Not Fear, For Your Family & Future



Workshop SPEAKERS

Wil & Meeke Addison

Straight Edge Ministries | StraightEdgeMinistries.org

- ▶ Raised to Be Ready
- ▶ Holy Ever After (He is Worthy!)
- ▶ Critical Race Theory: A Different Gospel
- ▶ Who's Got Next?



Brandee Gillham

Brandee Gillham | BrandeeGillham.com

- ▶ The Anatomy of Christianity



Chuck Black

Perfect Praise Publishing | ChuckBlack.com

- ▶ Crafting Believable Worlds for Fiction Writers
- ▶ Fighting Apathy: Teaching Your Teen to Care



Beverly Jacobson

Verity's Village | VeritysVillage.com

- ▶ Pro-Life Apologetics
- ▶ Surviving & Thriving in Transition
- ▶ From Heartache to Hope
- ▶ Homeschooling for the Long Haul



Kevin Boden

HSLDA | HSLDA.org

- ▶ 9 to 5: Working Dad in the Homeschool Journey
- ▶ The (New?) Face of Homeschooling



Dr. Kathy Koch

Celebrate Kids Inc. | CelebrateKids.com

- ▶ Raise Resilient Kids Who Embrace Life With Confidence
- ▶ Questions to Ask to Help Children Launch Well
- ▶ Children Can Thrive: Problem Solve so Their Needs Are Met
- ▶ Conversations About "Tough Stuff"
- ▶ Focus Children's Thinking to Increase Learning and Decrease Frustration
- ▶ 8 Great Smarts: Discovering and Using Your Child's Intelligences



Steve Craig

Christian Home Educators of Colorado | CHEC.org

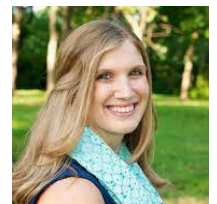
- ▶ Colorado Homeschool Law — Homeschool Introductory Seminar



Eryn Lynum

Eryn Lynum | ErynLynum.com

- ▶ Teaching Science as Natural Theology
- ▶ Inspire Creativity Through God's Creation: Using Nature & Scripture in the Arts
- ▶ Teaching Biblical Worldview & Absolute Truth Through God's Creation
- ▶ Learning to Teach Like Jesus Did: Through Nature
- ▶ Embrace God's Vital Gift of Rest for Your Family and Homeschool



Kashia Davis

Christian Home Educators of Colorado | CHEC.org

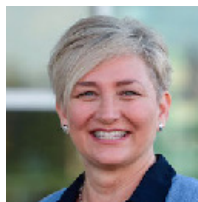
- ▶ Spanish Speaking Homeschool Community Meet-Up
- ▶ Unique Learner Homeschool Community Meet-Up
- ▶ Military Homeschool Community Meet-Up
- ▶ Black Homeschool Community Meet-Up



Shellie Doub

Cedarville University | Cedarville.edu

- ▶ 7 Skills Dual Enrollment Students Need to Succeed — High School & Beyond Seminar



Natalie Mack

HSLDA | HSLDA.org

- ▶ Homeschooling in the Military
- ▶ Developing a Plan for High School: Sample Four-Year Plans — High School & Beyond Seminar
- ▶ Charting Your Way Through High School for College, Career, or Military — High School & Beyond Seminar
- ▶ High School Transcript Clinic: Practical Help and Tips — High School & Beyond Seminar



Aimee Fuhrman

Smudged Pages | SmudgedPages.net

- ▶ Homeschool Nuts & Bolts — Homeschool Introductory Seminar
- ▶ When Homeschool Doesn't Work
- ▶ Homeschooling 101



Brian Mariani

Alpha Omega Institute | DiscoverCreation.org

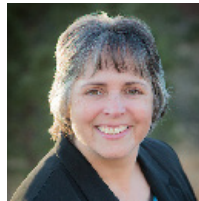
- ▶ Astronomy: Declaring the Glory of God
- ▶ Origin of Life, Mutations, Natural Selection, and the Complexity of DNA
- ▶ What About the Dinosaurs?



Carolyn Martin

Christian Home Educators of Colorado | CHEC.org

- ▶ Legislative Update: Freedom Under Siege



Shari McMinn

Shari Communicates | ShariMcMinn.com

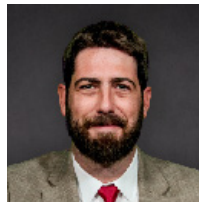
- ▶ Homeschooling Your Unique Child: Adopted, Gifted, Special Needs, and Struggling Learner — Unique Learners Seminar
- ▶ Fly High, Butterfly: Helping Our Daughters Navigate Maturing Into Adulthood



Alex Newman

Liberty Sentinel | LibertySentinel.org

- ▶ The Truth About School Choice
- ▶ Threats to Education, Freedom and Homeschooling in the US and Worldwide
- ▶ God & Government: What Does the Bible Teach About the Role of Government and the Duty of Christians?
- ▶ Why Most Americans Struggle With Reading
- ▶ Solutions: How to Protect Our Liberty and Civilization



Bradley Pierce

Heritage Defense | HeritageDefense.org

- ▶ Parenting Tips I've Learned From Handling 100's of CPS Cases
- ▶ 8 Laws Every Colorado Parent Should Know

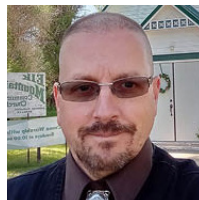


Dr. Douglas Pietersma

AltaMeta Enterprises | AltaMetaLLC.com

Spanish Homeschool Introductory Seminar:

- ▶ Principios fundamentales y visión de la educación en el hogar
- ▶ Cómo educar en casa legalmente en Colorado?
- ▶ Seminario introductorio sobre tuercas y tornillos



Andrea Pitman

The Nectar Group | TheNectarGroup.com

- ▶ Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: Using the Gift of Neuroplasticity to Overcome Learning Difficulties — Unique Learners Seminar
- ▶ Help and Hope for Dyslexia and Reading Challenges
- ▶ Putting ADHA Into Focus



Trisha Powell

Apologia | Apologia.com

- ▶ Homeschooling Produces Perfect Children — Right? Wrong.
- ▶ Homeschool as a Lifestyle, Not an Assignment
- ▶ Working & Homeschooling — How to Manage Both & Trust God With the Results



Bill Roach

Christian Home Educators of Colorado | CHEC.org

- ▶ Why Christian Children Leave Home Too Soon



Tara Roehl

Speechy Keen SLP | SpeechyKeenSLP.com

- ▶ Hold That Thought: Strategies for Building Working Memory
- ▶ Game On for Homeschooling: How Board Games Inspire Fearless Learning



Julie Ross

A Gentle Feast | AGentleFeast.com

- ▶ The F.E.A.S.T. of the Charlotte Mason Method
- ▶ The Gentle Art of Homeschooling — The Essential Tools of a Charlotte Mason Education



Victoria Schurter

Unbound | BeUnbound.us

- ▶ Ask: Why Learning to Ask Good Questions is Far More Important Than Knowing Answers
- ▶ Do: The Importance of Taking Action and Doing Real Things



Workshop SPEAKERS

Kirk Smith

Illinois Christian Home Educators | ICHE.org

- ▶ Creating a Biblical Culture in the Home
- ▶ Remaining Pure in a Sensual Culture
- ▶ Focus on Your Own Family
- ▶ Mothers in the Hands of Angry Sons



Mike Wales

Precept Inspections LLC | PreceptInspect.com

- ▶ Your Questions Answered — Apprenticeship for Trades: A Q&A Panel Discussion — High School & Beyond Seminar



Michael Smith

Legacy Trade College | LegacyTradeCollege.org

- ▶ Trades in a Biblical Environment — High School & Beyond Seminar



Sue Wales

Becoming Stewards | BecomingStewards.com

- ▶ Encouragement for the Single Parent



Dr. Roger Smith

Parenting Matters Now | RogerSmithMD.com

- ▶ Maximizing Growth of Children in Your Home
- ▶ Help! The High School Years Are Coming



Israel Wayne

Family Renewal | FamilyRenewal.org

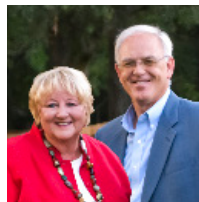
- ▶ Education: Does God Have an Opinion?
- ▶ Considerations Before Starting a Family Business
- ▶ Homeschooling From a Biblical Worldview
- ▶ Is Homeschooling Just for Women?
- ▶ How to Keep Your Child in the Faith
- ▶ Techno-Parenting: Navigating Screens and Media



Dr. Roger & Jan Smith

Parenting Matters Now | RogerSmithMD.com

- ▶ Prescription for a Healthy Marriage
- ▶ Discipline That Draws Children Closer



Logan Wilson

School of Honor | SchoolofHonor.com

- ▶ Father & Son Lunch — Bayonet Charge of 1863



Teri Spray

Joyful Christian Schools | ChristianCottage.org

- ▶ Assessing Your Special Needs Child — Unique Learners Seminar
- ▶ Simple Solutions for Struggling Learners
- ▶ Guiding the Gifted Learner



Todd Wilson

Familyman Ministries | FamilymanWeb.com

- ▶ Lies Homeschoolers Believe
- ▶ Raising Politically Incorrect Pink and Blue Kids in a Purple World
- ▶ How to be a Great Wife Even Though You Homeschool — Moms
- ▶ RV-ing: The Ultimate Tool for Families



Yvonne Strachan

Inspirational Homeschooling | InspirationalHomeschooling.com

- ▶ Cultivating Your Child's Unique Gifts
- ▶ Revolutionize Teaching Your Contradictory Child
- ▶ Homeschool With Confidence



Jason Young

Heritage Baptist Church | HeritageBaptistAZ.org

Fatherhood Bootcamp:

- ▶ Faithful Fathers
- ▶ Courageous Fathers
- ▶ Loving Fathers
- ▶ Wise Fathers



Activity LEADERS



Josh Denhart KidMin Science

- ▶ Kool Kid Science
- ▶ Thrilling Teen Science
- ▶ The Amazing Chemistry Show — Friday Evening



Nature's Educators

- ▶ CHEC Out the Wildlife: Colorado Natives



Aaron Gruben Post Lux Tenebris Books

- ▶ Kristmenn: Tales of Viking Conversion



Two by Two Petting Zoo

(Thursday 10am-3pm)



Jeanne Harvey Chef Quilter

- ▶ Sew What – Basic Sewing Stiches for All



Wings Over the Rockies

- ▶ Planes, Drones, and Robotics



Mary Langewisch Fragile Glory Impressions

- ▶ Fruits & Veggies in Watercolor



Davy Liu Kendu Kids

- ▶ Story Hour with Davy Liu and the Giant Leaf
- ▶ Story Hour with Davy Liu and the Fire Fish



Helen Scott Wonder

- ▶ Music Makers



Allie Slocum Character Club

- ▶ Character Club I: Compassion & Integrity
- ▶ Character Club II: Forgiveness & Respect



Logan Wilson School of Honor

- ▶ School of Honor (for young men 12+)



Butterfly Pavilion

- ▶ Flutterby and Bug Fest



Find details on the
**CHEC HOMESCHOOL
APP**

Download from
the App Store or
Google Play

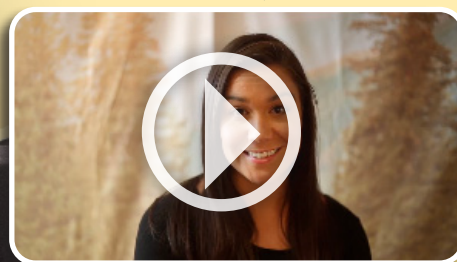


Find kid's activity details on the app or at
RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Join our incredible RMHC *volunteer team* and use YOUR TALENTS to *help* others in their homeschooling journey!
YOU'LL HAVE FUN AND BE BLESSED!

*Watch this video,
get trained to help,
and have fun!*



Positions for adults and students age 12+

1

**BONUS DAY
Used
Curriculum Sale**

Held on June 12th and 13th, positions are open for both adults and students ages 12 and over.

2

**Workshop
Moderators**

Positions are 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.

3

**Kids & Teens
Activities**

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

4

**Registration
& Facilities
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.

5

**Exhibit
Hall Support**

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



**Go to RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com/volunteer
to learn about all benefits for volunteers!**

GENERAL SESSIONS & workshops



TRAINING



ENCOURAGEMENT

GET TRAINING & ENCOURAGEMENT FROM WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Our workshops will not only inspire you but also give you the confidence and tools you need 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.

▶ WORKSHOP TRACKS

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

- **Unique Learner** Learn skills to help you help your children 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.

- **Kids/Teen Activity** Bring your kids & teens for these incredibly fun activities filled with learning opportunities! See website for full list of activities and to register.

- **Fatherhood Bootcamp** Encouragement for fathers in the calling of godliness.

- **Family Activity** Exciting activities for families to enjoy together, including Night of Fun & Faith for dads and kids, Homeschool Mom's Night Out, and the Two by Two Petting Zoo and The Forge movie Screening.

- **Community & Resources** Meet-ups that will help you find community with other families, sharing ideas in a town hall discussion format. See page 49 for more information.



Thursday SCHEDULE

● General Session
○ Homeschool Hacks

● Shopping
● Family Activity

8:30–10:00am

Registration
Opens at 7:30am

General Session

Fortified for
Launch



Abraham
Hamiton III



10:30–11:20am

Raise Resilient Kids Who Embrace
Life With Confidence
Dr. Kathy Koch



Education: Does God Have an Opinion?
Israel Wayne



Creating a Biblical Culture
in the Home
Kirk Smith



Learning to Teach Like Jesus Did:
Through Nature
Erin Lynum



Cultivating Your Child's Unique Gifts
Yvonne Stachan



Astronomy: Declaring the
Glory of God
Brian Mariani



Spanish-Speaking Homeschool
Community Meet-Up
Kashia Davis



Homeschooling Produces
Perfect Children, Right?
Tricia Powell



**Story Hour with Davy Liu and the
Giant Leaf**
(advance registration required, ages 4–10)

Character Club I — Compassion & Integrity 10:30am–12:30pm
(advance registration required, ages 8–12)

11:40am–12:30pm

The Truth About School Choice
Alex Newman



Maximizing the Growth of Children
in Your Home
Dr. Roger Smith



Lies Homeschoolers Believe
Todd Wilson



Inspire Creativity Through God's
Creation: Using Nature & Scripture
in the Arts
Eryn Lynum



9 to 5: Working Dad in the
Homeschool Journey
Kevin Boden



Pro-Life Apologetics
Beverly Jacobson



Black Homeschool Community
Meet-Up
Kashia Davis



Why Christian Children Leave
Home Too Soon
Bill Roach



Music Makers
(advance registration required,
ages 4–8)

1:20–2:10pm

Raising Politically Correct Pink and
Blue Kids in a Purple World
Todd Wilson



Questions to Ask to Help Children
Launch Well
Dr. Kathy Koch



Considerations Before Starting a
Family Business
Israel Wayne



Hold That Thought: Strategies for
Building Working Memory
Tara Roehl



Revolutionize Teaching Your
Contradictory Child
Yvonne Strachan



Parenting Tips I've Learned From
Handling 100's of CPS Cases
Bradley Pierce



Military Homeschool Community
Meet-Up
Kashia Davis



Remaining Pure in a Sensual
Culture
Kirk Smith



Planes, Drones, and Robotics
1:20pm–3:20pm
(advance registration required, ages 12+)

**Kristmenn: Tales of Viking
Conversion** 1:20pm–3:20pm
(advance registration & fee required,
ages 6–11)

Silent Auction

BID



Used Curriculum Sale 9:00am–3:00pm (Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church 10150 East Belleview Ave, Englewood)

Two by Two Petting Zoo 10:00am–3:00pm
(fee required, all ages)



Fatherhood Bootcamp

Kid/Teen Activity

Community & Resources

New to Homeschool

High School & Beyond

Unique Learners

Biblical Worldview
Family Discipleship
Homeschool How-To's

2:30–3:20pm

Threats to Education, Freedom, and Homeschooling in the US and Worldwide
Alex Newman



Help! The High School Years Are Coming
Dr. Roger Smith



Ask: Why Learning to Ask Good Questions is Far More Important Than Knowing Answers
Victoria Schurter



Simple Solutions for Struggling Learners
Teri Spray



Teaching Science as Natural Theology
Eryn Lynum



Crafting Believable Worlds for Fiction Writers
Chuck Black



Homeschooling in the Military
Natalie Mack



When Homeschool Doesn't Work
Aimee Fuhrman



Planes, Drones, and Robotics 1:20pm–3:20pm
(advance registration required, ages 12+)

Kristmenn: Tales of Viking Conversion 1:20pm–3:20pm
(advance registration & fee required, ages 6–11)

BID

Silent Auction



Used Curriculum Sale 9:00am–3:00pm

Two by Two Petting Zoo 10:00am–3:00pm
(fee required, all ages)

3:50–4:45pm

General Session

Foundations:
The God-Centered
Homeschool



Kevin Swanson



4:45–8:30pm

Exhibit Hall
Grand Opening
PARTY!

Shopping Time



SPONSORED BY



friday SCHEDULE

● General Session
○ Homeschool Hacks

● Shopping
● Family Activity

8:30–10:00am

Registration
Opens at 7:30am

General Session

Raising
Spiritual
Champions:
Nurturing
Your Child's
Heart, Mind,
and Soul



George Barna



10:30–11:20am

God and Government: What Does
the Bible Teach About the Role
of Government and the Duty of
Christians?

Alex Newman



Children Can Thrive: Problem Solve So
Their Needs Are Met

Dr. Kathy Koch



Teaching the Thrill, the Theme, the
Triumphs, and Tragedies of History

Kevin Swanson



Surviving and Thriving in Transition

Beverly Jacobson



Origin of Life, Mutations, Natural
Selection, and the Complexity of DNA

Brian Mariani



Developing a Plan for High School:
Sample Four-Year Plans

Natalie Mack



Homeschooling From a Biblical
Worldview

Israel Wayne



Do: The Importance of Taking Action and
Doing Real Things

Victoria Schurter



Prescription for a Healthy Marriage

Dr. Roger & Jan Smith



Teaching Biblical Worldview & Absolute
Truth Through God's Creation

Erin Lynum



The (New?) Face of Homeschooling

Kevin Boden



Charting Your Way Through High School for
College, Career, or Military

Natalie Mack



Focus on Your Own Family

Kirk Smith



Raised to Be Ready

Wil & Meeke Addison



Kool Kids Science with Josh Denhart 10:30am–12:30pm
(advance registration & fee required, ages 8–12)

**Story Hour with Davy Liu and
the Fire Fish**
(advance registration required,
ages 4–10)

Flutterby and the Bug Safari
(advance registration required, ages 4+)

12:30–2:30pm

Lunch Break
and
Shopping
Time



Exhibit Hall & Silent Auction 9:00am–6:30pm

BID



Fatherhood Bootcamp

Kid/Teen Activity

Community & Resources

New to Homeschool

High School & Beyond

Unique Learners

Biblical Worldview
Family Discipleship
Homeschool How-To's

2:30–3:20pm

Sex, Lies, and Childhood: How You Can Identify and Inoculate Your Kids (and Yourself!) Against the Biggest Lies of Woke Culture
Heidi St. John



Holy Ever After (He is Worthy!)
Wil & Meeke Addison



Homeschool as a Lifestyle, Not an Assignment
Tricia Powell



Mothers in the Hands of Angry Sons
Kirk Smith



Game On for Homeschooling: How Board Games Inspire Fearless Learning
Tara Roehl



7 Skills Dual Enrolled Students Need to Succeed
Shellie Doub



The F.E.A.S.T. of the Charlotte Mason Method
Julie Ross



3:40–4:30pm

Why Most Americans Struggle With Reading
Alex Newman



Conversations About "Tough" Stuff
Dr. Kathy Koch



How to be a Great Wife Even Though You Homeschool
Todd Wilson



Is Homeschooling Just for Women?
Israel Wayne



Legislative Update: Freedom Under Siege
Carolyn Martin



High School Transcript Clinic: Practical Help and Tips
Natalie Mack



Encouragement for the Single Parent
Sue Wales



The Anatomy of Christianity
Brandee Gillham



4:30–6:30pm

Exhibit Hall Shopping Time



6:30–8:00pm

Night of Faith & Fun

The Amazing Chemistry Show

with Josh Denhart



Homeschool Mom's Night Out

Becoming MomStrong

with Heidi St. John



ENCOURAGEMENT



Exhibit Hall & Silent Auction 9:00am–6:30pm

BID

Saturday SCHEDULE

● General Session
○ Homeschool Hacks

● Shopping
● Family Activity

8:30–10:00am

Registration
Opens at 7:30am

General Session

A Surrendered
Soul: God's Heart
for the Anxious
Mom



Heidi St. John



10:30–11:20am

Solutions: How to Protect Our Liberty
and Civilization
Alex Newman



Faithful Fathers
Jason Young



From Heartache to Hope
Beverly Jacobson



The Gentle Art of Homeschooling —
The Essential Tools of a Charlotte Mason
Education
Julie Ross



Homeschooling 101
Aimee Furman



Homeschool High School—What
Matters Most in Your Child's Life
Kevin Swanson



8 Laws Every Colorado Parent Should
Know
Bradley Pierce



Focus Children's Thinking to Increase
Learning and Decrease Frustration
Dr. Kathy Koch



**Sew What — Basic Sewing Stitches
for All**
(advance registration, ages 6-12)

11:40–12:30pm

Critical Race Theory: A Different Gospel
Wil & Meeke Addison



Courageous Fathers
Jason Young



How to Keep Your Child in the Faith
Israel Wayne



Monogomy for Tired Moms:
A Women-Only Workshop
Heidi St. John



RV-ing, the Ultimate Tool for Families
Todd Wilson



Trades in a Healthy Biblical
Environment
Michael Smith



Help and Hope for Dyslexia and Reading
Challenges: Treating the Root Cause
Andrea Pitman



Fly High, Butterfly: Helping Our
Daughters Navigate Maturing Into
Adulthood
Shari McMinn



**CHEC Out the Wildlife — Colorado
Natives**
(advance registration, ages 4+)

12:30–2:00pm

**Father/Son Lunch
12:45–1:45pm**

Bayonet Charge of
1863

Logan Wilson

Advanced Registration & Fee

Lunch Break
and
Shopping
Time



Exhibit Hall & Silent Auction 9:00am–4:30pm



BID



Fatherhood Bootcamp

Kid/Teen Activity

Community & Resources

New to Homeschool

High School & Beyond

Unique Learners

Biblical Worldview
Family Discipleship
Homeschool How-To's

2:00–2:50pm

8 Great Smarts: Discovering and Using Your Child's Intelligence
Dr. Kathy Koch



Loving Fathers
Jason Young



Embrace God's Vital Gift of Rest for Your Family and Homeschool
Eryn Lynum



Homeschooling for the Long Haul
Beverly Jacobson



Fighting Apathy: Teaching Your Teens to Care
Chuck Black



Your Questions Answered, Apprenticeship for Trades: A Q&A Panel Discussion
Mike Wales



Guiding the Gifted Learner
Teri Spray



Who's Got Next?
Wil & Meeke Addison



3:10–4:00pm

Techno-Parenting: Navigating Screens and Media
Israel Wayne



Wise Fathers
Jason Young



Working & Homeschooling — How to Manage Both & Trust God With the Results
Tricia Powell



The Busy Mom's Guide to Daylight: How to Fit your Size 16 Day into a Size 10
Heidi St. John



Discipline That Draws Children Closer
Dr. Roger & Jan Smith



What About the Dinosaurs?
Brian Mariani



Putting ADHD Into Focus
Andrea Pitman



Homeschool With Confidence
Yvone Strachan



4:30–5:30pm

General Session

Come What May: Faith, Not Fear, For Your Family & Future



Kevin Swanson



5:30–7:00pm

Special Session

The Forge
Movie Screening



THE FORGE



Exhibit Hall & Silent Auction 9:00am–4:30pm

BID



Shopping OPPORTUNITIES

EXHIBIT HALL *grand opening party*

Thursday, June 13th, 4:45–8:00pm

Visit all three of our Exhibit Halls to enjoy the big kick-off Grand Opening Party for exclusive discounts and specials from conference exhibitors. Check out curriculum in the Central Exhibit Hall. Head toward the Pavilion for free popcorn, animal balloons, and a bounce house for kids under 12. Grab a family photo at the CHEC Photo Booth in the Atrium Exhibit Hall!

SPONSORED BY



Kids ▶ Come get free balloon animals in the Exhibit Hall and enjoy the bounce house!



COME SHOP IN ALL THREE *exhibit halls!*

In the Atrium, Central, and Pavilion Exhibit Halls, research and shop with 120+ exhibitors who are ready to equip you with the resources and the training you need to find the right curriculum and materials.



▶ ACTIVITY DEMONSTRATIONS

Exhibitors may have demonstrations at their booths; check their posted schedules.

▶ 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 throughout the year.



▶ USED CURRICULUM SALE

Wednesday and Thursday — see page 26 for details!





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!

A Gentle Feast — Julie Ross

A.C.E. School of Tomorrow

Abeka

AdventHealth University Denver

Alpha Omega Institute

American Heritage Girls

Apologia — Trisha Powell

Artios Academies of Greenwood Village

Basic Bible Guide

Basketful Relief Project

Beakers & Bricks, LLC

Bella Marketplace

Berean Homeschool Enrichment

BiblioPlan

BJU Press Homeschool / HomeWorks by Precept

Bob Jones University

BooksBloom

BRAVE Books

Bryan Davis — Author

Castle Rock Women's Health

Cedarville University — Shellie Doub

Celebrate Kids — Kathy Koch

Center for American Values

Character Club — Allie Slocum

Chasing Adulthood

CHEC Independent School

Christian Focus Publications

Christian Home Educators of Colorado — S Craig / K Davis / C Martin / B Roach

Circuit Riders' Ministries

Classic Bible Art

Classical Conversations

Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom

Colorado Civil Air Patrol

Colorado Farm Bureau Insurance

Colorado Right to Life

Community Bible Study

Cool Creation Press

Crawford Media Group

Creative Homeschool Solutions

Demme Learning / Math-U-See

Denver Eagles

Discovery Toys

doTerra by Kiwi Oils

Elevating Motherhood

Exhibitor Services

Faith Baptist Bible College & Seminary

Family Renewal — Israel Wayne

Familyman Ministries / The Smiling Homeschooler — Todd Wilson

Firmly Planted Family — Heidi St. John

Flip Flop Spanish & Spanish Geniuses

Frances M. Engler, DDS

Frontier School of the Bible

Genesis Apologetics

Generations — Kevin Swanson

GFA World

Godstruck Ministries 4 Kids

Grammar of Grace

Great American Outpost

Help Club for Moms

Heritage Defense — Bradley Pierce

Historical Conquest

History Bites

Home Science Tools

Homeschool In A Box Inc.

HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association) — N Mack / K Boden

Homestead Education

Inspirational Homeschooling — Yvonne Strachan

Inspire Music Arts

Institute For Principle Studies

Institute in Excellence for Writing (IEW)

i Voter Guide

Juice Plus

Kendu Kids — Davy Liu

Kerusso

Lamplighter Ministries

Legacy Trade College — Michael Smith

Liberty and Independence Press

Liberty Sentinel Media — Alex Newman

Lucy the Ladybug

Master Books

Math Without Borders Inc

Metro Brokers Real Estate

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Multisensory Reading Center

Nat Theo Podcast — Eryn Lynum

Opening the 10/40 Window in the Classroom

PALS Chess Academy

Patrick Henry College

Patterns of Hope

Perfect Praise Publishing — Chuck Black

Positive Action for Christ Bible Curriculum

Post Tenebras Lux Books — Aaron Gruben

Redemptive Dance Ministries

Resounding Voice

RightStart Mathematics

Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship

Rocky Mountain STOA

Rod and Staff Publishers / Word of Life Ministries

Samaritan Ministries

Sargent Family Productions

School Crossing & Toy Station

Share Healthcare

Shari Communicates — Shari McMinn

Smudged Pages — Amiee Fuhrman

Speechy Keen SLP — Tara Roehl

Storytelling Fun

Tales & Legends

TalkBox Mom

Teaching Textbooks

Teri Spray Books & Homeschool Services — Teri Spray

The Joy of Learning

The Nectar Group — Andrea Pitman

Treehouse Storytelling

True North Homeschool™

Unbound — Victoria Schurter

Verity's Village — Beverly Jacobson

WayFM Colorado

Wealth Wave

Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum

Wonder — Helen Scott

Woolcarders Wooden Swords

Young Living by Essential Oil Works

YWAM Publishing

▪ Speaker or Add-on Activity Booths

▪ Sponsor Booths



The excitement starts WHEN YOU REGISTER

Register Early and Save!

FULL CONFERENCE PASS

All general sessions, workshops,
and exhibit hall

INDIVIDUAL

\$119

FAMILY

\$139

*Family Pass includes grandparents
and children of any age who live with
you when you register your family.*



CHEC INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FAMILIES

INDIVIDUAL

~~\$119~~
FREE

FAMILY

~~\$139~~
FREE

SHOPPING ONLY PASS

Exhibit Hall Access

INDIVIDUAL

\$26

FAMILY

\$36

*Shopping Pass includes access to the
UCS on Wednesday & Thursday and
the Exhibit Hall on Thursday through
Saturday.*



*Must register online before June 8th for free registration.
Log in to your account at CHECIS.org and click the Enrollment Perks tab for more instructions.*

Registration Includes:

- 5 Keynote General Sessions
- 100+ Workshops
- Exhibit Hall Shopping
- Used Curriculum Sale (page 26),
Wednesday & Thursday
- Fatherhood Bootcamp
(page 30)
- Free Parking



Conference Add-Ons:

Most are limited space, pre-registration only

- The Forge Movie Screening, free (page 28)
- Mom's Night Out, free (page 28)
- Amazing Chemistry Show, \$15 (page 28)
- Kids & Teen Activities (page 28)
- 2x2 Petting Zoo, \$15 (page 29)
- Father & Son Lunch, \$14 (page 30)
- Conference Recordings, \$69 (save \$25)

REGISTER

RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com

New CONFERENCE VENUE!



► CONFERENCE LOCATION

The Denver Marriott Tech Center

4900 S Syracuse St

Denver, CO 80237



Parking is convenient & free for all attendees!

STAY ONSITE AND ENJOY YOUR conference getaway!

Rooms are limited, so don't wait to reserve your room! Exclusive conference attendee reservation rate of \$169/night (plus tax) is available for conference attendees! All rooms have a mini fridge. Rate includes free parking, and wireless internet.

To make a reservation with the Marriott, go to our website or call **(888) 236-2427 / 1-877-303-0104**, mentioning that you are with the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference.

This special rate expires on Thursday, May 22, 2024. After this date, reservations may be available but the discounted lodging price may not be.

**Go to RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com/locations
to make your hotel reservation!**



GOT Community?

BY KASHIA DAVIS

Have you ever seen the Sesame Street clips, “One of these things is not like the others?” I can not tell you how many times I walked into a group and that song played in my head. There were times in my life as a “military brat” that I was convinced it was my personal theme song.

We moved from Hawaii to upstate New York in the middle of winter. I went from shorts, tank tops, and Muumuu dresses to winter coats, boots, and turtlenecks. I was an 8-year-old not willing to give up her lovely Muumuu dresses either. To this day, I crack up at the picture of me wearing a turtleneck under my long tropical dress. I was certainly not like the others.

I think it is human nature to be insecure about our differences. The truth is, we are fearfully and wonderfully made, and the beauty of diversity is intentional. We have an enemy that wants us to divide, but the Lord delights in the unity of the Body!

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! (Psalm 133:1 ESV)

One of the ways we support homeschoolers in our state is directing them to find groups

that meet their needs. We have a growing directory of Christian faith-based groups all over the state. I hope you find community through one or more of those groups. It was crucial for me to attend the Mom's Night Out support group meetings as a homeschooler. I needed to know I was not alone. Even in that group, I had to take my thoughts captive and not allow the enemy to cause division. I would hear the testimony of one family and think to myself, *she is certainly not like me*. A dear friend of mine would usually interject with “or not” after someone shared the specifics of how she did something. It served as a reminder to not be burdened by things that make us different. We are not meant to be all the same. Our differences make “the Body” of believers complete.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many.
(1 Corinthians 12:12–14 ESV)

Still, sometimes, we just need to find our people. You know, we need to find someone who can relate to the things we are going through. As a white mother, my black husband suggested that there were times when we needed a specific community for our diverse family. One time we went to a group open house and a

woman spotted us from across the room. I could see eagerness in her eyes as she made a beeline to our family that looked like hers! Indeed, we found warm community with a variety of groups, but sometimes a specific niche was beneficial.

With this in mind, CHEC has four specific meet-up and resource workshops scheduled at the RMHC this June. We are all united in the call to homeschool and, I pray, in the Body of Christ. But, like my friend desperate to connect with someone traveling her road, maybe you need specific connections. Would you help us share these meet-up groups? If so, use the page to the right of this article. We encourage you to rip the page out, pass it around, pin it to a bulletin board, or do whatever you can do to share these wonderful opportunities for homeschool families to find their needed community. There are people who feel like they are alone. We want to show them that they are not and connect them to resources, too! ■



Kashia Davis, Outreach Director for CHEC, homeschooled her children and is delighted that they are pursuing it with their children. While homeschooling, she served in various ministries and part-time work, allowing her the chance to disciple and encourage others. She is passionate about redeeming the time the Lord has given her and considers her work with CHEC a calling. You can reach her at Kashia@CHEC.org.



SPEAKER

Homeschool Community and Support Meet-Ups

Do you want to meet more families like yours?

Attend one of the Homeschool Community and Support Meet-ups at the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference and find fellowship and resources at these town hall discussions!



Black Community

MEET-UP:
Thursday 6/13
11:40-12:30pm



Military Community*

MEET-UP:
Thursday 6/13
1:20-2:10pm



Spanish-Speaking Community*

MEET-UP:
Thursday 6/13
10:20-11:20am



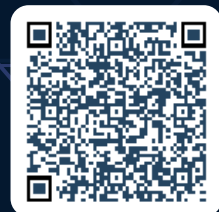
Unique Learners Community*

MEET-UP:
Wednesday 6/12
4:00-5:00pm

Location: Cherry Creek
Presbyterian Church

**Customized resources available just for you!*

More info at
RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com/support



Fearfully and Wonderfully MADE

BY ANDREA PITMAN

Having a child who struggles to learn is one of the greatest challenges a homeschool parent can face. In working with homeschool families for over 20 years, I have seen first-hand the pain that this can cause a mama's heart and the worry on a father's mind.

I have heard the many questions that keep these parents up at night: *Are we doing the right thing? Should we put them in a different school setting? Did we choose the best curriculum for how they learn? How do we balance the attention they need with what our other children need? Am I teaching them correctly for their needs? Is there any way that we can help them overcome these challenges?* The best part of my job is providing reassurance to parents experiencing these worries by giving hope and a path forward through effective holistic treatment for their child!

You see, the child with learning struggles was created by an infallible God! He has provided an answer to ease the burden of learning difficulties through neuroplasticity. This is the God-given characteristic that allows the brain to be moldable, malleable, and changeable. In other words, our brains are "plastic" that can be transformed with the right help. This means that we can treat the root causes of learning disorders and difficulties, so that the limitations slowing the learning process can truly be overcome.

As Psalm 139:13–14 says, *"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well"* (NIV). **I love thinking about God knitting into the very fabric of our brains this innate ability to change and grow. I believe He gives us all the provisions we need to tackle the challenges that have been laid before us, including learning challenges.** God did not create your child to struggle indefinitely. He gave the tools necessary, that when utilized, allow your child to move through and beyond their current limitations to achieve his or her full potential. His plan is good and full of hope. Our favorite Scripture at The Nectar Group is Jeremiah 29:11, *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to*

prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (NIV).

Most parents at this point want to know how they can utilize neuroplasticity to help their child. The answer lies in the child's cognitive skills. We all have seven core cognitive skills (short term memory, long term memory, processing speed, visual processing, auditory processing, logic and reasoning, and attention). These are our thinking skills, and they allow us to problem solve, process and remember information, and pay attention. Most learning difficulties are caused by deficits in one or more of these cognitive skills. In the brain there are neural pathways for each of these seven cognitive skills.

If a skill is strong, that pathway will be wide and smooth, like a big, wide, multi-lane, paved highway. This is due to many neurons firing and wiring together to make a strong neural pathway. If a skill is weak, the pathway will be small and narrow, like a dirt road. This is caused by a lack of neurons firing and wiring together. This lack of neural circuitry is what causes learning problems. For example, if your child has a dirt road where they need a paved highway for processing speed, you will likely see this show up as being slow to complete tasks. (You might think an assignment should take 20 minutes

but it turns into 2 hours or does not even get done at all!) Another way this shows up is that the child will zone out or be easily distracted.

If your child has a reading difficulty, such as dyslexia, this is caused by a weak pathway for auditory processing. This makes manipulation of phonemes (sounds) difficult, causes weak phonological memory, and simply makes fluent reading and spelling extremely challenging. We could name many examples, but the bottom line is to understand that if your child is struggling with learning, they likely have weaknesses in their cognitive skills.

So, how can this be treated? This is where neuroplasticity comes into play. The way these deficits are treated is by stimulating the weak areas of the brain through mental exercises that target specific pathways. During these exercises, the brain begins to fire neurons together in the targeted region. There is a law in neuroscience called Hebb's Law, which says, "neurons that fire together, wire together." When the child engages in the exercises frequently enough, for long enough, the neurons fire and wire together and pave that dirt road! This type of intervention, known as cognitive training, is a corrective measure that treats the root causes of learning disorders by using neuroplasticity! Pretty amazing, right?

“
God did not
create your child to
struggle indefinitely.
**He gave the tools
necessary**, that when
utilized, allow your child
to **move beyond their
current limitations** to
achieve his or her **full
potential**.”

Cognitive Training is done through professionals at The Nectar Group, but you can also enhance the neural circuitry of your child's brain through nutrition, physical exercise, restorative sleep, and mental exercise. I recommend including brain boosting activities in your schooling! You can play card and board games that target specific cognitive skills (see [TheNectarGroup.com/Resources](https://www.thenectargroup.com/Resources) for a list) or utilize brain teasers at transition times during the day. For example, have your kids count backwards by 4 from 100 or practice quickly retrieving information from their long-term memory by

having them name as many ____ (dog breeds, stores, cities that start with the letter M, etc.) as possible in one minute. You can play word association games or even have them say the alphabet backwards as quickly as possible. Look for ways to incorporate this type of fun, brain-boosting activity when everyone needs a 'pick me up' during the day.

Most importantly, if your child is struggling to learn, have their cognitive skills assessed to unearth the root causes and enable a targeted treatment plan to be created. God has a plan for your child and their education. Overcoming learning challenges is possible! Even when learning is difficult, remember that your child is fearfully and wonderfully made, and God has a plan with a future full of hope! ■



Andrea Pitman, Executive Director at The Nectar Group, is a Master Level Certified Cognitive Coach, Certified Teacher, Psychometrist, and Nationally Board-Certified Health and Wellness Coach.

Andrea has over 20 years of experience working with families through cognitive skills training, consulting, and teaching. You can reach her at 303-333-3248 or [TheNectarGroup.com](https://www.thenectargroup.com).



SPEAKER

What is your plan for the 2024/25 school year?

Will you file a Notice of Intent with a Colorado School District?



Home-Based Education Program

- ✓ File a Notice of Intent (NOI) with any Colorado school district and follow the home-based education law.
- ✗ Enroll in an independent school
- ✗ Obtain a Colorado Teacher's License

...Enroll in an independent "umbrella" school?



Independent (Umbrella) School

- ✓ Enroll in an independent school and follow their rules.
- ✗ File a Notice of Intent (NOI) with any Colorado school district
- ✗ Obtain a Colorado Teachers License

...Or obtain a Colorado Teachers License?



Certified Colorado Teacher

- ✓ Obtain/maintain a Colorado Teachers License and that's it!
- ✗ File a Notice of Intent (NOI) with a Colorado school district
- ✗ Enroll in an independent school

Learn more at [CHEC.org/law](https://www.chec.org/law)

BY CINDY PUHEK

Navigating the RMHC EXHIBIT HALL

I always consider my time invested at the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference as my "professional development" as a home educator. I take my job educating my children seriously, and I devour the content of the workshops and special events at the conference each year.

One of the greatest opportunities at this annual June event is the Exhibit Hall. There I can research the latest curriculum, literature, learning games, and supplies. Talking to these exhibitors — many of whom are the authors of the curriculum — allows me to get hands-on instruction and in-person experiences with their products. This enables me to easily and quickly decide if they are a good fit for my family.

The vendors at the conference are very diverse. Some sell curriculum in full grade level sets or in individual subjects like Bob Jones University Press or Generations. Others specialize in a few subjects like Teaching Textbooks and Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW). Along with the curriculum displays, there are service provider vendors representing extracurricular opportunities like American Heritage Girls and Civil

Air Patrol. Others are selling quality toys, games, and educational resources such as Discovery Toys and School Crossing. Being able to look through the curriculum and speak directly to the vendors saves me a lot of time and money that I could have wasted researching and ordering books and curriculum online that might or might not work with my teaching style or with my children's learning styles. Visiting the booths also gives me the opportunity to get on the vendors mailing lists, so I can receive their catalogs and emails and continue researching curriculum choices from home.

The Exhibit Hall can feel daunting, so here is some advice for navigating it ahead of time. Start by going to the RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com/Resource-Shopping web page.

First, do some research into the vendors who will be present. Each is listed lower down on that web page. Click on an exhibitor's logo for a hot link that takes you directly to their website.

Second, make a list of the vendors you would like to visit. There is a map of the Exhibit Hall you can access by clicking on the first blue drop-down bar, which will allow you to plot your course through the three different sections of the overall Exhibit Hall, which at the Marriott Denver Tech Center includes the Atrium, Central, and Pavilion areas.

Third, set aside the time to thoroughly tour, shop, and purchase in the multi-space Exhibit Hall. It tends to be busiest on Saturday, so if you would really like to speak with the vendors

about their products, I suggest setting aside several hours on Friday, with final purchases made Saturday. If you prefer a less crowded hall, visit while there are General Sessions and workshops going on during Friday and Saturday. A number of exhibitors will be offering "Grand Opening Party Only" (Thursday 4:45-8pm) and/or "RMHC specials." You can investigate these ahead of time when the second blue drop-down bar is ready in late May on that same web page. The overall schedule, including Exhibit Hall shopping hours, is found at RockyMountainHomeschoolConference.com/Schedule.

As a final reminder, exhibitors travel from all over the country to attend the RMHC and renting space for a booth and travel for a host team is costly. Please support these businesses by purchasing from them, as many are "mom and pop" entrepreneurial endeavors. They believe in homeschooling and are seeking to serve our unique community. If you see something in the Exhibit Hall that will enrich your homeschool, please purchase it there directly from the vendor.

I hope you have a wonderful time at the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference getting equipped for your next year of homeschooling. ■



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. Cindy holds a Master's degree in Chemistry. You can visit her blog at Homeschool-Enrichment.com/blogs.

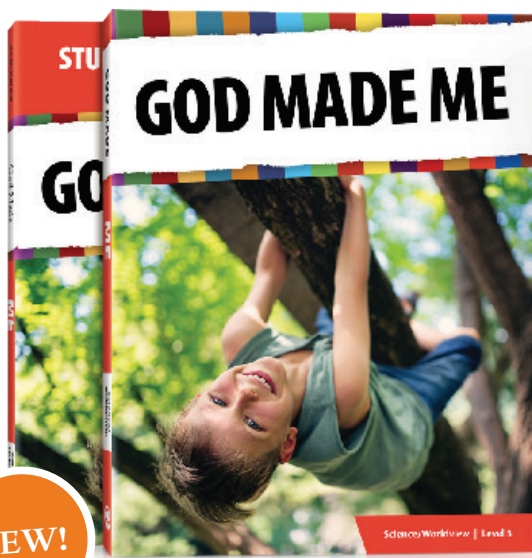


God-Centered Science

God Made Me

A Biblical Worldview Course on the Human Body

3rd-5th Grade Science



NEW!

The human body is the highest order of God's material creation—a spectacular display of His wisdom, goodness, power, and glory! This third level in the God Made series presents the wonder of the human body to an eight to ten-year-old child using bright pictures, delightful descriptions, simple and clear explanations, and hands-on life applications. Intended as a basic, yet thorough, introduction to anatomy and physiology, this primary course is produced by Tamela Sechrist—homeschooling mom, enthusiastic biologist, and committed follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our prayer is that your child will find better ways to care for the body, respect the body, and become a lifelong enthusiast of God's amazing creation!

Other Sets in This Series



1st-3rd Grade
God Made Everything



2nd-4th Grade
God Made Plants



4th-6th Grade
God Made Animals



5th-7th Grade
God Made The World



6th-8th Grade
God Made Life

\$10 OFF

Offer applies to online purchases only for the following science sets: God Made Me Set, God Made Everything Set, God Made Animals Set, God Made The World Set, God Made Life Set, God Made Plants Set. Cannot be combined with other discounts. Offer expires Jun. 15, 2024.

Use coupon code **TENOFFSCIENCE** at checkout to save
\$10 on any of these 6 science resources!

HOW THEN SHALL THEY CALL ON HIM IN WHOM THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED? AND HOW SHALL THEY BELIEVE IN HIM OF WHOM THEY HAVE NOT HEARD? AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER? AND HOW SHALL THEY PREACH UNLESS THEY ARE SENT? AS IT IS WRITTEN:



**“HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE
GOSPEL OF PEACE, WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!”
ROMANS 10:14-15**

**PLEASE HELP US REACH AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE WITH THIS
LIFE SAVING MESSAGE. TO DONATE NOW, PLEASE VISIT US AT:**

 **CTRL.ORG**

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

We want to hear from you! Does your homeschool group leader go above and beyond to bless your group? Would you like to express your appreciation to them?

Each summer at the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference, CHEC recognizes homeschool leaders across the state by presenting the Homeschool Leadership award.

Nominate your leader today by May 31st!

CHEC.org/nominate



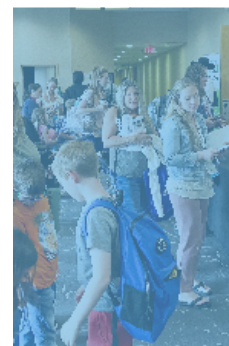
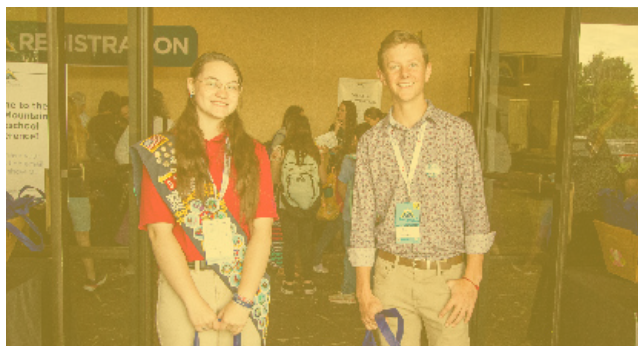
From the author of The Kingdom Series, The Knights of Arrethtrae, and the Wars of the Realm trilogy comes a *NEW SERIES...*

THE STARLORE LEGACY BY CHUCK BLACK

A science fiction
biblical allegory



Available in paperback, hardcover & Kindle formats
www.ChuckBlack.com



BY FELICITY WALES

VOLUNTEERING *as a family*

Every year, one event in the Colorado homeschool world seemingly permeates every homeschool resource published in Colorado. It is in the CHEC Homeschool Update magazine, all over Facebook, advertised on Instagram, and spread from mouth-to-mouth throughout the homeschool community.

"What is this event?" you may ask. It is the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference (RMHC), hosted by CHEC every June. Speakers from all around the globe give talks on subjects that will educate and encourage, and over a thousand homeschool families attend.

Exhibitors from coast-to-coast set up their booths and offer what products and services they have to these homeschool families. It is amazing to attend! This significant occasion is encouraging to even the youngest of children and the oldest of parents. But, there is one key factor that makes this conference an enjoyable experience: **volunteers!**

Every year, it takes over 200 volunteers to help the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference run at the efficiency it does.

Homeschool families, parents, empty nesters, and graduated homeschoolers serve willingly in places such as registration, facilities, exhibit hall support, workshop moderation, kids and teen activities, and the Used Curriculum Sale! It is an amazing experience being able to serve other homeschool families at this conference.

My family has been volunteering together for the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference since 2019. The first conference we volunteered for was the first conference we were able to attend as a family, and after that experience, we committed to volunteer each year that we could, not just individually, but as a family, too!

My mom volunteers with the Workshops team, and if someone needs assistance in an area of the conference, she willingly assists them. Dad has volunteered as a Workshops moderator consistently, but he also helps with setting up the exhibit hall by putting up the pipe and drape and getting the exhibitors and their booths situated. My two younger siblings are not yet at the official volunteer age of 13 years old, but when someone needs helping hands, they jump in to assist them. My little brother will step in to move things or deliver messages. My little sister does the same thing, and occasionally she will run errands under adult supervision in the exhibit hall if help is needed there.

"What about you, Felicity?" is probably running through your head. It is a great question! I volunteer wherever I can, whenever I can: registration, kids and teen activities, the exhibit hall, you name it. My favorite place to volunteer is registration and facilities. It gives me an opportunity to interact with a lot of the attendees and meet new people. I also love helping with the kids and teen activities, not only because I can participate in them while I am volunteering, but because I can interact with the

PHOTOS BY SARAHLEEPHOTO.COM

other youth who are attending the conference. Working with the little kids is worth it as well, because they can be pretty adorable at times. The majority of my experience volunteering in the exhibit hall is either erecting pipe and drape, or volunteering at a booth when they need an extra hand or a break. It has been an outstanding time, that is for sure! In 2023, I handed out the audio tour devices in front of the Semisaurus tour activity. It was inspiring to see all the little kids who went into the semi trailer, came out a long time after their parents had exited, eyes shining with excitement, and wanting to, "Do it again! Can we Mommy?"

As a family, we help at the Used Curriculum Sale, moving boxes, packing and unpacking books, sorting books, and putting them in their proper spots on the tables. My Dad also enlists the help of my younger siblings and I to assist the different exhibitors set up their booths if needed. My Mom will recruit us for little odd jobs, such as running an errand for another CHEC volunteer, or delivering a message to a speaker.

Whether we volunteer as a family or individually alongside other homeschool families, each of us feels the joy of serving others. It might come out in different ways, such as my zeal to keep going, or my Dad's feeling of satisfaction in helping others, but they all stem from volunteering.

Something that gives me a surge of happiness while serving in these areas is getting to see other families benefit from it. For example, when we set up the exhibit hall, we get to see the exhibitors and guests enjoy the booths that were set up in their spaces, or when we help with the Used Curriculum sale, we can see families pick out books from the different stations according to the genre as we watch their enjoyment.

At this point, you are probably saying, "This is great and all, Felicity, but what would I take away from this?" Great point! There *is* something you can do.

You can volunteer, yourself! And signing up is simple and easy. Just go to RockyMountainHome-schoolConference.com, and fill out the form under

the "Volunteer" tab. The process does not take very long, and it is always rewarding to see how your work as a volunteer impacts everything around you. With the conference being just around the corner, talk to your family and see if volunteering for CHEC at the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference would be something you all would consider doing together!

Well, what about it? **Will you join the amazing team of volunteers at the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference this June?** ■



Felicity Wales is a homeschooled high school junior pursuing a journalism major through Cedarville University's dual enrollment program. She lives with her family in northeastern Colorado. Her hobbies include reading, writing fiction, blogging, and theatrics. She is also a historical colonial reenactor with Living History Days and a podcaster on YouTube's @InkdrinkerHistorians. You can enjoy her writing and contact her at LissiesRamblings.Wordpress.com.

FINALLY, DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES THAT CHECK ALL YOUR BOXES!

- ✓ Biblical worldview
- ✓ Academically challenging
- ✓ Online
- ✓ Affordable
- ✓ Accredited



Ready to get started? Apply now for free!
cedarville.edu/CHEC



You'll also find a full list of course options, accelerated degree pathways, and summer and commuter options.



CEDARVILLE
UNIVERSITY.





Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY

- Used Curriculum Sale
- Introduction to Homeschool Seminar (English & Español)
- Unique Learners Seminar & Community Meet-up

THURSDAY

- Used Curriculum Sale
- 2 keynote messages
- Workshops
- Family Petting Zoo
- Silent Auction
- Exhibit Hall Grand Opening Party

FRIDAY

- 1 keynote message
- Workshops
- Exhibit hall shopping
- Silent Auction
- The Amazing Chemistry Show
- Mom's Night Out

SATURDAY

- 2 keynote messages
- Workshops
- Exhibit hall shopping
- Fatherhood Bootcamp
- Father & Son Lunch
- Silent auction
- The Forge Movie Screening

See you on June 12-15 at the
DENVER MARRIOTT TECH CENTER!

CHEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Roach, President

Sam Rust, Vice President

Mike Cheney

Brenda Kelly

Chad Roach

George Sechrist

Ian Serff

Steven Vaughan

Kevin Lundberg, Emeritus
Board Member

CHEC DIRECTORS

Steve Craig, Executive Director

Kevin Swanson,
Director of Generations

HOMESCHOOL Update

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

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

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

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

Permission is granted to reprint any portion of this magazine, except where noted, provided the following credit is given: "Reprinted from the *CHEC Homeschool Update*, Volume 2, Issue #119, 2024; 720-842-4852, CHEC.org."

Editor:

Shari McMinn, ShariMcMinn.com

Creative Designer:

Sarah Lee Bryant, SarahLeePhoto.com

Advertising Policy:

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

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

Update Circulation: V1 & V3: 7,500 • V2: 9,000
Next Advertising Deadline: July 15, 2024

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

Copyright © 2024 by CHEC

DO YOU LOVE
HOMESCHOOLING?

DO YOU WANT
TO SEE MORE
FAMILIES START?

SHARE YOUR STORY TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS!

Your homeschool story is worth telling—
not only because it reminds you of God's faithfulness,
but also because it will encourage other families
that "you can do it too!"

GO TO [CHEC.ORG/STORIES](https://checc.org/stories) AND SHARE
YOUR STORY TODAY!





Christian Home Educators of Colorado

19039 Plaza Drive, Suite 210

Parker, Colorado 80134

Electronic Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
DENVER CO
PERMIT #792

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

720.842.4852 | 1.877.842.CHEC | office@CHEC.org



2024 Speakers



Todd Adams



Daniel Craig



Mike Snavely



Kevin Swanson



Logan Wilson

Two
retreats
in 2024!

August 15-18, 2024 or August 22-25, 2024

SKY RANCH HORN CREEK, WESTCLIFFE, CO

**Intentional Time with Your Sons • Great Meals
Biblical Teaching • Fun Mountain Activities**



Register today to save \$50 per person before the price goes up!*

ColoradoFatherSon.com

*Limited availability

