



# homeschool iowa

A PUBLICATION OF THE NETWORK OF IOWA CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS | SPRING 2017

**2017 annual conference edition**

**featuring**

***'Lies Homeschooling Moms Tell'***

By Todd Wilson

***'Running The Race:  
Let Us Not Become Weary'***

By Andrew Pudewa

***'A Love Of Learning'***

By Susan Chrisman

***'Daddy, What's That?'***

By Jimmy Morris

***'Parents: Gatekeepers of Time'***

By Heather Haupt



**conference 2017**

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**magazine**

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Tom Krueger  
**EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS** Sarah Dittmer, Julie Naberhaus, Terri Nowotny, Kristyn Yoder  
**PRINCIPAL DESIGNER** Alyssa Yoder, BFA  
**COVER PHOTO** Shutterstock.com  
**PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTRIBUTORS**  
 Depositphotos.com, Shutterstock.com  
**ADVERTISING COORDINATOR** Joe Desaulniers  
**PRINTER** Sutherland Printing, Montezuma, Iowa

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**TREASURER** Joe Bailey  
**VICE TREASURER** Delmar Mohler  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND RECORDING SECRETARY** Julie Naberhaus

**contact NICHE**

**EMAIL** niche@homeschooliowa.org  
**VOICE MAIL** (515) 478-5454  
**MAIN ADDRESS**  
 PO Box 158  
 Dexter IA 50070  
**PUBLICATIONS AND GRADUATION**  
 PO Box 208  
 Bondurant IA 50035  
**ON THE WEB** www.homeschooliowa.org

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# FINDING YOUR NICHE

By Kristyn Yoder

**T**he wind howled outside as the snow grew deeper and the air colder. Around the table were gathered smiling faces, mugs full of hot cocoa, and fresh baked cookies laid on a napkin at their elbows. It was game day. Mother had strategically hidden away some games she had acquired the previous summer, in the big city, for just such a day. Laughter filled the room as games with equations, balance sheets, and words were played one right after the other. The texts that usually graced the table were left on the shelf that day in search of chasing the winter blues away. As the day moved on, the storybooks full of adventures far away began to fill the room as mother's voice bounced off the walls. The little ones, weary of the games, ventured to the new (to them) building blocks and began creating the little cabin in the woods. As the afternoon grew to a close the cabin fever that had entangled them subsided and the smell of freshly made soup filled the air. Evening was drawing near and mother was ready for her own adventures of leafing through the various resource catalogs that graced her nightstand, the perusing of the websites of events she wished to attend, and the remembering of chasing away of the winter blues with resources strategically acquired. Satisfaction filled her soul. Hers is the story of homeschooling in Iowa.

for an hour. As the speaker finished his presentation, the then 12-year-old boy proclaimed that Homeschool Iowa HAD to bring this speaker in to speak because other moms and dads need to hear "this stuff". The workshop title that had this boy in stitches was none other than *Teaching Boys & Other Children Who Would Rather Make Forts All Day*, by Andrew Pudewa. This is the story of a 12-year-old homeschooling in Iowa.

There she stood with tears streaming down her face. The babe snuggled up to her chest was just a few precious weeks old, and the man with her was discouraged. He had brought her here as a gift – a much-needed getaway and the babe had cried the entire previous night, leaving them both exhausted. "Was there a place his wife could relax? Were there any experienced homeschool mothers, with lots of little ones at home, that could speak with my wife?" (The babe in her arms was number 6 or 7). "Was there any way for her to listen to the workshops online? Can you help my wife, please?" A mentoring homeschool mother was sought, a room for her comfort was found, and a computer and some CDs of previously recorded workshop sessions were made available. She spent her time resting and listening as the mentoring mother held the babe, sharing stories and tales of homeschooling lots of littles. The next morning, the happy young couple

## THESE ARE **THE STORIES OF HOMESCHOOLING IN IOWA**

He bounced. He fidgeted. He tapped. He hummed. Whose idea was it to bring the 12-year-old boy along to a homeschool conference that was 9 hours from home? Oh, wait; it was mine, because leaving him home alone was probably an equally preposterous idea. He loved the conference! But then there was the bouncing, fidgeting, tapping, and humming home for another 9 hours UNTIL the car speaker started bringing forth the sounds and stories from a conference speaker. How else does a homeschool mother fill 9 hours of travel, but with conference CDs, of course. The tales of grand adventures soon filled the car, and the bouncing, fidgeting, tapping and humming ceased

with this precious babe could be found resembling newlyweds, as they walked about the conference. It is amazing what a few encouraging words from a mentoring mother and some quiet space can do for a homeschool marriage. Theirs is the story of homeschooling in Iowa.

Pink. Lots of Pink. It was the only color in her wardrobe, or so I thought. Bubbles was her email address, and a perfect one at that. Everything she did was bubbly, happy, lively, and full of fun.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

The oldest of 8 children, she had perfected the art of good times and “get ‘er done” all in one. I met her at TeenPact that year. She convinced my daughter that driving 2 hours and volunteering as a teen for the state homeschool conference was the best thing in the world. On a cold January afternoon, a few years and even more pink later, I drove 3 hours to watch her marry the only man I know that can wear pink with style. Somehow, she has even convinced him that driving 2 hours to volunteer at the state homeschool conference each year was the best thing in the world. It must have worked because she has also convinced her 4 children that this is the best thing in the world. Consider yourself warned — if you send your child to the children’s program, you might be buying pink and volunteering at the conference next year. Hers is the story of homeschooling in Iowa.

She placed the last of the books in the crate. Where had all the years gone? The teen at her side picked up the box and placed it in the trunk of the car. These were good years, and many more were ahead, but as she became a teenager this year, the time had come to part ways with some of the many adventures they had all had together. Cycle One was no longer needed. The books full of equations that just didn’t suit her were there also. *The Adventures of the Magic Tree House*, the *Boxcar Children*, and *Piggle-Wiggle* needed to move on to younger imaginations. Arriving at their destination, the crates full of new adventures were unloaded. She slipped away briefly in search of her own new adventures. Shakespeare, Twain, and the study of motion, light, and algorithm pressed hard on her mind. Finding just the volumes she was in search of, she returned to the crates ready to share the great adventures held within them. She could see in the eyes of the one before her the questions; “Tell me about this one. Did she (pointing to the teen standing beside her) enjoy this?” And at that moment, the new adventure of friendship began. Theirs is the story of homeschooling in Iowa.

Wearily, they pulled the trailer through the door, exhausted from the events and a day of traveling. The traffic jam through a major city, the flat tire several hours down the road, and no lunch had taken its toll. When would this day be finished? A rush of adrenaline came over them, as the t-shirt brigade descended upon them. Books and carts began flinging faster than they knew where to tell them to place all the materials. Food? Did someone say that behind the curtain was food? What a wonderful surprise on this very-good-horrible-rotten-no-good of a hectic day! The weary souls, refreshed by the gestures of hospitality, were now ready to meet and encourage the hearts and minds of those who crossed their path. A smile graced their faces as the t-shirt brigade returned a few short days later to dismantle and pack up the volumes still in inventory. The boxes were lighter, the heart larger. It had been a good few days amongst the people of Iowa. This is their story of homeschooling in Iowa.

Around the table each sat with a stack of neatly prepared papers waiting to be folded. As they folded, coffee brewed in the background awaiting its destination in strategically placed mugs. Stories, of yet another family opting to utilize the newly formed law, filled the air and made glad the hearts of those who had helped to shape the historical law, returning education to parents across the state. As the stacks became shorter, the evening turned to visions of the future and what was yet to come. How many children would be blessed by their efforts? How long would the new law stand? What would homeschooling in Iowa look like in the future? Little did they know as they folded; that the number of homeschooled children would grow from a few hundred a year to nearly 15,000<sup>1</sup> in 2016 in Iowa alone; that the number of materials readily available for homeschool families would grow from one single exhibitor at the first Homeschool Iowa Conference, to needing over 30,000 sq. feet to accommodate the many choices; that they would see hundreds of families fill the Capitol each year to encourage and thank those on the Hill for not only providing the opportunity to utilize the original law, but, nearly 20 years later, expand it to allow for even greater freedoms; that there would be not one, but over ten legislatures utilizing these laws 25 years after their inception; that they would see thousands of students over the years receive a parent prepared diploma each spring; and that the pages they folded together would become a beautifully prepared, color-filled magazine prepared by second generation of homeschooled students.

As you leaf through the pages of the Annual Conference Edition of the Homeschool Iowa magazine, gleaning wisdom and insight from the 2017 conference speakers and exhibitors or consider the variety of activities, workshops, and events, ponder alongside your fellow homeschool families – the past, the present, and the future of homeschooling in Iowa – because yours is the story of Homeschooling in Iowa. We hope you’ll join us as we celebrate 25 years of Homeschool Iowa this June at the Homeschool Iowa Conference. ●

**KRISTYN YODER** serves as the Conference Coordinator for Homeschool Iowa. She and her husband Shaun have 4 highly independent children who refer to her as the “Cool Mom.” She loves Summer, sweet tea, and FitFlops. She began homeschooling in 1994, and has never looked back.

For all the details on this special 25th Anniversary Homeschool Iowa Conference, visit our website at:

[www.homeschooliowa.com/conference](http://www.homeschooliowa.com/conference)

<sup>1</sup> [http://a2zhomeschooling.com/thoughts\\_opinions\\_home\\_school/numbers\\_homeschooled\\_students/](http://a2zhomeschooling.com/thoughts_opinions_home_school/numbers_homeschooled_students/)



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# PARENTS: GATEKEEPERS OF TIME

By Heather Haupt

**“W**here did he run off to now?” I wondered. Having told this son of mine that we would finish that spelling lesson after our quiet afternoon reading time, I was somehow surprised when he was nowhere to be found. I was feeling just a bit annoyed as I sought him out that day and the feelings only intensified when I found a pile of cardboard scraps on the ground with open scissors nearby. I glared at the mess, as I rehearsed my “clean-up speech” in my head. Soon enough, I found the culprit on both fronts wielding a new cardboard sword at some imaginary foe in our backyard.

I have a soft spot for boy battles and the sight of this new one was enough to help me calm down before walking outside. As I approached him, he turned to me with a grin. “Mom, I am Esteban from *The King’s Fifth*.” Inspired by his reading, he had grabbed cardboard to fashion a Spanish rapier for himself replete with an intricate cardboard and duct-tape hilt. As he stopped his duel, bits and pieces of the story gushed out. This son, who is not all that talkative, couldn’t stop relaying the battles as well as the angst of journeying with this boy, Esteban, who had opposed greed, succumbed to it, and then came out from that dark period in his life.

The urgency of the spelling lesson faded into the background as we talked about exploration, the lust of money, and choosing the right path. Once he ran out of words and I finished admiring his intricate sword creation, we did make our way inside to finish the other “school” and clean up that mess. Along the way, I found myself thankful for the flexibility we had to pursue this bunny trail.

We live in hurried times where a busy schedule is worn like a badge of honor. But in our busyness, we miss the processing and the inculcating of the lessons we are learning. We miss out on those lessons our children discover on their own. There is beauty in slowing down. In a world screaming to have your children running from activity

to activity, parents have the power to say no. You have the opportunity to intentionally determine your own family’s schedule. Sometimes this means saying no to good things so you can pursue what is better. Sometimes this means saying no to DOING, so your children have time to simply BE.

You are the gatekeeper of time, the protector of childhood, the encourager of deep thinking. You accomplish this by creating time for the following three pursuits:

## 1. TIME TO READ

As guardians of our children’s time, we need to carve out time to read. Reading is a slow activity and in this fast-paced world where we are in constant search of stimulation, reading can oftentimes find itself on the backburner. We need to model this slowing down by reading ourselves and establish a home culture where reading is prioritized. It is when our kids marinate in the rich stories from the past that they formulate the ideas and principles necessary to guide them in the future. This means that we want to not only create time to read, but look to find great books for our children to feast on. For instance, instead of handing our sons the potty-humor infused books marketed to boys today, we find grand tales of adventure that inspire their moral imagination and help them become the brave men or tomorrow. Enjoying the slow art of reading, means they have time to really embrace and process what they are reading. Books like *St. George and the Dragon* not only tell an exciting story, but they also communicate that our children can defeat the dragons that they will meet in their lifetime whether those dragons come in the form of general life struggles or standing against injustice and protecting the weak.

## 2. TIME TO PLAY

Protecting childhood means providing time and the encouragement to play. It is in play that the lessons learned through read-



ing or conversations with the people around them are solidified. Learning and play go hand-in-hand. Sometimes we might participate or initiate this play as part of more formal education such as when we have them dramatize the revolving of the earth around the sun, or act out a scene from Macbeth. Other times, it is accomplished simply by saying no to electronics and letting them use their imaginations to make up their own worlds. If your kids are anything like mine, they will probably take what they are learning into their play. I have the fondest memories of the hours and hours my sisters and I spent together with our paper dolls working out relational skills, developing empathy, and keeping each other accountable for historical accuracy with whatever era we were imitating. I'll never forget the days my boys spent playing with ice cubes and their sea animals as they replicated life in the Antarctic ocean regions while I cooked dinner.

### 3. TIME TO PONDER

One of the great gifts we give our children is time to process and time to ponder. Young children ponder most frequently through play. As children get older, it can take the form of day-dreaming. When we create time in their lives to simply BE, they have opportunity to ponder great mysteries and work creatively towards solutions to problems they encounter. We give them time to ponder, when we slow down our lives to walk beside them and talk about the issues they are facing and hear about the things they are learning about. These are moments that we cannot manufacture on our own, but ones that crop up in the daily living out of our lives together. This gift of unhurried conversation allows them to really wrestle with ideas and process what they are learning.

As the guardians of your family's time, you get to decide what this looks like for your own family in each season you walk through. In our home, we have adopted a knight-training mindset that recognizes that our children are in training now for the adventure of life and that it is our job to not only train them, but allow them time to grow and develop - time to read great books, play hard, and to think deeply. In doing so, we give our children a great gift that will go with them for the rest of their lives. ●



**HEATHER HAUPT** is the homeschool mother of 3 knights-in-training and a spunky little princess, and the author of 'Knights-in-Training: 10 Principles for Raising Honorable, Courageous, and Compassionate Boys.' She is excited to come speak at the NICHE Convention in June. She writes at [www.HeatherHaupt.com](http://www.HeatherHaupt.com)

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- Homeschool Myth Busters
- Equipping Kids to Persevere and Pursue Excellence
- Why Movement is the Magic Ingredient for Learning
- Homeschooling the Early Years: You Gotta Turn Right To Go Left
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# BENEFITS OF INCORPORATING MOVEMENT INTO MATH FACTS PRACTICE

By Crystal Wagner

**M**any times I know that my daughters understand the math concept they have been learning. Through our discussions and hands-on practice, I know they have mastered the material. But as soon as I ask them to demonstrate that knowledge through written math problems, they falter. I see a deer-in-the-headlights look on their faces. They don't know what to do.

For example, one day when my daughter was seven, we had just completed a math lesson, and based on our discussion, I knew she understood the concept. So I gave her a corresponding worksheet. And she shut down. She struggled to answer the problems. I could see her frustration building, so I took the worksheet from her and asked her to bounce on the mini trampoline while I read the problems to her. As she was bouncing, she was able to answer every single problem quickly and correctly. She needed to move while practicing the math facts.

As our story demonstrates, many children are able to understand mathematical concepts they are not yet ready to express on paper. Writing answers to math problems is more advanced than understanding the concept itself. Removing the worksheet and written math facts allows your child to focus on the concept without the added stress of writing the answer as well.

## BENEFITS OF INCORPORATING MOVEMENT TO PRACTICE MATH FACTS

### Allows kinesthetic learners to focus

Many children, and especially kinesthetic learners, benefit from practicing math facts through movement. Instead of spending their energy translating a math concept into written notation, their brain is freed to focus on the answer.

“SHE NEEDED TO **MOVE** WHILE PRACTICING THE MATH FACTS.”

### Improves retention

Have you noticed that when you say a new phone number you are trying to memorize out loud repeatedly or sing the number to a little tune it is easier and faster to memorize it? The same is true for our children. We want them to master the math facts and truly understand them. Adding movement to their math facts practice helps them remember the facts better.

### Adds variety

No one likes to repeat the same process day after day. Even manufacturing plants have tried to incorporate breaks and variety to break up the monotony so their workers remain safe. Adding variety to your child's math facts practice increases his interest and willingness to complete the math lesson.

## WAYS TO INCORPORATE MOVEMENT TO PRACTICE MATH FACTS

There are many ways you could incorporate movement when practicing math facts, but it can be difficult to think of them in the middle of a math lesson. The following suggestions are simple ways to add movement to your child's math facts practice. With each suggestion, you could create your own problems based on the concept your child is currently practicing or use problems from his current worksheet.



- Write problems on the sidewalk or driveway with sidewalk chalk. Instruct him to say the answer aloud as he jumps on each problem.
- Read a problem aloud to him. He can call out the answer as he bounces on a mini trampoline or dribbles a ball.
- Use an exercise ball to incorporate large muscle movement. He could bounce the ball, balance on it, or bounce gently on the ball as he answers problems.
- Practice skip counting while jumping rope.

Regardless of how you incorporate movement, remember to keep the sessions short (10-20 minutes for grades 1-3 and 20-30 minutes for grades 4-6). ●



**Crystal Wagner** and her husband, Jason, have two daughters whom they have home educated since 2010. Crystal believes it is important to create an atmosphere where children thrive, enabling them to fulfill their God-given potential. She writes articles and publishes resources that equip homeschool parents to foster such an atmosphere in their home. You can find out more about Crystal at [www.TriumphantLearning.com](http://www.TriumphantLearning.com).

**WORKSHOPS**

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# LIES

## HOMESCHOOLING MOMS TELL

By Todd Wilson

I don't know about you, but I'm loving summer. Not only does it feel nice and warm, but there's also nothing like the feeling of pure freedom from homeschool "school" for a whole three months. My wife does 99.9% of the homeschooling, but I still relish the break and love the freedom she has during the summer.

That said, why don't the "lies homeschooling moms believe" follow suit and take a little break as well? Like demon legions, "the homeschooling lies" continue to whisper in your head as you sit by the pool or visit the park. "You're doing a lousy job... look at all those other school children and how smart they seem...look at that three-year-old, I bet he's reading already... and that mom probably has an organic garden, raises chickens, is teaching her children a foreign language over the summer, and weighs less than she did in high school!!"

Oh, yes, those lies homeschooling moms believe are tenacious little critters, always looking for an opportunity to cause doubts, feelings of failure, and regrets.

Honestly, I feel like a broken record on the "lies homeschooling moms believe" mantra. I've written a book about it, dozens and dozens of articles, and 'preached it' all over the country. Sometimes I think I can't talk about it anymore. I've said everything there is to be said about it. I keep saying it, moms nod their heads in agreement and then they keep right on believing them.

And then it dawned on me; I'm not just speaking the truth in an ocean of silence. There is an enemy who continues to loudly spew out lies and untruths. It's a battle for the souls of homeschooling moms of Middle Earth proportions. And the enemy is...

**...YOU.**

You thought I was going to say Satan, didn't you? But it's not him (although he's behind the whole lie thing...he is the father of lies after all.) But the real enemy is homeschooling moms be-

cause it's not just about believing lies, it's also about TELLING LIES. And homeschool moms spend much of their time telling lies to one another.

Spend a few minutes on Facebook and feelings of failure begin to sweep over you as mom after mom talks about the great food they make, field trips they take, children they have, projects they tackle, husbands they adore, and LIVES they live.

Lies...lies! I just got an email from a mom who sounds like the Apostle Paul on Facebook. She quotes long passages of Scripture and each post gives the impression of total dependence on Jesus and shekinah glory living. You can imagine my shock when she wrote me a few weeks ago to share how hard life and marriage had been for her and her family. My shock wasn't about what she was experiencing. I know it's hard, and we all feel like giving up sometimes. But I thought to myself as I read through her email, "Liar, Liar, pants on fire." She posted one thing but felt another.

I'm just betting that you fall into 'telling' those lies as well. In fact, here's a little list of some of the Lies Homeschooling Moms TELL:

- The kids are doing great.
- School is fine.
- I just love being home with the kids.
- We're right where God wants us.
- I love my man.
- We have so much fun in the kitchen creating nutritious meals.
- I love listening to the kids play worship songs.

"BUT THE REAL ENEMY IS  
HOMESCHOOLING MOMS  
BECAUSE IT'S NOT JUST  
ABOUT **BELIEVING LIES**,  
IT'S ALSO ABOUT  
**TELLING LIES.**"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15





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Now, just in case you need a translation, here is what they really feel and need to say:

- I feel like we're falling apart. I feel like all the kids do is bicker all day long. I've got teenager attitudes and young children who never SHUT UP. I just hope that I don't screw them up...but right now it's not looking very promising.
- I hate doing school. I just want to get up and put the kids on a magic yellow bus and have the whole day to do whatever I want to do. Besides, what does it matter? My friend's kids are in school and they seem OK.
- Calgon...take me away.
- We're at the end of our rope and I'm not sure I can hang on much longer. I want easy! I'm tired of living this way. I need a change!
- I don't feel like I even know the man I married twenty years ago. I feel so distant from him. I sometimes wonder who he even is. I don't believe in divorce, but sometimes I think about it.
- Give me a Twinkie...and deep fry it.
- If I hear one more lousy note on the violin, I'm going to FREAK!!!!

Here's the deal, Mom. All homeschooling moms feel like FREAKING from time to time (and that's OK), but what makes it 100 times worse is that YOU tell lies. You don't share what you're really feeling about your marriage, homeschool, or family. Those lies (and you're not the only one telling them, by the way) make other homeschooling moms clam up and intensify what they falsely believe.

So here's what I want you to do...right now: TELL THE TRUTH. You don't have to blab it all over Facebook or Instagram, but tell your friend, husband, or another homeschooler what you feel about your hard child, the pre-packaged foods your planning to serve for dinner, or how you'd like to throw in the towel.

I'm thinking that if more of you homeschooling moms quit TELLING lies...maybe more of you homeschooling moms would stop believing them.

Just a thought! Enjoy the rest of the summer. ●



**TODD WILSON**, author of 'Help! I'm Married to a Homeschooling Mom' and 'The Official Book of Homeschooling Cartoons', is a dad, writer, conference speaker, and former pastor. Todd's humor and gut-honest realness have made him a favorite

speaker at homeschool conventions across the country and a guest on Focus on the Family. Todd and his wife, Debbie, along with their eight children, spend several months of the year traveling the country encouraging moms and dads.

#### WORKSHOPS

- Lies Homeschoolers Believe
- Answers for the Homeschool Critics in Your Life... Even When It's You
- An Unbeatable Team
- RVing, the Ultimate Tool for Homeschoolers
- They Look to You

## TEEN TRACK: SHADING WITH WOOD STAIN

with Instructor Kathy Klinge

This fun class will use a 'shading with stain' technique on wood to create a 12x12 picture on a piece of pine. The process will start with forming an idea and continue with preparing the wood, adding stain to create the image, and finish up with adding hardware to hang the finished piece.

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**Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center**

**\$25/NICHE MEMBER STUDENT**

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**WWW.HOMESCHOOLIOWA.COM/CONFERENCE**



# FINISHING THE RACE

By Andrew Pudewa

Every morning we wake up to the tasks and joys of home education. Sometimes all goes well—children cooperate, the phone doesn't ring, no one is sick, the milk doesn't spill, and everyone is laughing, smiling, and learning. However, on other days a confusion of conflicting schedules, curricular checklists, family needs, challenging attitudes, and random events threatens to derail our productivity and possibly even our belief that we are doing the right thing. With a few "disaster days" in a row, we may even begin to think evil thoughts such as, "Maybe I am failing them. Maybe I should put them in school ..." Creeping in through the chaos, such feelings of frustration may become seeds of doubt that can take root in the mind of any parent, no matter how dedicated or determined. So at times like these, a bit of contemplation becomes critical; we must step back and ask the very important question:

## WHAT ARE WE REALLY DOING HERE?

Most of us chose to homeschool for one or more fairly common reasons: We had a bad experience in a school, we were concerned about the secular or even anti-Christian curriculum or social environment at a school, we couldn't afford private school, we loved our kids too much to send them away to school, we believed we could teach them more effectively at home, or we just had friends who convinced us to try. However, after a few months or years, our reason for continuing to homeschool became much more personal, intuitive, passionate—and sometimes hard to articulate. We came to realize that we wanted to "do school" differently for a grander reason, and the desire to home educate our children became a calling, a vocation, even a mission.

As John Taylor Gatto so eloquently explains in *Dumbing Us Down* and *The Underground History of American Education*, most public schools in this country (and private schools which imitate them) were designed to teach—and have become, for the most part, successful at teaching—lessons of conformity, mediocrity, anxiety, and apathy. Reading Gatto, we begin to sense that we ourselves were robbed; our absorbent minds and youthful passions were either starved or misdirected, fighting the twin demons of boredom in the classroom and the compulsion to fit in. Self-directed study was unheard of. If we learned to give all the right answers, we could win the game; however, meaningful

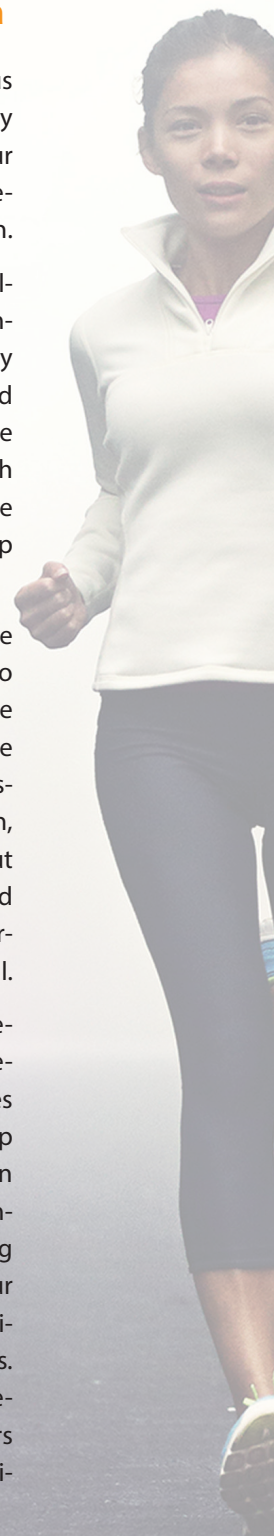
learning—if it happened at all—was nebulous and temporary. At worst we failed to take away much at all, and at best it was a poor use of our time and potential. Realizing this, we immediately wanted something different for our children.

Therefore we seek alternatives, readily available in the world of home education, where individualized, appropriately challenging, truly engaging opportunities exist. Perhaps we find a unit-study approach; perhaps we discover the value of learning Latin and reading classics with the whole family. Or maybe our high school age children take college classes or pursue internship opportunities. It all seems so good and so right.

But then the specter of concern about college may darken our door, and the temptation to do "school-at-home" returns, lest our students have a different curriculum than the students in the institutions down the street and, therefore, possibly be unprepared for college entrance. Again, we might think that school is a safer option. But do we truly want to go back to the homogenized conveyor-belt system of education that we determined to escape in the beginning? It's doubtful.

Fortunately, we can hear and read many homeschool success stories. Headlines like "Homeschool Teens Ripe for College,"<sup>1</sup> as well as stories from other families a few years ahead of us help us realize that no, we do not have to bow down to the great gods of the SAT and their lesser minions, the Iowa Basics. Nor do we have to bring our transcripts to the altar, having sacrificed our children's talents and passions for the mechanical world of test scores and grade point averages. Colleges today love homeschooled students because, of all the students that matriculate, ours show, on average, higher levels of academic apti-

<sup>1</sup> [www.usnews.com/education/high-schools/articles/2012/06/01/homeschooled-teens-ripe-for-college](http://www.usnews.com/education/high-schools/articles/2012/06/01/homeschooled-teens-ripe-for-college)





# LET US NOT BECOME WEARY

tude, disciplined study habits, better character, and greater leadership potential. So we need not worry.

We do, however, have to keep our eye on the larger goal. Yes, the country may need more well-educated citizens, and the world probably needs better thinkers and problem solvers. Even Bill Gates sees that. But we know something that he doesn't; we know that what the world really needs is more good people. The last thing we need is another atheist Ph.D.; what we most desperately need are thoughtful and ethical people, wise and just, with faith grounded in reason. Truly, the confusion in modern education stems from a profound misunderstanding of what education really is. Although the world around us shouts loudly and clearly that schools are for socialization and job training, deep down we know that isn't what education is meant to be.

How about a much older, better idea—that education is actually about the cultivation of wisdom and virtue? I like that. I liked it the first time I heard it, and I still do. If we can, as energetically as possible, help build a generation of wise and virtuous, God-fearing, articulate, faith-filled thinkers, what greater calling could we ask for? What greater work could we find?

Then, of course, we must ask, how can we best cultivate wisdom and virtue? Again, going to the ancients as well as the great Christian theologians, we see this is accomplished by filling the soul with Goodness, Truth, and Beauty. Fortunately, the home is well suited for this: the training of the will (to do the good), the mind (to know the truth), and the heart (to love beauty). It is ideal for the development of character, knowledge, and skills.

With home education we see abundant opportunities to serve one another in the family and in the community, thereby developing the will to do what is right, when it ought to be done, even when it is uncomfortable and inconvenient. Selflessness and service develop character and properly order the will.

Ideally, education should be individualized, with content and pacing appropriate to the student, which is one area in which even the best schools cannot compete. The small home or cottage school, with each student working at his or her natural pace and free to pursue, more or less, his or her interests, is an ideal that even professional educators will usually affirm. Furthermore, parents have the freedom to choose content based on God's truth, not the relativism of modernism so ubiquitous in science, history, and literature taught in public schools today.

Lastly, we know that homeschooling is a perfect environment for developing skills—the way beauty is brought forth into the world, whether through music, art, writing, speaking, photography, or film. Home-educated students are blessed with the freedom to pursue a passion, the discipline to attain excellence, and the desire to do so for the glory of God.

Put in that perspective, what we are doing is indeed the most important work on earth. Let us not become weary of doing good. ●



**ANDREW PUDEWA** is the founder and director of the Institute for Excellence in Writing. Presenting throughout North America, he addresses issues relating to teaching, writing, thinking, spelling, and music with clarity, insight, practical experience, and humor. He and his wonderful, heroic wife, Robin, have homeschooled their seven children and are now proud grandparents of eight, making their home in Northeastern Oklahoma's beautiful green country.

## WORKSHOPS

- Leadership Education: The Seven Keys of Great Teaching
- Teaching Boys & Other Children Who Would Rather Make Forts All Day
- Fairy Tales and the Moral Imagination
- The Four Deadly Errors of Teaching Writing
- The Four Language Arts



# “DADDY, WHAT’S THAT?”

By Jimmy Morris

“Daddy, what’s that?” My two-year-old daughter’s question interrupted my train of thought only slightly as I continued packaging orders for shipment in our family business. “Daddy, what’s that?” she repeated, pointing to the colorful stack of puzzles and toys waiting for shipment next to me. With a house full of children and a small family business, questions and conversation are a natural part of our life. With my mind still occupied primarily with my work at hand, I replied briefly, “Toys for customers.” Not satisfied with my answer, Kailyn repeated her question again.

As homeschool parents, we love to see the constant discussion and learning that takes place all around us on a constant basis. Just today, we had a discussion about life in Denmark following a missionary presentation at church, and a more lengthy discussion about adverbial subordinate clauses with my oldest child. My head is still reeling from the latter conversation, and I’m grateful for Google as I attempt to stay one step ahead of their questions. Indeed, moments of solitude have become a cherished treasure to my wife and me. Most of our children are still in the stage of gathering information and ideas, and the constant conversation ranges from the simple to the complex.

But why the emphasis on conversation? One of my favorite Scripture verses is I Timothy 4:12 where young Timothy is exhorted to be an example of the believers in six specific areas. The first two items on the list relate specifically to our speech and communication with others. Solomon states in the Book of Proverbs that “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” Nathaniel Hawthorne voiced a similar concept when he wrote, “Words - so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in a dictionary, how potent for good and evil they become in the hands of one who knows how to combine them.” Let us not forget that the heavens and earth were created by the spoken word, and Jesus Christ is described in the Book of John as “The Word.” If we are to

raise a generation of godly leaders, skilled communication is a vital part of the equation.

The second item in Paul’s charge to Timothy is translated in the King James Version as “conversation.” Over the years, the word “conversation” has gradually shifted in meaning. Webster’s 1828 Dictionary defined conversation as 1. General course of manners; behavior; deportment; especially as it respects morals. 2. A keeping company; familiar intercourse; intimate fellowship or association; commerce in social life. 3. Intimate and familiar acquaintance; as a conversation with books, or other object. and 4. Familiar discourse; general intercourse of sentiments; chat; unrestrained talk; opposed to a formal conference. The latter definition is what comes to mind in today’s world, but upon reflection, all four definitions provide a good summary of our approach to life and learning. Our conversation is our communication with others and our subsequent companionship. We converse with good books and great ideas in our pursuit of learning, and our discussion of daily topics reveals an expression of our life.

The commands of Deuteronomy 6, the Jewish Shema, to love God and to teach His words to our children offers an interesting illustration of the importance of conversation as a tool of learning and remembrance. God’s people were given several commands. Hear. Memorize. Repeat. Discuss throughout the day. The daily ebb and flow of life was to be filled with conversation about God’s work and His commands. The ultimate goal was not the repetition of words but, rather, the ultimate expression of a life that honored God. Conversation was a tool to help accomplish that goal.

It has become abundantly clear that we have all but lost the ability to converse in our modern American culture. One has only to observe the great numbers of people with glazed eyes staring at the screens of their electronic devices, or perhaps intercept a text “conversation” from the average teenager’s cell

phone. When “Whassup,” “ya know,” “dude,” and “LOL” form the main portion of the “conversation,” it does not bode well for the future of our culture. If we are to be an example in our conversation, we must put forth the effort to both listen attentively and articulate clearly. As home educators, we have the opportunity to change that dynamic by not only embracing conversation as a God-given tool of learning, but by encouraging it in our own children.

Many homeschooling families have embraced a return to classical education, which embraces conversation as a vital component of learning. In her essay *The Lost Tools of Learning*, Dorothy Sayers calls for a return to the trivium – the grammar, dialectic,

of Teacher: Solving the Crisis of American Schooling, “The primary goal of real education is not to deliver facts but to guide students to the truths that will allow them to take responsibility for their lives.” Secondly, ask questions of your own. In the craziness that is your life as a homeschool family, utilize every opportunity as you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. Avail yourself of practical resources such as *Making Great Conversationalists* by Steve & Teri Maxwell to help you on your journey. Above all else, look to Christ, who left in His written Word the greatest conversation in history.

“Daddy, what’s that?” Still not satisfied with my answer, my determined daughter repeated her question yet again. Trying a

“LET NO ONE DESPISE YOUR YOUTH, BUT **BE AN EXAMPLE** TO THE BELIEVERS IN WORD, IN CONDUCT, IN LOVE, IN SPIRIT, IN FAITH, IN PURITY.”

and rhetoric stages. In short, the grammar stage of learning is filled with observation, memorization, and recitation – a collection of knowledge to be used at a later time. The dialectic stage is one of questioning and discussion, applying logic to the knowledge collected in the grammar stage. The final stage of the trivium finds the culmination in the ability to express oneself clearly and concisely. We would all do well to embrace the invaluable tool of conversation as we train up the next generation, regardless of our chosen style of education.

So how do we encourage conversation in our own children? First of all, embrace their questions. Don’t run or dodge them. You don’t have to have all the answers. Use the questions as a springboard for learning and discussion. As John Taylor Gatto writes in his book, *A Different Kind*

different approach, I replied with a question of my own. “Kailyn, what’s that?” A smile brightening her face, she responded instantly, “A doggy!” She ran over to point to a picture of a dog on one of the toys, pleased that I had finally understood what she was asking. A simple conversation – a powerful tool for learning, and the foundation for articulating truth to a world in need. ●

*JIMMY MORRIS is a homeschool graduate and the owner of Light of Faith Resources, a family business supplying home educators with quality products since 1998. He and his wife, Megan, reside in Missouri where they alternate between sanity and survival in the beautiful chaos that is life with seven children. Jimmy also enjoys a love for music and a passion for the arena of politics.*



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# A LOVE OF LEARNING

By Susan Chrisman



Once upon a time, thirty-two years ago to be exact, a young mother and father were searching for a kindergarten for their darling first born, a son. This son had just turned five years of age, and, as the culture of the day declared, was to begin his formal education in three months. Fruitless and frustrating was the search, and the parents determined that their son was young enough to stay home one more year. Happy was the child, for he knew nothing of the need for school, and life continued as he had always known it.

But the mother gave deep thought and prayer to the idea of school and began to teach her little son, always in the form of games and play, the skills he would need to build a strong foundation for his academic career. They experienced such delightful days, full of wonder and very active, that the parents began to entertain the idea of continuing their son's formal education at home. A bit frightened at the awesomeness of the responsibility, the mother began to search for the resources she would need to accomplish such a task.

A small book was discovered at a local bookstore. The mother quickly made her purchase and hurried home to absorb the knowledge it contained. The book was *For the Children's Sake* by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay. The mother knew that Mrs. Macaulay was the daughter of Dr. Francis and Edith Schaeffer. The Schaeffers had written many books, and through those writings had mentored the young parents of whom I speak. So it seemed natural to select a book written by their daughter.

As she read, the spirit of the mother was stirred within her, and she knew this little book contained the guidance they needed. But where could she find the knowledge to help her apply the philosophy of education about which she

was learning? The works of Charlotte Mason, of whom the book referred, were no longer in print.

"I'll do the best I can with the knowledge I have learned," the mother determined. She and her son, as well as his little sister, spent many happy days playing in the sun, discovering God's creation, and reading beautiful books together.

The time came, all too soon, for the mother to teach her young son how to read. Having never taught a child to read, she timidly chose a program highly recommended by a friend. This program demanded much study and preparation by the mother, and the golden hours of reading, playing, and discovering in nature were shortened accordingly. But the child learned to read and a whole new world was opened to him.

As the child grew and more academic work was required, the mother, feeling unsure of her way, began to follow the advice of her friends, straying from the philosophy that had so stirred her heart those few years before. Years progressed, and the young family was blessed with more babies. The mother, conscientious about her work, became overwhelmed with the responsibilities of home, family, and the education of her children. Her efforts to provide curriculum adequate for her children's needs became insufficient in her eyes, but she had neither the time nor the energy to study and research as she desired. She purchased curriculum that made important decisions for her. And all the family struggled. The love of learning, the life in her children's education, faded, and she felt that she had failed. Sadly, she endeavored to nurture any tiny flicker of life that might dimly appear during her children's lessons. Living books were her only source of comfort in their school work, and her children still delighted in listening as she read to them.

Her son, she now had five children, became more and more frustrated in his lessons, and his behavior revealed evidence that he struggled in other areas as well. He would no longer allow his mother to teach him. His unhappiness infected the other children so that the weary and physically weakened mother mourned the atmosphere of her home, but had no strength to initiate the changes that were necessary to restore her family to life and love of learning. Finally, the father, out of his love and grave concern for his wife's health, enrolled their son in a government-run high school. Believing her failure complete, the mother cried herself to sleep every night for months, her sorrow too deep for consolation.

Change was very slow, and the younger three children gained the major benefit of it. Efforts to encourage the second child in the methods she was learning sparked a little interest, but the transition was difficult to effect. Seeing that school life was nearly over for her older two children, and her opportunity to develop in them a love of learning was, in essence, nearly gone, the mother turned the full force of her attention to developing that love in her three younger children. She did not possess the energy or the strength she had before, but she was determined. Crying out to God for His aid, one by one she applied the methods she was learning.

## BUT FAITHFUL AND TRUE WAS THE GOD UPON WHOM SHE RELIED, **REDEEMING THE TIME, RESTORING THE RELATIONSHIPS.**

A glimmer of hope finally emerged, however, when she found that the works of Charlotte Mason had been reprinted. She purchased a set of the six volumes and slowly began to study, knowing she would find the answers for which she searched. The study was laborious as she had not read fine literature extensively; the language and sentence structure were demanding. But the mother persevered as she sensed she was blazing a trail out of her grief, her insufficiency, and her ignorance. A kind and dear friend offered to read with her, and together they struggled through the rich and profound ideas of Charlotte Mason's work.

Reading Miss Mason's works was becoming easier for the mother as she grew in understanding and in knowledge. Meetings were established so others could join in the study and, although she still struggled in applying all she was learning, the mother found she could encourage others along their way.

Many years of study and discussion have passed. Hours and hours of study reaped wisdom and knowledge, although the mother knows there is much more to learn. The mother's first-born, her son who refused to be taught, has overcome through many struggles and is now a fine husband and loving fa-

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ther, and the relationship with his parents is restored and strong. Now all her children are adults, and the mother is enjoying each new season as it comes, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren.

As the mother reflects upon the last thirty-two years, she smiles, realizing that though the days were long, truly the years were short. Far from perfect was the training and education she provided for her children. But faithful and true was the God upon whom she relied, redeeming the time, restoring the relationships. The mother recognizes that the education of her children was not only for the children's sake. God, through the works of Charlotte Mason, taught her a love for learning which will continue through the rest of her life.



**Susan Chrisman** is a wife, grandmama, twenty-five-year homeschool veteran, mentor, speaker, and ardent pursuer of God. Married in 1977 to Jerry, they have five children and five grandchildren. They served on the board of trustees for the Oklahoma Christian Home Educators' Consociation for fifteen years where Susan was the Leadership Conference Coordina-

tor for eleven years and the Editor of Publications for five years. She has co-directed a Charlotte Mason Discussion Group in Oklahoma City since 2001 and has published educational resources. Since graduating with a bachelor's degree, Susan has nearly forty years of experience working and researching in the realm of education. She is currently writing online courses, the first, 'The Will: Bend it? Break it? Develop it? What's a Parent to do?' is available on her website at [susanchrisman.com](http://susanchrisman.com).

### WORKSHOPS

- How Your Child's Brain Develops
- A Home Educator's Guide to Scheduling & Planning
- Evaluation – How to Know What Your Child Really Knows
- Art & Music: Icing on the Cake or Essential Food for the Soul and Brain?
- Empower Your Child: The Why & How of Habit Training for Children and Teens
- Like a Rock: How to Get to Know God When Your Home is Never Quiet



# LIBERTY

## HOMESCHOOL IOWA CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

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This year's theme, **LIBERTY**, is set in early America and will present how true liberty is found in Christ.

**Children ages 5–12 are welcome to attend the Homeschool Iowa Children's Program.**  
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# HOMESCHOOL OPTIONS IN IOWA

A QUICK-LOOK OVERVIEW CHART

## INDEPENDENT PRIVATE INSTRUCTION (IPI)

**NO REQUIRED REPORTING.** If written request for IPI information is received, a simple, legally-defined response is required.

- >> DOES NOT grant access to Dual Enrollment
  - >> Could possibly grant access to Parent-Taught Driver Education
- IPI was passed by the Iowa Legislature and signed into law in 2013.*

### MORE INFO

FOR MORE DETAILS ON HOMESCHOOL OPTIONS IN IOWA, PLEASE VISIT [HOMESCHOOLIOWA.ORG](http://HOMESCHOOLIOWA.ORG) OR EMAIL US AT [NICHE@HOMESCHOOLIOWA.ORG](mailto:NICHE@HOMESCHOOLIOWA.ORG)

## COMPETENT PRIVATE INSTRUCTION (CPI)

### CPI OPTION 1 (299A.2)

#### PRIVATELY HIRED SUPERVISING TEACHER

**Requires:**  
Form A filing and two visits per quarter by teacher hired privately by parents.

**Grants access to:**  
>> Dual Enrollment  
>> Parent-Taught Driver Education

#### HSAP SUPERVISING TEACHER

**Requires:**  
Form A filing and four visits per quarter by teacher assigned by public school and adherence to HSAP requirements.

**Grants access to:**  
>> Dual Enrollment  
>> Parent-Taught Driver Education

### CPI OPTION 2 (299A.3)

#### OPT-OUT REPORTING

**Requires:**  
NO required reporting  
NO access to dual enrollment

**Grants access to:**  
>> Parent-Taught Driver Education  
*(File optional NICHE Notification Report to create documentation.)*

#### OPT-IN REPORTING

**Requires:**  
Form A filing and annual assessment with results showing progress reported to school.

**Grants access to:**  
>> Dual Enrollment  
>> Parent-Taught Driver Education



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Maria, Homeschool Student

Elizabeth, Homeschool Student

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# ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Come and join your fellow homeschoolers from across the state of Iowa for a fun night of fellowship and an ice cream social in celebration of 25 years of homeschooling freedom in Iowa.

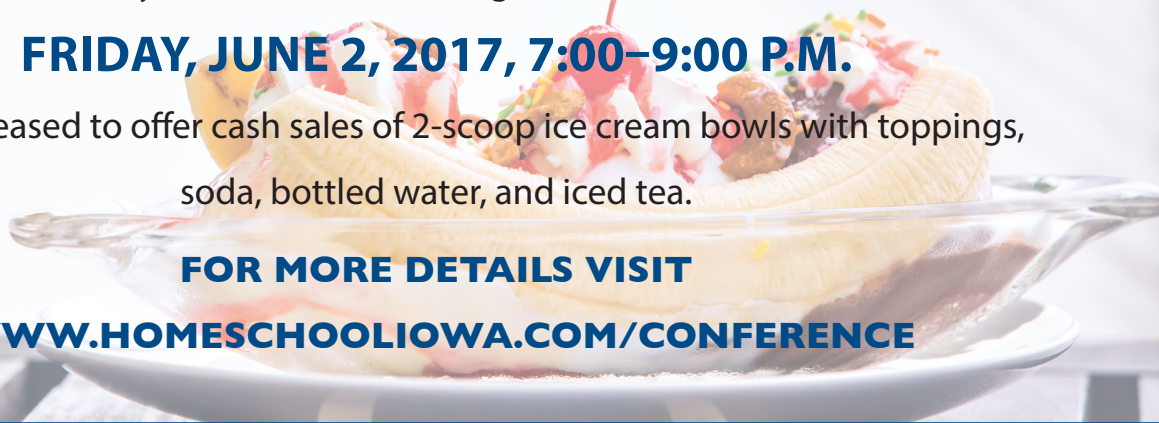
**FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017, 7:00–9:00 P.M.**

We are pleased to offer cash sales of 2-scoop ice cream bowls with toppings, soda, bottled water, and iced tea.



**FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT**

**[WWW.HOMESCHOOLIOWA.COM/CONFERENCE](http://WWW.HOMESCHOOLIOWA.COM/CONFERENCE)**



## THURSDAY'S CHILD MINI CONFERENCE

Are you the parent or caregiver of a struggling learner or exceptional child? Join us for an afternoon of encouraging workshops and practical support for the parents and caregivers of struggling learners and exceptional children.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017**

**MINI CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS: 1:30 – 4:30 P.M.**

**Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center**

**300 E 9th Street, Coralville, IA 52241**

Homeschool Iowa is pleased to offer this Mini Conference **FREE** of charge to the parents and caregivers of struggling learners and exceptional children.



**PRE-REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN.**

**TO PRE-REGISTER VISIT**

**[WWW.HOMESCHOOLIOWA.COM/CONFERENCE](http://WWW.HOMESCHOOLIOWA.COM/CONFERENCE)**





# “YOU WANT ME TO WHAT?! SHOP THE CONVENTION WITH YOU!?”

By Dennis Gundersen

**F**or many men, hearing his wife utter the words “Will you go shopping with me?” is the ultimate moment of “everything I have feared has come upon me.” We all know that the male gender does not enjoy shopping as a rule. We view shopping as a necessary evil, along the lines of a guerilla military strike: get in, complete the conquest, and get out fast!

Should a visit to the homeschool convention be such a dreadful prospect? Husbands and Dads, as you consider the upcoming Homeschool Iowa convention this June 1-3, let me put it in a new perspective for you: this isn't just shopping! This is one of your best possible investments of two and a half days, to give shape to your family's plans for teaching the children at home. This is where you can translate your whole philosophy of why you homeschool into practical steps. Best of all, those practical steps can be ones of your own creative making! Because if you make good use of these two days, it could transform your entire upcoming school year into the most pleasant and satisfying one you've ever had. So put your feelings about shopping aside, and go with her!

While at the convention, resist those temptations to linger at the snack bar, go back to the hotel, or look for the near-

est break room with a TV (yes, we know you're missing “the big game”), or, most of all, those temptations to get your wife to “hurry it up.” You're underestimating the blessings to be found here. Let me explain a few ways you could approach the convention, which will make you look forward to it and not just endure it.

## **FIND A SUBJECT YOU CAN TEACH THE CHILDREN!**

Yes, that's a personal “you!” Among all the subjects that can be taught in the homeschool curriculum, have you considered before: is there one that you could teach? And in so doing, you would lift that part of the job off your wife's shoulders, and bear it yourself! Hey, you've been looking for ways to “connect” with the kids more anyway! Here's one of your best possible routes: be the teacher for one of their subjects.

Teach what you love! Have you always been drawn to reading history? Then, find a curriculum or book with which you can teach it, at the convention. Does your mind just gravitate towards the order and system or logic? Then turn that into an opportunity to teach your children a logic course. Or how about you join the children in taking a stab at learning Latin or Spanish?

“...THE ULTIMATE MOMENT OF

**“EVERYTHING I HAVE FEARED HAS COME UPON ME.”**

Since it's the father's calling to train his children in the Word of God, maybe you could find one of those character-building Bible courses and lead the family in it. I'm encouraging you to go to the convention on a quest of your own – don't just "tag along" behind the wife! Enter those halls with thanksgiving and praise, and also enter them with a determination that you'll find something you can teach the children.

### SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GROW YOURSELF

Are you kidding? Do you think you could walk through that entire convention hall and not find something to enrich your own life? Something to enhance your own walk with God? Because one of the important things a homeschooling parent can do towards the education of their children is to enrich your own spirituality, to deepen your own relationship with the Lord, to keep on learning as a disciple – and for the children to know that you are!

If not on the convention floor, have you ever carefully perused the pages and pages of workshops available? Chances are, you've never read through that section of the program carefully. If you do so, I can promise you – as a 53-year old homeschool veteran, who has been to over 200 conventions myself – each and every time, you'll find several workshops, which have the potential to make significant changes in your life and your family's life. When that convention program is put in your hand, make it your first order of business for the day to carefully read it like a menu at your favorite restaurant. You'll find tasty nourishment for your soul.

### WATCH WHAT CAPTURES YOUR CHILD'S EYE

I don't mean just the "glitzy" stuff. Of course, that big screen with the cartoon videos grabs your little one's eyes. But don't just let those turn into a convention "babysitter" while you and the wife shop. Pull them away and take them with you – yes, booth by booth! Even if they don't like it at first. As the day lingers on and their mood becomes quieter and more pensive, keep observing. You'll see them pick up this and that. Take note of what they're picking up on their own. You may catch a clue of their interests. If it's worthy, why not make it part of their curriculum this year?

"Whether you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God," the Apostle Paul wrote us. Yes, even convention shopping can be done to the glory of God; and to discover new ways to manifest His glory to our children. ●

**DENNIS GUNDERSEN** is Senior Pastor of Grace Bible Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma: [www.grace4u.org](http://www.grace4u.org). He and his wife Naomi are owners of Grace & Truth Books: [WWW.GRACEANDTRUTHBOOKS.COM](http://WWW.GRACEANDTRUTHBOOKS.COM)



### WORKSHOPS

- Serving with Love and Loving to Serve
- Homeschooling with a Broken Spirit
- Building Godly Character with Older Books
- Go for the Goal! Shepherding Children with Eternal Aims
- A 17th Century Puritan Curriculum

## USED CURRICULUM SALE

Join us for Iowa's largest homeschool used curriculum and book sale!

**THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017**

**1:30 – 6:30 P.M.**

**Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center  
300 E 9th Street, Coralville, IA 52241**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**[www.homeschooliowa.com/conference](http://www.homeschooliowa.com/conference)**



# HOMESCHOOLING 101 MINI CONFERENCE

*Thinking of homeschooling? Feeling overwhelmed? Don't know where to start?*

Take advantage of our Homeschooling 101 mini conference. These workshops will walk you through Iowa Homeschool Law, give you guidance as you choose curriculum, and encourage you as you step into home education.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017**

**MINI CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS: 1:30 – 4:30 P.M.**

**Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center**

**300 E 9th Street, Coralville, IA 52241**

Homeschool Iowa is pleased to offer this Mini Conference **FREE** of charge to parents and caregivers exploring the option of home education.

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN.**

## WORKSHOPS

### **HOMESCHOOLING WITH CONFIDENCE: UNDERSTANDING IOWA'S HOMESCHOOL LAW**

**SCOTT WOODRUFF,  
HSLDA Attorney**

Everything you need to know about your state's homeschool law so you can homeschool with confidence. Thorough presentation of the basics with time for veterans to ask their unanswered questions.

### **WHERE DO I BEGIN?**

**POLLY LILLY, Homeschool Iowa  
Support Group Coordinator**

We'll think through the important steps needed to successfully homeschool, explore diverse approaches to homeschooling, share resources, answer questions, cover common roadblocks and misconceptions of "what school should look like" and discuss stages families experience through the years.

### **HOW YOUR CHILD'S BRAIN DEVELOPS**

**SUSAN CHRISMAN**

Discover how your child's brain grows and how your child learns during the early stages. Also, learn the basics of what early education involves, how to help your child learn to his best ability.

Discover the developmental imperatives of early education which provide the richest possible foundation for learning.



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HOMESCHOOL IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**TO PRE-REGISTER VISIT**

**[WWW.HOMESCHOOLIOWA.COM/CONFERENCE](http://WWW.HOMESCHOOLIOWA.COM/CONFERENCE)**



# ART CONTEST

THEME: SHINE

Iowa homeschooled students between the ages of 9–18 (grades 4–12) whose parents will be attending the 2017 Homeschool Iowa Conference are invited to participate in the 2017 Homeschool Iowa Conference Art Contest.

**Drawing | Painting | Sculpture**

**\$3 fee for children of NICHE members | \$5 fee for children of NON-NICHE members**

**TO REGISTER VISIT**

**WWW.HOMESCHOOLIOWA.COM/CONFERENCE**



## HOMESCHOOL IOWA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

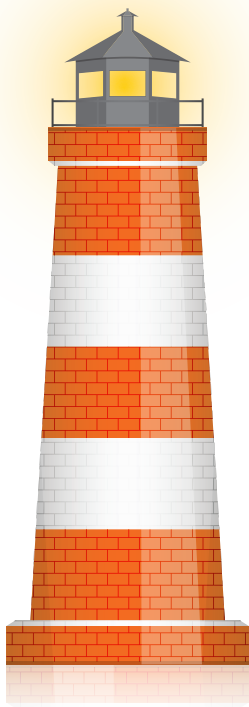
### JUNE 1–3, 2017

**Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center  
300 East 9th Street, Coralville, Iowa, 52241**

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**conference 2017**

HOMESCHOOL IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# WE WANT YOU TO VOLUNTEER!

Each year, the Homeschool Iowa Conference relies on volunteer efforts to help make our conference happen.

If you have two willing hands and a servant's heart, we want you to join our team!

**TO REGISTER VISIT**

**[WWW.HOMESCHOOLIOWA.COM/CONFERENCE](http://WWW.HOMESCHOOLIOWA.COM/CONFERENCE)**



# CALLING ALL TEACHERS!

Homeschool Iowa is delighted to offer credit for teacher re-certification through Grant Wood AEA at the 2017 Homeschool Iowa Conference, June 1-3, 2017.

TO RECEIVE LICENSE RENEWAL CREDIT FOR THIS PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY, PARTICIPANTS MUST:

- Register for the 2017 Homeschool Iowa Conference and pay NICHE the conference registration fee
- Register for the 2017 Homeschool Iowa Conference professional activity through Grant Wood AEA and pay Grant Wood AEA the \$35 license renewal credit fee

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR RENEWAL CREDIT IS JUNE 2 @ 6:00 A.M.

**FOR COMPLETE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS VISIT**  
**[WWW.HOMESCHOOLIOWA.COM/CONFERENCE](http://WWW.HOMESCHOOLIOWA.COM/CONFERENCE)**



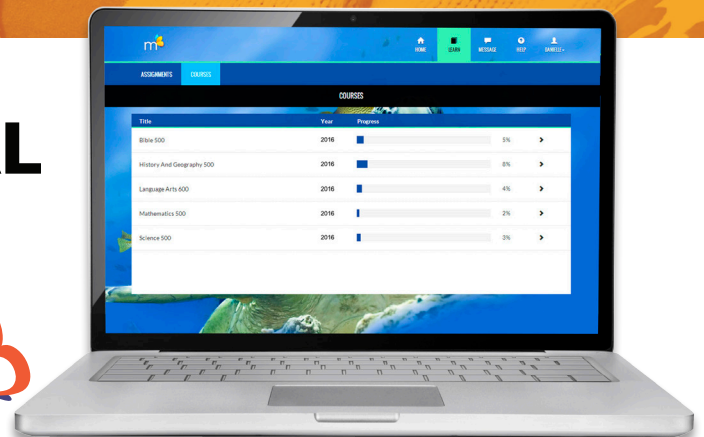


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