



HOMESCHOOL

Update

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A MINISTRY PUBLICATION OF CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS OF COLORADO



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Front Cover: Image from Puckett Family (see page 6)

Top of Page: Photo from the 2024 Day at the Capitol: an annual CHEC event.



TEACHER OR DISCIPLINER?

BY BILL ROACH

In Matthew 28:19 we read Jesus' last command to His disciples, *"Go and make disciples of all nations."* Yes, we are called to make disciples. I guess you can say that makes us disciplers. It might be hard at times to figure out exactly who God wants us to disciple. Maybe it is the neighbor across the street, or the guy in the cubicle next to you at work, or perhaps God is calling you to go to a faraway country to fulfill what some have called the Great Commission. Regardless of who or where, there is little room to deny that we are called to do it.

And while it may be unclear as to who all you might disciple in your lifetime, I am deeply convinced that there can be no doubt that every Christian parent is called to disciple their own children. Ephesians 6:4 makes it abundantly clear that fathers are ultimately responsible to make sure that their children are "brought up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Dads, God is the One who chose your child to be in your home under your instruction. No one can deny that. And by good and necessary consequence we may deduce from Scripture that it is your job as well, Moms. God will hold both parents accountable for this command.

CHEC's mission is to, in part, promote the truth that parents "have the Biblical authority and responsibility to direct and control the education of their children." (See CHEC's Position Statement Concerning Home Education, adopted 11/2/2002.) Some have asked me if I think every parent should homeschool their children. That's a fair question. Here is what I usually respond, "Every parent is

called to disciple their children, and to date I have not found a better way to do that than homeschooling. Is it possible that there is a better way? Perhaps, but after 30 years of doing this, I have not found one."

For the first four years of my oldest daughter's life, I was a teacher in a small Christian school in Ohio. At 28 years old with three children, I really thought that I would be a low-paid teacher for a very long time. I had just spent four plus years at college preparing for that vocation. But by the time my oldest turned four years old, I began to have serious doubts that turning over the vast majority of the instruction time of my child for five days a week to other people (most who were my friends and who loved the Lord), would be the best way for my wife and I to fulfill the command of Ephesians 6:4. The doubts soon turned into anguish at the thought of all the changes it would bring to our lives.

As a "professionally trained teacher," I confess I had doubts whether my children could really be prepared for life by getting the bulk of their

instruction from dear old Mom and Dad. And as my wife pointed out when I had the gall to suggest that she would do the majority of the instruction in the younger years, "Wait a minute, you are the one with the degree; how can I do this?"

But as we studied the Scriptures and God increased our faith, it became clear to us that our children needed disciplers more than teachers. You may ask, "What is the difference?" Someone once wisely suggested this possible difference, "A teacher shares information, while a discipler shares life. A teacher aims for the head, while a discipler aims for the heart. A teacher measures knowledge, while a discipler measures faith. A teacher is an authority, a discipler is a servant. A teacher says, 'Listen to me,' while a discipler says, 'Follow me.'" And when the rubber meets the road with our children, who better to be that discipler than Mom and Dad!

Furthermore, it is intriguing to me that when it comes to the discipler, the Bible places strong emphasis on the character of that person rather than the knowledge of that person. In a classic discipleship passage in Titus 2, we see Paul reminding Timothy of all the qualities of the one doing the discipling. Men are to be *sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness*, while women are to be *reverent in behavior, not slanderers, or slaves to much wine*. And later on in the chapter, we read that they are both to be a *model of good works, and in your teaching (instruction), show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned*. In these verses, we see the importance of our children's teachers to have godly character. We have a responsibility

“GOD IS THE ONE WHO CHOSE *your* CHILD TO BE IN *your* HOME UNDER *your* INSTRUCTION!”

to strive to have these teachers realize that through their actions, words, and unwavering commitment to goodness, they craft a clear path for our children. In essence, instructors can become mirrors reflecting the very character of Christ, shepherding our children towards a life brimming with faith, love, and purpose. Unfortunately, the opposite can also be true. A parent's (and a Christian teacher's) mission extends beyond the boundaries of teaching; it encompasses the art of living out the character of Christ.

Let me be clear that I am not suggesting that a Christian teacher cannot have these characteristics (many do). But it is our responsibility, as much as possible, to see that our children's teachers strive to have these characteristics. And why do we here at CHEC advocate that moms and dads are best suited for this job? Partly, as I mentioned earlier, because it is clear that God gave this child to us. And I also believe it is because God gave us a great system in marriage to be able to keep each other accountable to these aspirations. A wife and husband can encourage and inspire one another to have these godly

characteristics as we disciple our children. We can call each other to higher ground. And maybe even more importantly, we can pick each other up when we are faltering or our faith is weak. Imagine the time and effort it would take to see that your children's teachers strive for this high bar of accountability and encouragement. I am not saying it cannot be done, but it is a time consuming job to do it well.

So, the next time you think about other people teaching your children, remember that they will be teaching and modeling more than just how to learn math, or fix a diesel engine, or how to play the piano. They will be sharing life with them. May God help us to do this well. ■



Bill Roach has been on the board of Christian Home Educators of Colorado for over 25 years and has served as President for a majority of those years. He and his wife

Shalyn have been blessed to be able to disciple all five of their children and homeschooled them all since the beginning. Bill and his family work in various family businesses and enjoy the blessing and challenge of working with each other. Even as the older ones get married, the Roaches have been blessed to continue to minister and work together. Their heart's cry is to continue to see more families draw closer together and closer to their church community as they grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Roaches moved to Elbert County recently, fulfilling a lifelong vision of living next to most of the children and grandchildren! Readers can email him at Bill@CHEC.org.

Has CHEC made a difference in your family?



Take a minute and write a Google review for CHEC!



A L A P

Around the World

BY TANNER AND COLLEEN PUCKETT

At CHEC, we love hearing unique stories of how Colorado homeschool families are getting the most out of their home education experiences. Gather your family around to read aloud our recent interview with the Pucketts!

Q: WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO INCLUDE GLOBAL EXPERIENCES AS YOU HOME EDUCATE YOUR CHILDREN?

A: Part of the reason we homeschool is we feel experiential learning is the best way to solidify the lesson. Reading about Greek history is one thing, but standing on the Acropolis, hiking the hill where Socrates spoke, and feeling the history is altogether more impactful.

Secondly, we live in a primarily Caucasian town in Colorado, and wanted to expose our children to different cultures and show them that not everyone in the world speaks, acts, dresses, eats,



or prays like us. In fact, we specifically chose regions of the world where we would be the ethnic minority. We visited the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

We prayed that if it was meant to be, then we would find renters for our house, pick up a consulting client who did not mind our movement, find someone willing to watch our dog, and find a place to store our cars. We found all of those within a week of asking.

Lastly, we felt like God was calling us to do it. He asked us to trust the story and to be ok with not knowing what was next. We are still not clear why we needed to go, but we trust that it is all still forming.

Q: WHERE DID YOUR TRIP TAKE YOU, AND WHAT DID YOUR FAMILY LEARN?

A: We spent 272 days across 17 countries. In order, we visited Norway first because Oslo was the cheapest ticket to Europe. We then stayed 12 weeks in Turkey, 8 days in Egypt, 8 days in Greece, 2 weeks in Italy, 3 weeks in France, 8 weeks in Kenya, 1 day in Mumbai (a very long layover, so we got a transit VISA and explored), 8 days in Thailand, 2 weeks in Malaysia, 6 weeks in Vietnam, 4 days in Beijing, 4 weeks in Mongolia, and 4 days in South Korea.

The top three things my kids learned were:

1) How to be flexible. The best laid plans can fall almost entirely apart a few steps down a jet bridge.

For example, we had booked a six-week farm stay in Israel. With the start of the Israel-Hamas war, we had to cancel and find a new route. Israel became Greece, Italy, and France.

2) Trust that a defeat will turn into a win. With every closed door or unexpected delay, we found something wonderful. For example, our Vietnam VISAs took longer than planned, so we added an unplanned stop in Malaysia while we waited. The Cameron Highlands and Kuala Lumpur turned out to be some of our favorite stops.

3) Ruins are not so boring in person. You would think a family could get tired of piles of marble! Through Termessos, Kekova, Ephesus, the Temple

First, we moved our things into the basement and rented our house for the year. We were lucky to catch the rental market at a time when rent was high enough to pay our mortgage and still help us along the trip.

Next, I found a consulting client that did not mind if I traveled. I worked four hours per week for five months. The client operates orphanages in Kenya, which was my connection for us to volunteer for six weeks at the two homes.

As with all vacations, we saved up for it over time before embarking on our nearly year-long trip. We did not set aside a ton of money; think small, used cars! Since we were laid off at the beginning of 2023, we saved as much of the severance and unemployment that we could. Combined with our tax refund and our “Cash for Christmas” reserve, it all fell together.

Here are a few ways to make a small travel budget last:

find the cheapest airlines and the cheapest days, you can then search for for baggage deals.

Staying a month or more in each place not only stretches out the flight expenses, but also allows the whole family to settle into the local cuisine, find the deals, learn a bit of the language, and have a few perfectly normal coloring days. A slower pace was also much better for the kids' sense of stability. When everything around them is new and different, it is nice to come home to a consistent place.

3) Pack light. Discount airlines will crush your budget on bags. \$22 seat selection, but \$175 per checked bag! Pack essentials and shop for needs as you travel. Every country has Ibuprofen, toothpaste, and band-aids. It just might take Google Translate to figure out how to ask! We each had a backpack that fit under our seat, and our total checked luggage was one 65-pound backpacking pack and one collapsible



of Poseidon, Hierapolis, Perge, the Acropolis, the Roman Forum, Hadrian's Palace ... it never got old. We walked where the ancients walked and climbed the architecture (when the authorities would let us).

Q: HOW DID YOU BUDGET, PLAN, AND PAY FOR EXTENDED FAMILY TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD?

A: We are not wealthy, so this trip took some financial engineering to find a pennies-make-dollars scenario that would make it work.

1) Plan inexpensive countries and go in the off-season. For example, you do not want to be in Southeast Asia for the monsoons, but you do want to be there for shoulder season. Your accommodation will be cheaper, food stalls and sites will be less crowded, and it is altogether a safer time for families.

2) Stick to the plan and stay longer in each place. The most expensive part of global travel is the flights. Since we take a row on a standard airplane, movement or changes get very expensive very quickly. By searching sites like Kayak.com to

find the cheapest airlines and the cheapest days, you can then search for for baggage deals. Staying a month or more in each place not only stretches out the flight expenses, but also allows the whole family to settle into the local cuisine, find the deals, learn a bit of the language, and have a few perfectly normal coloring days. A slower pace was also much better for the kids' sense of stability. When everything around them is new and different, it is nice to come home to a consistent place.

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Q: WHAT HAS CHANGED ABOUT YOUR LIFE PERSPECTIVE SINCE YOUR RETURN?

A: Our kids are much more open to other cultures. They now get excited to reach out to those different from

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us. They also now beg for Tikka Masala, Kofta, and Bun Thit Nuong instead of mac and cheese or pizza.

We parents are still dizzy from the trip. We had a list of goals to be met, like deepen our spirituality, get in shape, read a stack of books, and solidify our career path forward, to name a few. By the end, we learned how to forgive ourselves for not achieving everything but the essentials. This gift to our children was more full-time with them than any full-time job I have ever had. If you choose this path, go easy on yourself. It

will not turn out as perfectly as you planned. You will need to take mental and physical vacations along the journey, and it is ok if you are just as unwise, unfit, and unread as when you left.

I personally am much closer to my children. Men are often taught that the best way to show love for their family is through support. The problem is, the more time you focus on support, the less time you spend with them. Children cannot understand why you are not there; watching a video of first steps or first laughs is hard compared to experiencing it in-person.

This trip helped me see that being a good father means participating as much as you can as a father. ■

Tanner and Colleen Puckett homeschool their four children, Jane (9), Kate (7), Pi (4), and Little Buddy (2). They live in Arvada, Colorado. Tanner works in brand marketing while Colleen is a Classical Conversations tutor, gluten-free baker, and the "glue" for their family. They LOVE talking about travel, so if you have any questions on global travel education, please email them at TannerPuckett@gmail.com.

Got community?

CHEC wants to help you get connected to other homeschool families in your area!

Go to [CHEC.org/groups](https://www.chec.org/groups) if you are...

- Looking to join a group and make some new friends...
- A group leader who needs help getting the word out about your group (FREE listings)



COLORADO HOMESCHOOL spelling bee

WHO All Colorado homeschooled children are invited to join CHEC's annual spelling bee! Winners are then eligible for the statewide Denver Post Spelling Bee, and qualifiers from that competition will compete in the National Scripps Spelling Bee. (All homeschoolers are invited — affiliation with CHEC not required.)

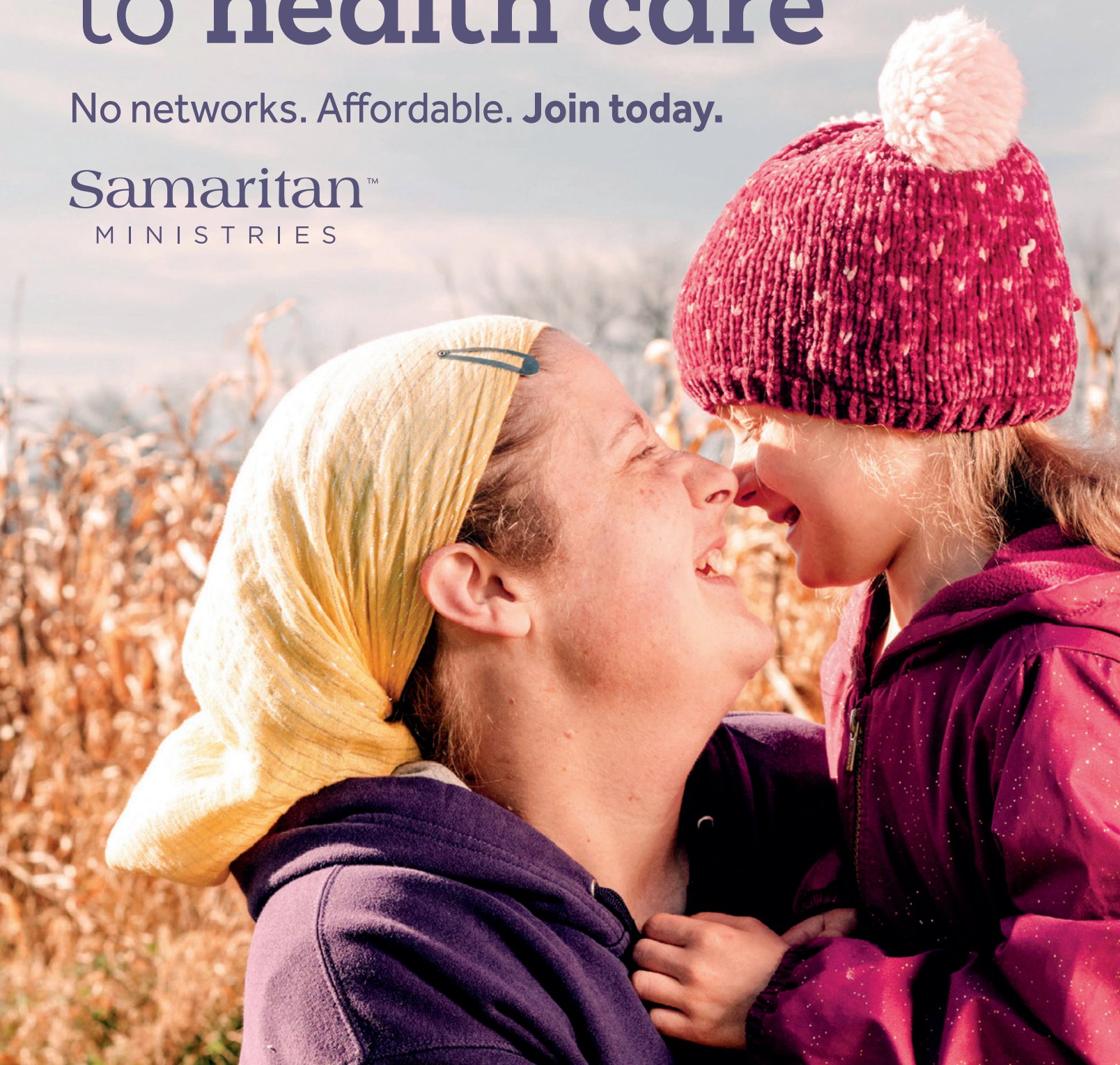


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Bringing Our

CHILDREN to Christ

BY DR. JOEL BEEKE

PHOTOGRAPHY FROM ISTOCK

How do we bring our children to Christ today? Before they are born, we should bring them to God in daily prayer; after they are born, we should present them for baptism and reception into the fellowship of the visible church.

As they grow, we should engage our children in daily family worship and bring them to church each Lord's Day, training them to take part in the public worship of God. And we must not give up when faced with the many discouragements that will emerge along the way, persevering in our pleading with Christ for the salvation of our children and asking the Holy Spirit to bring our children into saving union with Christ. We must persist in bringing our children to Christ despite opposition, even from fellow believers who argue from an overly intellectualized view of the Gospel that children must attain a certain age, stage

of mental development, or level of education before they can repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ten Aspects of Our Duty to Bring Our Children to Christ

1 Be fully convinced that our children need Jesus and His salvation.

We can homeschool our children, take them to church, and even teach them the rudiments of the Christian faith, but the heart of these efforts must be this message: "Children, you need to be born again; you need Jesus." As offspring of Adam, our children are conceived and born in sin, are "children of wrath" (Ephesians 2:3), and therefore he or she cannot enter the kingdom of God unless they are born again (John 3:5).

2 Realize that our children belong to the Lord.

Like Hannah, we must be conscious that our children are gifts from God to us (1 Samuel 1:20). On the one hand, we must never presuppose our children's regeneration. On the other hand, we must see that our children are born into a position of advantage: hearing about Christ from birth, being raised in a godly home, and growing up in

the fellowship of the church and under the sound preaching of the Word. In other words, we give our children back to God, Who gave them to us.

3 Surrender our children to the Lord.

When we rise in the morning, we bring our children to Jesus Christ, commending them into His hands. Throughout the day, we lift up their names to Him in prayer, asking Him to keep them from sin, preserve and protect them, and draw them to Himself. When they come home in the afternoon or evening, we receive them with thanksgiving in His name. When we go to bed at night, we bring to God everything our children have done that day, surrendering their sins, our poor family worship, the blots of our entire day, asking for Christ's forgiveness and cleansing from sin and God's continued protection (Psalms 66:8–9; 121:7).

4 Speak to and live with our children in a Christ-centered way.

"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34 KJV). It is important that our children know that "the abundance" of their parents' hearts is faith in Christ, love for Christ, and desire to live for Christ. If we fail at this point, we

fail in all, for we show that we are only blind guides and hypocrites who “say, and do not” (Matthew 23:3). Let us model a continual coming to Christ so that when hard times come, our children will see us seeking Him for “grace to help in time of need,” and when good times return, our children will see us walking by faith (Hebrews 4:16; 2 Corinthians 5:7, respectively).

5 Strive to make a godly impression on our children with our lives.

The Puritans used to compare children to softened wax that takes the image impressed on it by a metal seal. Our children absorb the pathos, ethos, emphases, and realities of who we are — for better or worse. May our lives impress on them the likeness and image of Christ.

6 Show our children reverence and joy toward God.

When we commune with Jesus Christ, heart-stirring joy should mingle with godly fear (Psalm 33:18). Our attitude should convey to our children that there is joy, peace, freshness, and reality in our relationship with Christ — not something stale or drowsy, but stimulating. We should instill in our children that the Lord’s Day is the high point of the week, that prayer is a delight, and that singing Psalms fills us with spiritual joy.

7 Teach our children the whole counsel of God, both law and Gospel.

We must teach our children the law to convict them of sin, but we must also show them the fullness of the Gospel. The best way to do this is to begin in family worship — eventually reading through the whole Bible with them, instructing them daily in the Word, and looking for situations in daily life to reinforce our biblical teaching. In particular, we should let both the law and the Gospel determine the way we administer discipline in the home.

8 Offer our children Christ-centered views of current events.

In calling attention to world crises, our community’s needs, and developments in popular culture, we should ask our children, “What does Christ think of that?” We need to let our children speak freely, even if their ideas are childish or wrong, so that we can know what is in their hearts. We can then help them learn the difference between empty worldly values, motives, and endeavors versus godly ones that are of real profit. As they are bombarded with negative influences from peers and electronic media, we must teach them by our own choices what is good and profitable and what is, at best, a waste of time or harmful.

9 Lovingly warn our children about being outside of Christ.

Our children must know that even if they are straight A students, the best athletes, good-looking, and

popular, but are without Christ, they have nothing of abiding value and are on their way to hell (Psalms 49:20; 73:27–28). We must lovingly tell them, from the depths of our souls, “You must be in Christ or you will perish.”

10 Become spiritual mentors for our grandchildren.

Perhaps your children are grown and out of your home and you are filled with feelings of helplessness about bringing them to Christ, let alone your grandchildren. Take comfort in God’s promise to be merciful to those who fear Him generation after generation, even to their children’s children (Psalms 103:17; 128:6). Teach your grandchildren the ways of the Lord, and who can tell but that their coming to Christ will lead your children back to faith. It is never too late to have an influence for Christ on your children. ■

This article is used with permission and excerpted from Dr. Joel Beeke’s article, “How Should We View Children in the Church?” published at JoelBeeke.org.



Dr. Joel R. Beeke (PhD, Westminster Seminary) is chancellor and professor of homiletics and systematic and practical theology at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, pastor of the Heritage Reformed Congregation in Grand Rapids, Michigan, board chairman of Reformation Heritage Books, a frequent conference-speaker around the world, and a prolific author.



BY MARCIA WASHBURN

Cramped Hospitality

THE Myth OF THE TOO SMALL HOUSE

Homeschool moms have more to manage than just schoolwork, am I right? In addition to the day-to-day tasks, we are sometimes called upon to extend hospitality, perhaps for family during the holidays, to invite neighbors in for dessert, or maybe to host visiting missionaries.

But what if you do not have much room for extras? Our three-bedroom farmhouse worked fine for our family of five boys, thanks to bunk beds. When guests came, the boys willingly — for the most part — took to the couches, recliners, and floor.

But now that our sons are bringing home wives and children, our house is bursting at the seams when everyone visits — we have twenty-four immediate family members! And no one wants to stay at a motel — they would miss out on swapping stories about childhood pranks and challenging each other to board games late into the evening. Here are some solutions that have worked for us.

Sleeping Arrangements

Overnight guests? Try these strategies for packing them in:

- If your sleepers outnumber your beds, get creative. Try these options: couches, campers, cots, cribs (borrow extras, if needed), airbeds, tents, or even the backseat of a vehicle. For young children, face two living room chairs together to improvise sleeping space. Pad a dresser drawer with blankets for a tiny baby, setting it on the floor next to his parents.
- Set aside large bins to store extra bedding. Store one complete set in each bin so you do not have to dig through several bins to get sheets, blankets, and pillows. Some rooms have dressers or closet shelves to store bedding.
- If your temporary beds, such as couches, will have other daytime purposes, decide where the bedding will be stored during the day. Likewise, think through where guests whose bedrooms vanish at dawn can keep their luggage.
- Select a place for guests to place coats, cameras, and other items they will use during the day.

A cell phone charging area is essential with a dozen wired adults in the house.

- Think about what you can provide for your guests' comfort: perhaps an extra blanket or pillow, a reading light along with a selection of books and magazines, a coaster for a bedside glass of water, or a nightlight (a must for checking on little ones or grandparents using the bathroom frequently at night).

Bathrooms

Lots of people sharing the same bathroom? Here are some ideas:

- Place a set of bath linens on each person's bed; let them know where to hang their wet towels after use. When folded in thirds lengthwise, we can fit three bath towels on each towel bar. We supplement towel rod space with a plastic hanger (does not rust) to hang on a bathroom or bedroom door hook.
- Set a pad of sticky notes and a pencil on the bathroom counter. Each guest posts his name



on the wall above his towel. This really helps if all your towels are the same color.

- Check each bathroom at least twice daily. If you have lots of ladies in the house, expect the toilet paper to vanish at an astonishing rate!
- Keep a stash of new toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine supplies, shampoo, deodorant, over-the-counter pain medications and cold remedies (including for kids), etc., in case someone has forgotten an item.

Food for a Crowd

No room around the table for your crowd? Here are some hints that work even in a small house:

- Consider folding tables or TV trays; borrow or invest in some folding chairs. Pull out large floor pillows for teens and tweens. Drag in your lawn chairs or the benches from your picnic table.

- Burrito/taco bar
- Salad buffet (be sure to include deli meats for those who need to fill up on them)
- African Chop, an old missionary recipe that is great for using up leftovers; prepare the meat in advance and let your guests help with the chopping or even bring part of the meal.
- Serve the meal buffet-style from the kitchen counter, so you will not need duplicate serving dishes on every table. Plan meals that you can prepare ahead of time so your kitchen is not cluttered with pots and pans. Set the table(s) and ask guests to select a seat; following the blessing, they can select food and beverages from the buffet line without juggling silverware and napkins.

Involve Your Children

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4 ESV).

person first: older to younger, female to male. For example: "Mr. Johnson, I would like you to meet my brother, Samuel. Samuel, this is Mr. Johnson, our new neighbor."

Children can help freshen the guest room, set out towels, and do some advance food preparation. Help them think of conversation starters keyed to the interests of the guests. Ask them to get out toys and games appropriate for young guests who will be coming, placing them in an area for safe playing.

Children often enjoy selecting table decorations to match the menu of a meal. Put them to work and watch their creativity blossom. Napkin rings add to the fun and need not be expensive; at different times we have tied raffia, thick yarn, twine, and curling ribbon around cloth napkins for a festive look.

Feel like there is "no room at the inn"? Think again. Hospitality is more a matter of the size of your heart than the size of your home. Ask God to enlarge your heart to receive all of those He wants to bless through

Hospitality IS MORE A MATTER OF THE SIZE OF YOUR **heart** THAN THE SIZE OF YOUR **home**. ASK GOD TO ENLARGE YOUR HEART TO RECEIVE THOSE HE WANTS TO BLESS THROUGH YOUR **hospitality**.

- Serve *al fresco*. Outdoor meals work great if the weather cooperates.
- Serve in shifts; everyone does not have to eat at the same time.
- Select menus that can be prepared in advance so you can enjoy your company, too.
- Try lap meals on sturdy disposable plates. Any food that does not require cutting with a knife can qualify. Some favorites:
 - Baked potato bar

As you serve your guests, teach your children to joyfully join you.

Have your children accompany you to the door when your guests arrive. Teach them to look into the guests' eyes, smile, and offer a handshake or a hug. Guests are especially pleased when older children and teens stay to visit instead of vanishing into their rooms.

Help your children practice introducing people. Teach them to say the name of the more honored

your hospitality. It is a prayer He loves to honor. ■

Endnote • ¹Request your free African Chop recipe at MarciaWashburn@gmail.com. Also, consider Marcia's Homemade Convenience Foods for easy-to-prepare meals (available at MarciaWashburn.com).



©2008, rev. 2023 by Marcia K. Washburn who homeschooled five sons for nineteen years. Check out MarciaWashburn.com for more of her articles.

BY ERYN LYNUM

Cultivating Restful Habits

for a flourishing homeschool

I could not help but notice an emotional couple in the audience as I spoke. It was the final day of the 2024 Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference, and I was presenting on God's gift of rest for homeschooling. I shared how we see God's design for rest integrated into Scripture and His created world and how, like nature, we can thrive in His design of rest.

I had witnessed how this message of rest had changed my family, and I had seen it bring tears to an audience before as families recognized a need for restoration in their rhythms and routines. As I thanked the audience and turned

off my microphone, the couple rose and made their way up front. I anticipated a story like many I have heard before from tired, stressed-out families realizing they desperately need to accept God's invitation to rest. But this couple had a different and unexpected story. With teary eyes, they introduced themselves, and the gentleman explained, "You live in the house I grew up in."

I stood, shocked for a moment, before his wife explained that during my presentation, I had shared a slide on the screen with my family enjoying Sabbath in our home. They recognized glimpses of the house his family had built and where he was raised.

He told me how it had been a very difficult decision to sell the family home. He talked about the tree he and his sister climbed and a swing set his father built for them in the backyard. I assured him my daughter swings on it daily, and our children spend their afternoons climbing the trees.

"We read your letter," he told me. I pictured the letter we had carefully written and included in our offer to purchase the home. It shared our family picture and how we wanted to raise our children surrounded by nature. "We prayed the house would go to a family who would enjoy it as much as my family did," he told me.

I finally had the opportunity to thank the couple who played a vital role in making our family's restful life a reality. Never had I imagined they were a fellow Christian homeschooling family or that they would be sitting in my presentation amongst thousands of conference attendees.

Tears filled my eyes as I assured them, "You have no idea what a blessing this home is to us. It is our *eremos*."

Accepting God's Invitation to Rest

I had shared the Greek word, *eremos*, from Scripture in my workshop. It is often translated as quiet or wilderness. After a busy time of ministry, Jesus gave this invitation to His disciples in Mark 6:31 (NIV), "*Come with me by yourselves to a quiet (eremos) place and get some rest.*" Do you ever need that invitation during a busy homeschool season? Come with me . . . and rest.

The roots of rest run deep through Scripture. Likewise, we see it all throughout God's created world. It is obvious that God values rest. He masterfully crafted nature and inspired Scripture to reflect His design for rest in our lives. Consider the sequence of events at Creation. For six days, God spoke every wonderful thing into its proper place. On the seventh day, He rested. Since Adam was created on the sixth

day, possibly his first full day devoted to rest was also the seventh.

What I noticed about this passage is that God works before He rests, but man begins with rest the day before his work week. When we start our homeschool week from a posture of rest, God causes us to flourish, just as we see in nature. All of the diligent, life-giving work we do in our homeschooling benefits from — and even depends upon — rhythms of rest.

Consider a perennial plant as it sends up new shoots in spring. My children and I have planted several native pollinator gardens in our yard. Unlike annual plants that audaciously shoot up, bloom, and bow out after a single season, our perennial plants come back year after year, stronger and more beautiful each time. What is their secret to longevity? God designed perennial plants to thrive and grow through regular seasons of rest. His perfect rest is also the provision for our endurance in homeschooling.

In the winter, when all we can see above the soil are dried-up stems, a perennial plant's roots strengthen beneath the surface. Seasons of rest allow the plant to draw back its energy and focus on what matters most: its roots. Likewise, God strengthens our faith and family roots as we begin with rest. He prepares us for seasons of abundant growth and new life.

Four Restful Habits

God's gift of rest is available wherever you are. Although He often calls us to restful (*eremos*) places, His presence is our ultimate rest. Remember what He said to the disciples: *"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet (eremos) place and get some rest."*

In Exodus 33:14 (ESV), God said, *"My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."* The Hebrew word for presence is *panim*, which can be translated as person. God's person, His very presence, is our rest, so we can be at rest as we remain near Him and teach our children to do likewise. Along with spending time in Scripture, we can remain near God by enjoying His Creation. Here are four restful habits in nature to help your homeschool flourish:

Begin In Creation: Start your day with five to ten minutes outside. Take a walk or sit in the yard and discuss what you see, hear, and smell. Talk about God as a master artist, architect, inventor, and designer. Discuss ways nature rests, such as perennial flowers resting in winter, hibernating animals, trees shedding leaves to rest in cold months, animals retreating to underground dens, and birds resting in nests or roosts in the evening.

Practice "Matin" Prayer Outside: Matin is a morning time of prayer and worship. Consider doing this outside while listening to the birds sing. Birdwatchers refer to the hour when birds wake up and begin singing as the "dawn chorus." Turn your Matin time into a dawn chorus of praise to the Creator as you sing with the birds.

Focus on Psalm 23's "Restful Waters": Read through Psalm 23 together. Discuss the "still waters" God leads us to, and how the word *still* can be translated as *restful*. Turn Psalm 23 into a prayer and ask God to lead your family to restful waters each day. Explore other Scripture passages and repeat this practice.

Devote a Half Day to Nature: The late educator Charlotte Mason once said that every child of elementary age should spend at least one-half day a week in nature. Avoid choreographing this time. Instead, enjoy a natural area such as a meadow, green space, beach, or river, and allow your children to

explore and play at their own pace. God created nature to ease our minds, bodies, and souls and help us enter into His rest. Begin with an hour, and work up to a half day a week, making time in nature an integral and life-giving part of your homeschooling week.

When you feel weary in your homeschool journey, take heart and consider the lilies of the valley and all the other wildflowers. Draw back your energies and focus on the roots of faith and family. Step into the rhythms God choreographed into nature and flourish in His gift of rest this homeschool year. ■



Eryn Lynum is a certified Master Naturalist, educator, national speaker, and author of The Nature of Rest: What the Bible and Creation Teach

Us About Sabbath Living, Rooted in Wonder: Nurturing Your Family's Faith Through God's Creation, and 936 Pennies: Discovering the Joy of Intentional Parenting. Eryn hosts the popular podcast for kids, "Nat Theo: Nature Lessons Rooted in the Bible." She lives in Northern Colorado with her husband, Grayson, and their four children whom they homeschool. Eryn has been featured on broadcasts including Focus on the Family, FamilyLife Today, Christian Parenting, and Raising Christian Kids. Every opportunity she gets, she is out exploring God's creation with her family and sharing the adventures at ErynLynum.com.



FIGHT

for Your Family!

BY JASON YOUNG



Moments after he was shot, Trump raised his fist and cried out, “Fight! Fight! Fight!” This is what leaders do. They face their problems, trials, and enemies by moving towards them. Colonel Isaac Avery died after a courageous stand leading his men to attack Cemetery Hill in Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. Clutched in his dead hand was found this blood-stained note, “Major, tell my father that I died with my face to the enemy.”

Men, your family is in the bullseye. The cultural chaos is shooting all around you. Now is the time to get laser-focused on what truly matters. The only way you will be able to disciple your family in this sea of confusion is by intentionally making it your top priority.

3 Tips to Stay Laser-Focused

1. Have a Clear, Prophetic Vision. Vision is the result of embracing God’s Word along with the prayerful application of God’s will to your circumstances. For example, God designed the family to be a multi-generational, discipleship-making, dominion-taking, Kingdom-advancing blessing (Psalm 78; Acts 2:39; Genesis 1:28, 12:1-3; Galatians 3:29). The goal of family discipleship is the successive passing on of the faith to multiple generations, *that they may arise and declare them to their children, that they may set their hope in God* (Psalm 78:6-7 NKJV). Allow the Holy Spirit to take God’s Word and reveal to you how to apply His truth to your family. This is a prophetic vision. Prophetic means it is actually from God. *Where there is no prophetic vision, the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law* (Proverbs 29:18 ESV). Family discipleship starts with a clear vision.

2. Create an Action Plan. Your action plan guides your family to walk out the clear vision God has for them. This is where you take bold steps that will keep God at the center of your family. The key is seeking the Lord and doing His will. Jesus said, *Without Me you can do nothing* (John 15:5). Build your life on Christ and His Word (Matthew 7:24). This is the only discipleship that will be successful in standing against the cultural chaos and storms of life. Build your action steps on the Rock to make sure it will not fail (Matthew 7:25). Lead your family to follow you as

you follow Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). Daily family worship is just one example.

3. Remove All Distractions. If you are to remain focused, you must remove all distractions that do not advance your clear, prophetic vision. This is the most painful of these three tips, but it will make you the most productive. The need of our day is for men to run to the battle and disciple their families. Men who will seek first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). Men who will stand with Joshua and be committed to the discipleship of their families: *But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD* (Joshua 24:15 NKJV). You must remove all distractions that keep you from following Jesus, especially your own sin (Matthew 7:1-5).

Dads, when you honor our Lord God by obeying His commands and directives to lead and disciple your family, He will honor your commitment to it and provide you with the grace and strength to follow through.



Jason Young (M.Div.) is a husband, father of eleven, and a grandfather. He and his wife live on a hobby farm in Buckeye, Arizona, where he serves as elder at Heritage Baptist Church. Jason is a biblical counselor and focuses on marriage and family matters. He also specializes in biblical epistemology, as his passion is to shed the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ into all of life. He helps men find freedom with his online sexual purity course [SexualPurity.org](https://www.sexualpurity.org). Readers can contact him at JYoung@HeritageBaptistAZ.org.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

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Q • I've submitted my Notice of Intent (NOI) to the school district. Now what?

A • Great! But that's not where it ends. It's a common misconception that after filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to homeschool you are done. However, by submitting an NOI you are agreeing to follow Colorado's Home-Based Education Law. Do you know what you are agreeing to when you file an NOI with the school district?

Q • I've filed a Notice of Intent. Do I need to enroll in an independent school too?

A • No... Filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) and enrolling in an independent school are TWO SEPARATE options for homeschooling legally in the state Colorado.

Know the law!
Read it at CHEC.org/law



Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference

2024 CONFERENCE RECAP BY BRANDEE GILLHAM

Remember walking into my first Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference 10 years ago. I was excited and nervous, all while thinking through a million questions. This year, I met “myself” at registration — that mom who knew she was being obedient to what God had called her to do but had absolutely no idea how.

I saw her again at the end of the conference and she still had questions, and still needed to pray with her husband about the details, but she left **equipped, encouraged, and empowered** to embark on an amazing journey of home discipleship. THAT is what the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference does — year after year after year.

I did not come to know the Lord until I was 19 years old, and I have thought so many times over, “How did I not know about this most remarkable relationship with Jesus that gives such amazing hope and grace to a lost and dying world?” If I had to answer my own question, it would be, “You do not know what you do not know!” I have a similar thought about the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference, “If you just knew how amazing it was, you would not have to be convinced to come. You would come and come back again and again without being invited. It feels like coming home for Thanksgiving where the food is so satisfying and the fellowship is so encouraging that you must return every year.”

The Lord provided in the most remarkable ways during this year’s conference. 2024 gave our committee many challenges, including needing to find a new venue in four very short months after our existing contract became void, due to the sale out from under us of the previous venue. But with the remarkable leadership of our faithful Conference Coordinator, Dalton Lockman, covered by the Lord’s grace, we moved to the Denver Marriott Tech Center venue, and it was such a blessing!

Our BONUS DAY on June 12th was outstanding! The “Homeschool Introductory Seminars” helped families grab a vision for homeschooling while also



learning how to legally homeschool in Colorado and receiving practical answers to the nuts-and-bolts questions. We offered our first-ever Spanish Introductory Seminar this year as well. The afternoon was spent with a 3-part Unique Learners Seminar where we covered topics such as homeschooling adopted, gifted, and special needs children. This was such a blessing to those in attendance.

The “Used Curriculum Sale” was able to be expanded to two days since we were offsite at the Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, just a short drive down from the Marriott venue. This sale provides an opportunity for sellers and buyers alike to redistribute resources that support homeschooling families across our region. This is one of my favorite times at the conference. I love finding a good bargain!

The keynote speakers admonished us to keep the faith, maintain a proper biblical worldview, raise

PHOTOS BY SARAH LEE BRYANT (SARAHLEEPHOTO.COM)

spiritual champions, and engage in the battlefield for our children. With powerhouses like George Barna, Abraham Hamilton III, Heidi St. John, and Kevin Swanson, we left the general sessions ready to fight the good fight. Friday morning was truly unique in getting to participate in a real-time survey with Dr. Barna. He analyzed our results, and I would say we did pretty well on the pop quiz, particularly for homeschoolers who likely never have pop quizzes! The workshop speakers were truly an excellent line-up. They provided a superb balance of biblical worldview, family discipleship talks, and homeschool how-tos. I am thankful for the recordings so I can go back and listen to those workshops I was not able to attend.

Our Exhibit Hall was teeming to the point of needing an additional Pavilion outside to honor the many faithful vendors and exhibitors who wanted booth

space. The curriculum and extra-curricular choices offered were second to none.

Before the last booths came down, we enjoyed a pre-release screening




Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference

June 12-14, 2025

DENVER MARRIOTT TECH CENTER | DENVER, CO

Speakers Will Include...
















of the Kendrick Brothers' new movie, "The Forge." As the speakers caught their flights and families headed home, this movie helped us reflect on God's amazing design of discipleship. Our desire is to transform our children's hearts and help them become everything God has created them to be.

The Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference will be celebrating 40 years in 2025.

Although we have gone by different names and met in different spaces, the heart of the conference remains the same. Our desire is to help equip families to home educate their children with confidence, knowing that the time we invest in them will never be wasted. **I would like to personally**

invite you to the 2025 Conference. Mark your calendars NOW — June 12-14, 2025. I promise you, it will be an event you do not want to miss! ■



Brandee and Roy Gillham have accepted the huge responsibility of becoming the Conference Coordinators and appreciate your prayers as they lead the RMHC planning committee into the 2025 season. The Gillhams and their homeschooled sons live and work on their generational family ranch in remote northeastern Colorado. Their family's heart for home discipleship and family living are featured at BrandeeGillham.com. Brandee can be reached at her email, Brandee@CHEC.org.

When a father leads his family spiritually, his children light up in a different way! According to a spiritual and educational survey on Christian millennials by the National Home Education Research Institute, children who develop a strong relationship with their father during their formative years are more likely to maintain a positive relationship with him throughout adulthood. This nurturing bond, especially when the father invests his time imparting biblical

principles and raising his children with consistent, loving discipline, will significantly and positively shape their Christian beliefs and behaviors. Your husband's spiritual leadership will impact your children's engagement within their communities and lead to greater satisfaction in their adult lives.¹

A father's spiritual leadership has a profound impact! That is why supporting your husband's spiritual leadership is vital. But how can you best support him? Here are four powerful actions you can take to provide unwavering support!

1. Give Your Husband Room to Fulfill His Role as a Spiritual Leader

Knowing the impact fathers have on children, have you ever considered whether you might be doing something that discourages your husband's spiri-

tual leadership? In other words, are you letting your husband lead?

Sometimes, women do not see their husbands as spiritual leaders. Instead of supporting their husbands' spiritual leadership, they turn to teachers, youth pastors, or online resources. While those are all excellent resources, Ephesians 5:23 reminds us that our husbands are the heads of our households. Therefore, I have found that the best way to support my husband's spiritual leadership is to seek his guidance first and value his insightful efforts.

2. Respect Your Husband

Imagine how difficult it would be to guide and help someone while they criticize your efforts — your desire to keep trying would lessen with every critique.

When you ask your husband questions, be careful not to criticize him or expect him to know all the answers. Instead, encourage your husband by letting him know you are excited to learn from him when he is ready to share what he discovered. Then, patiently allow him time and space to study. After all, he does not need to know everything. Even pastors study before they preach!

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training

4 Powerful Ways to Support YOUR HUSBAND'S SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV).

Remember, the power is in God's Word. As you rely on your husband for spiritual guidance, his confidence to lead spiritually will only grow!

3. Help Your Husband Leverage His Unique Giftings

As homeschool parents, we dedicate ourselves to nurturing our children's unique strengths, joys, and interests so they can combine them with compassion as they serve God and others throughout their lives.

Realize that you and your husband have also been blessed with uniquely different abilities and strengths. Your husband's expressions of faith may look different than yours. His teaching style may be displayed through integrity, integration, and interaction.

As you unite together with Christ, your joined abilities make a powerful impact on your children's lives. Together, you can explore ways your husband can utilize his strengths to lead your family spiritually. For example, if he likes hiking and teaching survival skills, you can have fun collaborating to create a "backpack ministry" using survival tools. Perhaps you can use one of your gifts to complement his. Maybe you are blessed with an artistic ability that you can use to create a few outdoor-themed Bible verse stickers that correlate with activities he has planned. You can place them on the gear he wants to use during your family hike.

Your husband's customized gear is guaranteed to make him smile as he reflects on the memories of your loving and thoughtful collaboration. It will also empower him to facilitate natural discipleship opportunities throughout the hike. As he incorporates a biblical message into what he already enjoys doing, his natural fulfillment and excitement will shine through, generating joy-filled memories and inspiration for everyone throughout the hiking experience. There is indeed a significant difference in the impact of listening to someone who is merely going through the motions of teaching a lesson he feels obligated

to, compared to someone who is genuinely passionate about the subject he is teaching!

4. Recognize and Appreciate Your Husband's Spiritual Leadership

Recognizing and appreciating how God made your husband is important. Rather than focusing on what your husband is doing or, more specifically, the details of how your husband is doing it, express your gratitude for his efforts. As you focus on showing gratitude to your spouse, you will enjoy the benefit of fostering more positive thoughts, emotions, and behavior toward each other, creating more enjoyment throughout your marriage and family life. Take a moment to write down your thoughts, listing specific actions and qualities you notice and appreciate about your husband. Then, share your appreciative thoughts with him. Your expression of gratitude will be more meaningful and help him feel more loved. Your husband will want to do more of what you thank him for!

As you support your husband's spiritual leadership, enjoy the outpouring of God's blessing on your family. Your unwavering support will bolster your husband's efforts and bless many generations to come! ■

Endnote - Ray, B. D. (2016, June 27). Gen2 survey: A spiritual and educational survey on Christian millennials. National Home Education Research Institute. <https://www.nheri.org/gen2-survey-a-spiritual-and-educational-survey-on-christian-millennials/>



Yvonne Strachan has had the privilege of being refined through homeschooling multiple children, a special needs child, and high school students while dealing with chronic illness and working.

She taught art classes at a Christian school and a homeschool art co-op that she ran for a decade. Now she serves the homeschool community as a homeschool consultant, a radio show host, a blogger, a speaker, an author, and the founder of InspirationalHomeschooling.com. She works in the CHEC marketing department and can be reached at Yvonne@CHEC.org.

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UN Summit Threatens Future of Home Education

BY ALEX NEWMAN

There is a growing threat to educational liberty and home education on the horizon, and not nearly enough people are keeping track.

It is understandable because home educators typically pay attention to educational developments only at the local and state level, thinking it is a “ground up” approach to change.

However, being informed about national and especially global developments in education is necessary to protect the right to homeschool for generations to come. Yes, there are those who wish to infringe on academic liberty and sovereignty, and they are gaining ground. It is a “top down” trickle-down effect.

In New York City this September, the United Nations (UN) and its members, who are among the most prominent threats to educational liberty and sovereignty, gathered for the “Summit of the Future.” [This article was written prior to this event.]

“The Summit of the Future is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance,” the UN said.

Among other objectives, the Summit will “reaffirm existing commitments, including to the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Charter, and move towards a reinvigorated multilateral [globalist] system that is better positioned to positively impact people’s lives.”

One of the chief goals of the event is to tackle education. Action item 11 for the Summit states: “Transform education: achieve a fundamental shift in how education is seen and treated, including in relation to the purpose of education; the learning environment; the teaching profession; harnessing digital transformation; investing in education; and multilateral support for quality education for all.”

On the UN’s Department of Economic and Social Affairs website, they reveal more of their future hopes for education to discuss at the Summit, including proposing measures of “lifelong learning” for the next generation of children. Of course, government regulations, stipulations, funding, and control accompany every UN idea.

In the UN’s 2030 Agenda, Goal 4 deals exclusively with education. And it makes clear that children must be conditioned to accept all sorts of controversial attitudes, values, and beliefs on everything from “global citizenship” to “sustainable development.”

Across multiple UN agreements dating back decades, the UN has also emphasized its desire to see all children learning from the same “standards.” Perhaps

even more chilling, the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights demands that all education “further the activities of the United Nations.”

This should be significant news for homeschool families in Colorado and across the United States. What the UN is preparing for is a total reset in how people view education. From the implementation of artificial intelligence in the classroom to having the government latch on to children at younger ages through compulsory preschool attendance, governments at the state, federal, and global levels are seeking to break down the bonds between children and their parents.

Homeschoolers in Colorado and across the nation must push back and maintain their educational sovereignty, and that starts with knowing the patterns of the evildoers who wish to expand government to influence and indoctrinate our children’s minds.

If you want to stay informed about the developments that occurred at the Summit of the Future and the United Nations’ agenda to control education, follow The Liberty Sentinel Substack at [LibertySentinel.Substack.com](https://libertysentinel.org). ■



Alex Newman is an educator, author, speaker, homeschool dad, and journalist who leads Liberty Sentinel Media and Public School Exit.



Andrew Muller is a journalist and serves as chief of operations for Liberty Sentinel Media. Readers can contact them at [LibertySentinel.org](https://libertysentinel.org).

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:



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GIVING AWAY Our Inheritance

BY CAROLYN MARTIN

As I survey the horizon, there are signs of a coming battle¹ over a parent's ability to home educate their children, as skirmishes have erupted across the nation.

Two ideological threats to time-honored and solidly biblical principles buttressing our homeschool freedom must garner our immediate attention: universal school choice and children's rights.

Universal School Choice

Politicians all across the nation are jumping on the bandwagon of those advocating for "school choice" and promoting Universal School Choice. The Republican National Committee even adopted it as a part of their platform for the upcoming presidential election. They are using the pain parents experienced during the shutdown of public schools and the momentum created by their outrage to bring forth education policies without understanding or

considering the consequences. My greatest concern is that homeschoolers will disregard the sacrifice of those who firmly established into law our God-given freedom to educate our children without the government, instead gladly embracing the traps of our day.

In Genesis 25, the Bible tells the account of Esau being so hungry that he willingly gave up his birthright, the inheritance of the firstborn son of Isaac, for a piece of bread and a bowl of stew. His hunger was satiated, but he never looked beyond his immediate need until it was too late. Homeschoolers have an inheritance of liberty that dates back to the founding of our nation and had to be fought for anew in the 1980s. The school choice advocates want us to give up our inheritance for the promise of some temporary provisions — in the form of money and "free" stuff — never considering the costs to our families and future generations who want to home educate their children in freedom.

Proponents of Universal School Choice aim to weaken the public education system by using government funding for all forms of education, including homeschooling. Though they hope these programs will encourage parents to remove their children from the public school, this has not been the case in states where these programs have been implemented. Instead, private school costs

have risen, and homeschoolers taking the money have been saddled or threatened with increased regulations and restrictions. **The freedom lost for temporary provision will never be regained.**

Children's Rights

An even greater threat is to create rights for children that they can exercise without parental involvement. It has long been understood that, generally, parents have the best interest of their children in mind. In *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972), SCOTUS stated, "The history and culture of Western civilization reflect a strong tradition of parental concern for the nurture and upbringing of their children. This primary role of the parents in the upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition." **But that tradition, based on God's established order within the family, is being challenged today by those who want to strip us of our Godly heritage.**

Slowly, parental rights have been exchanged for empowering children to make life-altering decisions for themselves. In Colorado, a child can consent to certain vaccines and medical treatments, including abortion and mental health care, without the knowledge or consent of their parents. A proposed ballot measure² in Colorado will give children (K-12th

grade aged) a Constitutional right to a quality education and school choice. The government will need to ensure every educational choice available to the child is of a certain quality³ — which will be established and monitored by them. Homeschooling will certainly be in the crosshairs. And if a parent wants to homeschool but the child insists on attending an institutional school, who has the final say?

This life is filled with a series of choices, and none is more consequential than how our children are educated and disciplined. Thankfully, we still have the ability to lawfully home educate our children without government intrusion! The ability of future generations to have the same choice depends on how we respond to the threats we face today. Speaking of Esau's impulsive decision, Hebrews 12:17 (ESV) says, "For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears." Let us not

be the ones who gave up our inheritance for temporary relief, refusing to acknowledge and respond to the dangers that lay before us.

Join the Colorado Homeschool Freedom Team at CHEC.org/Freedom to stay informed concerning the battles ahead!

Endnote • ¹<https://CHEC.org/chech-blog/warning-signs-flashpoints/>; ²<https://www.ColoradoSOS.gov/pubs/elections/Initiatives/titleBoard/filings/2023-2024/138OriginalFinal.pdf>; ³<https://CHEC.org/chech-blog/legislative-update-for-april-17-2024/>



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

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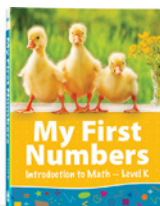


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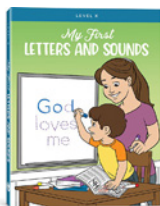
At the heart of this curriculum is its scripture catechism course, which introduces young learners to core theological truths. The content is carefully organized to introduce children to what the Bible says about God, Scripture, Creation, Man, Sin, Jesus, Redemption, the Law of God, the Church, and the final Resurrection.



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This offer applies to online purchases only for the following products: Kindergarten Core Curriculum Package, *My First Numbers*, *My First History*, *My First Letters and Sounds*, *Teach Me the Faith*. Cannot be combined with other discounts. Offer expires Oct. 31, 2024.

Math

... That's Easy to Use, Easy to Learn

BY CINDY PUHEK

Mathematics is a fundamental aspect of education that every student must master. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division impart the basic life skills of being able to keep the books and figure finances. Higher math such as algebra, trigonometry, and calculus are keys which unlock the worlds of science and engineering. As homeschoolers, we have access to some excellent materials to help develop our students' mathematical abilities from companies like Math-U-See and City Creek Press.



Demme Learning's Math-U-See (MathUSee.com) uses a multi-sensory, skill-based approach to teach math from

preschool through high school. This math program, which uses manipulatives to add a hands-on aspect to learning, has been very popular with homeschoolers along with intervention and special education classrooms, so it has had good success with non-traditional learners. Math-U-See is easy to use, and the books are designed to teach, assuming that no one using the program is a math expert. Video lessons accompany each unit of the textbook and feature Steve Demme (who homeschooled his special needs son, now an adult). As the creator of Math-U-See, he explains the concepts covered in the lesson. The program also features constant review of previous concepts to promote mastery. My own children successfully used Math-U-See from *Primer* to *Calculus* and can testify to the effectiveness of the program. On the downside, the workbook pages are not colorful or engaging, so this program would be difficult to use if your child finds black and white pages boring. Math-U-See also has a different scope and sequence than many programs, so it might be difficult for a child to switch to another math program if that becomes necessary.



City Creek Press (CityCreek.com) offers mathematics materials to help students learn addition and multiplication facts using stories as mnemonic devices.

"Times Tables the Fun Way" and "Addition the Fun Way" give kids a 'glue' to help students retain their math facts when rote memory is not working. For example, a pig (who looks like an 8) is going to take a shower (the door of the shower looks like a 4) and complains that another pig should also take a shower because he is "dirty too." The story helps kids remember that 8 times 4 is thirty-two (dirty too). This company offers workbooks, flashcards, and online resources. The program has been effective for non-traditional learners such as kids with dyslexia and ADHD.

Math mastery is a pillar of education and should be a goal within every homeschool. Thankfully, we have programs produced by publishers such as Math-U-See and City Creek Press, which make learning math fun and attainable for traditional and nontraditional learners alike. ■



Cindy Puhek resides in Colorado Springs and has been married to Peter for over twenty years. They are well into their second decade of homeschooling their six children who range in age from toddler to high school graduate. Cindy holds a master's degree in chemistry. You can visit her blog at Homeschool-Enrichment.com/blogs.

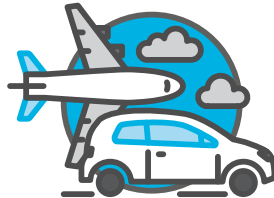
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Colorado is a **BIG** state and there are **A LOT** of homeschool families in it!
We can't serve them all without your help ... here are some current
volunteer opportunities!

Outreach

The CHEC Ambassador Program is looking to connect with locals from across the state to reach every part of Colorado with valuable resources and encouragement for homeschooling!

- Foster a sense of community among homeschool families and groups in your area.
- Attend local events with provided resources to promote homeschooling.

Conference

It takes a team of over 200 dads, moms, grandparents, young adults, teens, and empty nest homeschool parents to pull off the annual Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference. Would you consider joining the 2025 team?

- Activities Coordinator
- Activities Assistant x 2
- Silent Auction Coordinator
- Facilities Assistant
- Parking Coordinator

Homeschool Freedom Events

CHEC makes a bold stand for homeschool freedom at the state capitol year round but we need your help to pull off our two main Homeschool Freedom events usually in February and April. Would you be able to help in 2025? We are in need of:

- Set Up & Clean Up Teams
- Greeters
- Activity Booth Leaders
- Photographer

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BY DALTON AND LISA LOCKMAN

Answer



THE
CALL

Are you answering the call? I am not referring to God calling you to salvation, but to the call to be a servant of the Lord.

In the life of Samuel, he received a direct call to service beyond that to which his mother committed him. Samuel heard what he first believed to be his mentor, Eli, calling him during the night. Though the young Samuel was ministering in the Tabernacle, he still did not know the Lord, and the Word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him (1 Samuel 3:7). The first three times the Lord called Samuel, the boy responded to Eli. Eli then understood what was happening and instructed Samuel how to respond to the Lord if He called again. Then, *"The Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant hears'"* (1 Samuel 3:10 ESV).

Jesus Christ set the greatest example of what it means to serve others through His life, death, and resurrection. Every Christian is called to serve. This calling remains constant throughout our lives, even if the ways we serve change. *"Let each of you look not only to*

his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4 ESV). For the Christian, the call to serve is a responsibility, not an option. It is a call to embrace and utilize our gifts to bless others. Whether you are a mom or dad, your role is vital. Your service matters. The big question is, will you answer the call?

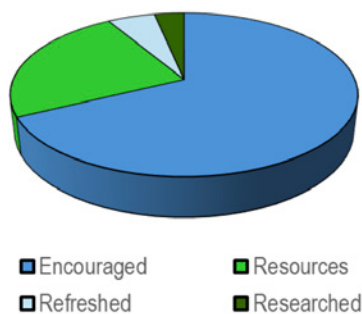
When asked to be the Conference Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference in 2018, I was intrigued with incorporating this ministry into our lives. Discipleship and homeschooling had been our family's life for the prior 18 years or so, and God had given me the skills to take on the task. But it was after much prayer and discussion with our family that it became clear this would be an effective way to serve the Lord. I had retired from my job as a petroleum geologist in 2016 to come alongside my wife by homeschooling our son,

Ethan, through his last two years of high school, and our daughter, Lillian, who was a few years younger. Beyond that, I was looking for a place to serve the Lord. As it turns out, God was calling me to serve Him in this capacity, with the vision to help Christian families embrace home discipleship that is Christ-centered, parent-directed, and free from government control.

Homeschool conferences are near and dear to my heart. I remember attending our first in 2005. What an amazing event that was! We listened to experienced homeschool leaders introducing us to a new vision about discipling our children, and sharing their stories of the beauty and outcomes of home education. The conference experience profoundly changed our lives as we were challenged to make biblical changes to our views and put God's Word into practice.

Coordinating the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference has been an exciting, nearly-full-time job packed with many rewards. These rewards are not monetary but rather Kingdom-oriented. Our conferences are designed to offer encouragement, training, and resources so homeschooling families can be more effective at discipling their children. Each year we seek feedback from the conference, and I am always filled with joy as we go through these surveys. The number one result people report from the conference is that they come away encouraged, followed by being able to get the resources

2024 Conference Outcomes



they need for their homeschool journey (see chart). In addition, I am always amazed at how many people came to the same fork-in-the-road as we did at our first conference and have been intentional about implementing a well-thought-out homeschool plan, then are committed to that plan for decades.

It is for this very reason I know the call I answered is from the Lord. The desire, joy, and reward I get from working on the conference is more than simply volunteering or just doing a job. It is the satisfaction of seeing families grabbing hold of God's truth and then putting it into practice.

Being part of the CHEC ministry team has also allowed my family to participate using the gifts and talents God gave them. My wife, Lisa, and my daughter, Lillian, always came alongside and dove into the necessary work. This has been a huge blessing over the years to not only work with them but also to see them become incorporated into the ministry as they serve the Lord.

If God is calling you to serve His Kingdom and you are passionate about homeschooling and helping others catch that vision, perhaps you should answer the call to be a part of the next Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference, June 12-14, 2025. God is on the move and the home education population is growing each year, so there is much to do! We have made it easy to get connected. Simply contact our office and let them know you would like to help make a difference in the lives of Colorado homeschoolers (email us at Office@CHEC.org).

After six conferences and with both our children now graduated from homeschooling, our family decided it was time for me to move on to other adventures. We have many fond memories and we made many new friends by being involved with CHEC and the Rocky Mountain Homeschool Conference. I am not looking to retire but looking and waiting for the next call from God, and like Samuel, I know what to say.

"If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him" (John 12:26 ESV). ■



Dalton and Lisa Lockman reside in Elizabeth, Colorado, on 40 acres with their cattle and gardens.

They homeschooled their two children from preschool through high school graduation. They moved to Colorado in 2016 when Dalton retired from working as a Petroleum Geologist after 35 years. During those years, he explored for oil and gas and organized and coordinated multiple national and regional Geological Association Conventions. You may contact him at DaltonLockman@yahoo.com.

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Refresh

LADIES' DAY OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Speaker
Rachael Carman



Has the busyness of life crept into your homeschool leaving checklists incomplete, dishes piling up, and relationships simmering on the back burner? Do you find yourself feeling tired, behaving distracted, and low on patience? If so, it's time to attend Refresh—a day of encouragement for homeschool ladies!

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MARCH 1, 2025

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CHec.org/refresh



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