



homeschool iowa

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

Celebrating 25 years of homeschooling in Iowa

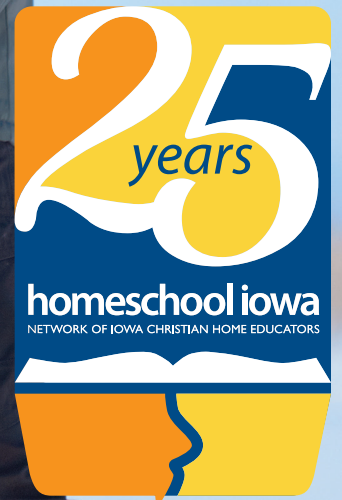
featuring

'A Parent's Greatest Joy'

By Dennis Gundersen

'Freedom Isn't Free'

By Julie Naberhaus



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what's the point?

The NICHE Board believes that even more important than quality academics is eternal salvation from the penalty and power of sin. While we come from different church backgrounds, we, with all true Christians, agree on the fundamentals of salvation:

1. All people are in rebellion against the God who created them and deserve eternal punishment for that rebellion (sin).
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3. Jesus' death and resurrection provide forgiveness of all sin and reconciliation with God to any who repent and believe in Him.
4. Salvation cannot be earned by any act on our part; it must be received as a free gift by faith in Jesus Christ alone.

If you'd like to talk more with someone about your relationship with Jesus Christ, we invite you to write niche@homeschooliowa.org for a confidential and biblical response.

magazine

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our mission

To provide Christ-centered events, communication, and resources to better equip, inform, and encourage Iowa home educators to the glory of God!



FINDING YOUR NICHE

BY JOSEPH BAILEY

Happy New Year! 2017 is a special year for us because it marks the 25th Anniversary of The Network of Iowa Christian Home Educators.

So, what exactly are we celebrating? Maybe, for some of our active volunteers, it is a remembrance of all the tears and sweat they have invested. Maybe it is a time to reflect on all the friendships forged with those we have served alongside. But, perhaps, the best way we can celebrate is by retelling the stories of how God has used NICHE to encourage and help families across Iowa who felt God's calling to disciple their children at home.

In this spirit, I would like to invite you to help us tell the story of how God has been, and continues to be, at work throughout the Iowa homeschooling movement. Perhaps you have a story about the pioneering days of homeschooling in Iowa. Maybe there is some small way NICHE has been a blessing to you in the past or recently. Or perhaps you are a 2nd generation homeschooler who can tell us how God has used your homeschool education to prosper and guide your path today.

I'll start by sharing a couple of pieces of my story. I was homeschooled K-12. The flexibility of homeschooling allowed my parents to tailor my education so that I was able to learn practical skills like welding and running a business—skills that have been invaluable to me in my college education and career.

Back in high school, I always looked forward to the NICHE conference when I could work side by side with teen vol-

unteers from across the state and where many friendships were cultivated. In fact, it was at a NICHE conference that I reconnected with my wife-to-be. I remember thinking "I hope I can be worthy of marrying a woman like this someday." That someday came about 5 years ago and, praise God, she must have thought I was good enough because she said "Of course [I will marry you]!" Now we have a busy home with 3 (going on 4) beautiful children.

As a second generation homeschool dad, I certainly don't know it all just because I was raised in a homeschool en-



vironment. I feel like I have even more questions than ever. How in the world did my parents pull this off? But, the foundation is already there, and, most importantly, the vision is solid. We are going to disciple our children at home in Christ's ways through high school (yes, you can remind my wife and I of this when we

feel like quitting). Now we enjoy going to NICHE events even more to meet like-minded friends, get fresh ideas, and enjoy Christian encouragement in this homeschool journey.

Well, enough about me. We would love to hear your story! Please send submissions of articles or short video clips to [NICHE memories@homeschooliowa.org](mailto:NICHE_memories@homeschooliowa.org). We hope to use some of your submissions in our upcoming events and publications. We look forward to hearing from you! ●

***Joe Bailey** is a second generation homeschool dad of 3 (going on 4) children. He and his wife, Elizabeth, are members of the Homeschool Iowa board.*

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

By JULIE NABERHAUS



Parents in Iowa can homeschool their children with relative freedom today. Was that always the case? The answer is: "No."

How was the recognition of the freedom to homeschool won in our state? The answer is: "It was won through the diligent efforts of dedicated parents."

There are literally hundreds of stories to document those efforts, but we'd like to share just one in particular as we prepare to commemorate our 25th NICHE anniversary.

Return with us to the late 1980's. At that time, Iowa law did not recognize private instruction by persons other than Iowa licensed teachers. A number of parents had been homeschooling in Iowa, several of whom faced prosecution and potential removal of their children under Child In Need of Assistance (CINA) threats.

In 1989, the Iowa Senate passed Senate File 149, a bill labeled as a truancy prevention measure. A prominent homeschool leader at that time described the bill: "[SF 149] allows and compels the county attorney to go directly to juvenile court and file a petition to remove truant children under the child in need of assistance portion

of the Iowa code. No educational neglect may be taking place. In fact, the child could be excelling, but the child could be taken from the home and placed elsewhere. This bill would lower the compulsory attendance age to six (6) and raise it to eighteen (18). We have very strong evidence that anti-home school intent was at the origin of this bill."

Home educators raised objections to the bill, and, by God's grace, the 1989 Iowa Legislature adjourned without passing SF 149. Unfortunately, the bill was still eligible for consideration by the 1990 legislature – at the very point to which it had progressed at the end of the 1989 session. As the 1990 legislative session approached, various homeschoolers prepared for the coming opportunity to enact legislation for homeschoolers in Iowa. One group in particular, the Dallas County Homeschool Support Group, began meeting regularly to discuss options and plans.

On January 6, 1990, before the legislative session opened, the Dallas County Home School Support Group invited their legislators to a group member's Adel home. Keep in mind that most of the families in this group were educating their children in a manner outside of the legally recognized means in Iowa at that time.

Among the 22 Dallas County Support Group members who attended this meeting, 10 later became charter board members of the Network of Iowa Christian Home Educators: Paul Bonstrom, Doug & Marylou Findley, Dave Koch, Garry & Julie Naberhaus, Don & Marie Nevins, Gary Patience, and Mary Stuart.

Senator Jim Riordan and Representative Dave Hibbard (both Democrats) joined the group for this meeting, spending the afternoon becoming acquainted and sharing concerns.

Was this unpretentious meeting between local homeschooling families and their elected representatives (and the subsequent communications that were enabled as its result) an insignificant event? Judge for yourself as you continue to read this account.

In the period leading up to the 1990 Iowa Legislative Session, the Iowa Department of Education presented a number of conditions for inclusion in a homeschooling bill. Here are some of the proposals:

- Minimum course of study requirements
- Local district approval of submitted homeschool programs
- Mandatory verification visits
- Automatic enrollment in public school for “failure to make adequate progress”
- Initiation of CINA proceedings for “failure to make educational progress”
- Mandatory dual-enrollment in public school
- Fire code applicability to homeschool sites
- Minimum daily instructional periods of at least 5½ hours per day.

The Iowa insert to *The Teaching Home* magazine [Dec/Jan 1989-90] reported that the 1990 Iowa Legislature would open Monday, January 8, and that the Department of Education planned to propose new homeschooling legislation (dubbed “The Governor’s Bill”). This bill was to be “a compromise position acceptable to the State Board of Education,” according to Kathy Collins, the Department of Education legal consultant.

In the opening days of the 1990 Legislative Session, the so-called truancy bill, SF 149, which had passed the Senate in 1989, was placed on the House calendar and quickly passed with some changes included. Its next destination was to be a conference committee charged with ironing out the differences between the two chambers.

Homeschool families, including many of the Dallas County Homeschool Support Group members, frequented the statehouse, talking to their legislators and watching for the convening of this committee.

Days – and then weeks – passed. It appeared that differences between the two chambers – such as the setting of the compulsory attendance age and deciding whether to attach The Governor’s Bill to SF 149 – were stalling the process.

By mid-March, the constant monitoring for the convening of the SF 149 conference committee had begun to take its toll on the homeschool legislative watch volunteers. However, a friendly House Republican who was a staunch homeschool supporter promised that he would alert homeschooling families tracking the legislation if all the conference committee members left the floor of the House at the same time. There were a few false alarms, but this approach gave another level of security to those monitoring the statehouse.

Finally, during the waning hours of the 1990 legislative session, a call came from the homeschool-friendly legislator. The SF 149 conference committee was going to meet immediately. Within fifteen minutes, several dozen homeschoolers located the tiny room where the committee had convened and squeezed in to observe the process.

With impressive efficiency, the conference committee hammered out differences and filed their finished product – a combination truancy bill and homeschooling bill – on April 6, 1990.

Although some parts of this legislation closely resemble our current Iowa homeschooling law, it contained a number of odious provisions, including:

[Continued on page 8](#)

- Extensive mediation and violation sections, with punishments defined up to thirty days in jail or fines of \$1000.
- Stipulations that required truancy officers to immediately report suspected truants to the county attorney – and that required the county attorney to investigate unexcused absences to determine if the child required CINA.
- Conditions allowing only homeschools in which an Iowa licensed teacher provided the children direct instruction an exemption from a long list of additional requirements (no private supervising teacher arrangements were defined).
- Directives that required all students in homeschools without an Iowa licensed teacher providing direct instruction to:
 - Undergo an initial screening by the Area Education Agency (AEA) or other approved source to determine whether the child needed special education services – under the condition that this initial screening be completed by June 1 of the year before the child began homeschooling,
 - Submit to annual testing to determine whether adequate progress was being made, and
 - Dual enroll in the public school – and every school district was required to hire licensed personnel to “provide instructional services on a consulting basis” to dual enrolled homeschooled students.

The newly designed SF 149 traveled first to the Democrat-controlled House for approval. There, it quickly and easily passed and was rushed across the rotunda to the



Democrat-controlled Senate. The circumstances appeared grim, at best.

Homeschoolers packed the Senate chamber balcony in silence to watch the proceedings. The floor debate commenced. Well-worn statements, both pro and con, were orated. Then, a quite unexpected thing happened.



Senator Jim Riordan, recognized as a loyal Democrat, rose to speak. Yes, this was the same Senator Riordan who had been invited to a meeting of the Dallas County Homeschool Support Group just months earlier! Senator Riordan boldly proclaimed his opposition to SF 149. Why? Because he was aware that this bill would adversely affect the homeschooling families he had come to know personally in his district – folks who he had regularly seen and heard, faithfully petitioning the legislature for protection. Senator Riordan declared that home educators should have the freedom, based upon the Constitution to practice their beliefs, and announced that he would vote against SF 149. (Senator Riordan later noted that several Democrat Party leaders had rebuked him for taking this action.) Following Senator Riordan’s remarks, several other senators rose to defend the right to homeschool from a Constitutional perspective.

At last, it came time for the final vote. Homeschoolers in the Senate gallery were praying fervently. The votes were tallied: 25 for the motion to approve the bill, and 24 against. Homeschoolers in the gallery gasped as they sensed defeat. Yet, God was not finished. The Senate President Pro Tempore announced that the motion needed an absolute majority – in other words, the motion needed 26 votes – to pass.

[Continued on page 10](#)

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One Republican Senator, Paul Pate, had not been present for the vote. The Democrat Senate leaders left the voting open for 45 minutes, attempting to find the senator so he could cast his vote. Why? If Senator Pate voted for the motion, it would pass. And, if Senator Pate voted against the motion, it would create a tie, allowing the Democrat President Pro Tempore to vote for the motion, causing it to pass. So, either way, if Senator Pate had appeared and voted, the motion would have passed.

By God's grace, he did not arrive in time. The voting was closed and bill had been stalled. The homeschoolers in the Senate gallery evacuated to the rotunda to rejoice and scan the vote tally. Who had voted for the bill? Who had voted against? By God's grace, many unexpected votes were noted. There were hugs and tears of joy. A grace period had been created, in which further work could be done.

In 1991, the bill creating the foundations for our current Iowa homeschool law was enacted, without many of

the odious terms that had been included in the 1990 SF 149 bill.

WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM THIS ACCOUNT?

Home educators who join together, and who make personal contacts with our elected officials, can be used by God to accomplish great things.

Stay connected with a local support group and with NICHE, your state organization. Reach out to those who represent you! ●

Julie Naberhaus and her husband, Garry, homeschooled all nine of their children, currently ages 15-33, and were founding NICHE board members. After retiring from the board in 2009, Julie began serving in her current position as the NICHE administrative assistant.

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capitol day 2017

HOMESCHOOL IOWA DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Another Iowa Legislative Session has begun, and that means Homeschool Iowa Capitol Day is right around the corner!

3 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL HI CAPITOL DAY

1. REGISTER

Event details and registration can be found on our website at homeschooliowa.org. Registering before the event will keep you up to date on exciting details, activities for students, and last-minute changes.

2. WRITE A NOTE

At least one week before your visit send each of your state legislators a hand-written note! This will not go unnoticed. Let them know that:

- You are thankful for their service.
- You are coming to visit the Capitol on Tuesday, March 21st for Homeschool Iowa Capitol Day.
- You would love to visit with them briefly during your visit.

This is a great opportunity for students to learn proper letter writing etiquette. Make sure you address Legislators by their proper titles (e.g. Senator Smith, Representative Smith) and look up their office mailing address on the Iowa Legislature website:

www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators.

3. DRESS PROPERLY TO SHOW PROPER RESPECT

Proper apparel at the Iowa Capitol is business attire; in short, it means traditional church clothes, no denim or other casual wear. For men: suit and tie, or slacks and a button down long-sleeve shirt. For women: suit, skirt or slacks with blouse/sweater/blazer, or dress. Think professional! Joseph and Daniel dressed the part while they worked in the courts of the Kings; we encourage you to do the same. We want our outward appearance to communicate respect for the Capitol complex – and for those serving there.

Thank You to last year's Capitol Day sponsors!



We look forward to seeing you at the Iowa State Capitol!

TUESDAY, MARCH 21ST

www.homeschooliowa.org



A First Corinthians Homeschool Mom

By Kim Stilwell

Next to John 3:16 and Psalm 23, I Corinthians 13 is probably the best known passage of Scripture. It is also one of the hardest passages of Scripture to live out in our daily lives!

“Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not conceited, does not act improperly, is not selfish, is not provoked, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

I Corinthians 13:4-7

Since it would be redundant to say “A First Corinthians 13 Homeschool Mom” over and over again in this column, I decided to give this mom a name. I have chosen Corrie, partly because Corrie ten Boon is one of my heroines of the faith, and partly because both Corinthians and Corrie start with the same letters. So as you read the name “Corrie” through this column, please know I am really saying “A First Corinthians Homeschool Mom.”

So, what does a First Corinthians Homeschool Mom look like? I will attempt to give some practical examples.

When the baby is crying and supper is burning, Corrie is patient. When her children have been naughty all day, and she feels like all she has done is correct them, she is patient. When the third glass of milk at the same meal goes tumbling over, Corrie is patient. When her son still does not grasp the math concept that Corrie has explained five times, she is patient. No matter what life throws at her, she continues to respond in a Christ-like manner.

Corrie is kind, even when others are not. She is nice to the rude cashier. She reaches out to the lady at church who is unfriendly and distant to her. Corrie is gentle as she interacts with her children throughout the day. Even when she corrects them, her tone of voice is kind. When a rude relative questions her on homeschooling (What about socialization? Isn't Susie a little behind in her reading? Are the kids involved in any activities outside the home? What about the prom?), Corrie does not become defensive, but kindly and patiently answers their questions.

Corrie does not envy the homeschooling moms who seem to have it all together. (Actually, no homeschooling mom has it all together, no matter how things appear.) She does not envy the family whose children begin calculus in seventh grade and sing together in perfect harmony. While her family of nine is crowded into a 1,000 square foot house, Corrie is not envious of her friend, who has two children, and lives in a 3,000 square foot house (and even has an extra room just for school). She is content with the family and circumstances that God has given to her.

When Corrie's children behave better than another mom's children, Corrie is not boastful or conceited. When her four year old is reading and her friend's seven year old is not, Corrie does not smugly suggest that her friend should homeschool just like her. When Corrie's teenagers love the Lord and are active in church, Corrie knows that this is far more because of God's grace than her parenting. Because of this, she does not look down on parents whose teenag-

Corrie is not selfish. She continually defers to others. She enjoys devoting her life to her family. Personal fulfillment takes a back seat to serving her family and others. While she may get together with a friend from time to time or go to a ladies' Bible study, her life does not revolve around "me time" but instead her focus is on being a helpmeet to her husband and raising her children for the Lord.

Corrie is not provoked. When her day does not go as planned, Corrie accepts this as "interruptions" from God. When her child is disobedient or disrespectful, she does not become angry, but gently and firmly corrects his behavior. Corrie does not get irritated when she has worked hard all afternoon to make her husband's favorite dinner and he calls to tell her he will be working late into the evening that day.

Corrie does not keep a record of wrongs done against her. Ten years into her marriage, she will not bring up how her husband blew it on their honeymoon. She understands that her husband, parents, children, friends, and spiritual leaders will hurt her sometimes (just as she will hurt others sometimes). She does not replay these hurts over and over again in her mind. Instead, she prays for the person who hurt her and thinks of ways she can be a blessing to them. Knowing that a bitter heart is Satan's playground, she refuses to hold grudges.

Corrie finds no joy in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth. She takes no pleasure in worldliness. No matter

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

ers and young adult children have strayed. Instead she is filled with compassion and prays for them. Corrie does not look down on her friend whose marriage is struggling. Instead, she feels grateful that her marriage is strong and prays for her friend.

Corrie does not act improperly. She is not obnoxious. She is not rude. She does not monopolize the conversation. Corrie does not insist on everything being her way. She does not try to be the focus of attention. She does not have a critical spirit.

how fascinating or funny the story line might be, she does not watch movies or TV shows that glorify sin. She is not amused when her children behave sinfully, no matter how cute they might be. Instead, Corrie rejoices when her children respond to others in a Christ-like manner. She takes great joy in teaching her children the truth of Scripture.

Even when life gets really tough, Corrie bears all things and endures all things. When she has a child who is extra stubborn, she continues to love this child and to discipline him. When her child with special needs just doesn't

Continued on page 16

seem to be able to grasp reading, she continues to strive to teach him and she to research and seek the best way to help him learn. When her mother is continually telling her how much better off her children would be if they went to a "real" school, Corrie continues to homeschool her children because that is what God has called her to do.

Corrie gives people the benefit of the doubt. She believes all things and hopes all things. She never assumes the worst about anyone, even people who have disappointed her in the past. (That doesn't necessarily mean that she trusts them with her heart.) She does not assume any wrong about anyone unless there is undeniable proof or the person in question confesses.

Living up to Corrie is a pretty tall order, isn't it? I certainly do not. But loving others in a true I Corinthians 13 way is a goal that we should all strive for on a daily basis. I have learned that if I have a goal, I am able to accomplish some of it. If I do not have a goal, I usually accomplish nothing. Let us seek to be known as truly loving wives, moms, friends, and fellow church attendees. Not only is this a blessing to others, especially our husbands and children, but it glorifies God and is a good testimony for Him. ●

Kim Stilwell has been married to her best friend, Jeff, since 1987. They have five children: Joshua (married to Alissa), Joseph (20), Josiah (18), Jessica (17), and Jennifer (14). They live in Des Moines and have always homeschooled.

SHARE YOUR STORY

We are celebrating NICHE's 25th anniversary! As we recall our history, give thanks for present blessings, and look to the future, we want your help in telling the story of how God has been, and continues to be, at work throughout the Iowa homeschooling movement.

We hope to use some of your submissions in our upcoming events and publications. We look forward to hearing from you!

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A Parent's Greatest Joy



By Dennis Gundersen

Many of you who know my wife Naomi and I, and have met us at home education conventions, are aware that we have four sons. Two are now college graduates; the third is currently studying at a Christian university; the fourth is in his final year of homeschooling. We are truly at a joyful time of beholding God's blessing in our lives, seeing our sons becoming what we always longed for them to become: men of character, men of zeal for righteousness and serving the Lord, men equipped with so much more than I ever had at their age!

What we feel, as we see our sons advancing in righteousness, could not be better said than the Apostle John puts it: "I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth" (3 John 4).

I believe it was Norm Wakefield (another frequent home education convention speaker) whom I first heard say that, when my children are mar-

ried, I really doubt that one of their spouses will ever approach me, greatly moved in heart with deep gratitude to us, for so diligently teaching our dear sons how to diagram a sentence. Do you think so? It doesn't strike me as likely. Nor am I holding my breath waiting for a young wife to one day tell us, with tears in her eyes, how it's made all the difference in their home that we made our boys press on through their studies in trigonometry.

But I do think this likely: it's not at all improbable that a day will come when a grateful wife will thank us profusely for having focused on character-building! Now we didn't do it so we could revel in that "one shining moment"; we don't live for that, but for the smile of God on our life and labor, not the smile or praise of men. But does not this truth bring vividly to our attention, where a parent's highest joy truly lies? I hope to inspire you to passionately seek that which will bring you one of the best blessings

you can enjoy on earth: children in hot pursuit of righteousness.

"The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and mother be glad, and let her rejoice who gave birth to you. Give me your heart, my son, and let your heart delight in my ways!"

Proverbs 23:24-26

By "a wise son", this Proverb does not mean a good boy or an intelligent son, or one who merely makes out well in the world or who becomes a person of skill. For surely we know that a nation full of highly skilled, competent, and successful people who are not good and faithful can be a monstrosity. Rather, the exalted joy of the parents of the righteous is rooted in children who pursue the ways of godly wisdom and who share the parents' delight in serving Christ first.

According to the proverb, here is something to greatly rejoice about! Solomon speaks of an enthusiastic delight, a deep gladness. After all, our greatest joys usually arise from good results where we have made our greatest investment. Godly parents have made an immense investment of time and love into the lives of their children. When something that costs us much comes out well, we don't just rejoice; we greatly rejoice! When someone we love more than our own lives turns out blest, we don't just rejoice; we greatly rejoice! To know that such a son is among the righteous is as good as it gets!

For all the good we wish for our children, nothing compares in scope to this. What has a man gained if he obtains the whole world but loses his soul? What will he give in exchange for his soul? Take just one area: If your child becomes a righteous man or woman, then this is true: "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ears attend to their prayer; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil" (1 Peter 3:12). What can your sons or daughters gain if God is against them? And, in fact, anything they do gain, God can use against them, to their ruin! Just as we see that people who resist God often gain a lot of "things," a young person who gains talents can become self-sufficient and arrogant. His material gains can transform him into an idolater, attaining to great honor and advancement and becoming self-destructively proud.

To have God [against] our children is the most horrendous thought conceivable.

But if God is [for] your children, and His ears hear their prayers, who can

be against them effectively? "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31) Do you realize that the [us] in that verse does not apply to everyone? It applies only to the people God is for. And you want your child to be one of those. What can effectively harm those whom God is committed to bless? So all our wishes for their safety and blessing are fulfilled when they are wise. What could compare to the gladness for the parents of such a one?! The joy any parents have over their child, no matter how great that joy is already, is multiplied beyond comprehension when the child is living in pursuit of righteousness as a disciple of the Lord Jesus! And a tie of eternal fellowship in Christ is added to the natural ties of family unity - a tie which is never to be severed.

If your child's eternal safety would make you glad, dear parent, then invest in that which will give you that fruit! Why fill their minds only with tools to equip them to succeed in life, in the very same departments that the world invests in its children, if what we really want is righteousness? Paul wrote in Romans 14:17,

having enough to eat and drink and wear. It's having the righteousness of God, peace with God, and joy from God!

Succeeding economically in life doesn't compare. Your child's having enough to take care of you financially in old age doesn't compare. Giving us good-looking and healthy grandchildren doesn't compare. Nothing compares! And so it is natural that, in the proverb, Solomon would next say, "Give me your heart, my son, and let your heart delight in my ways!" This is the lofty calling for which a godly parent appeals to his children!

Many forces clamor for the heart. Heaven and hell contend constantly for it. But the passion and affection of this language - "give me your heart, my son" - is the tone of a father who longs that his children never withdraw into secrecy from him, that the doors of communication remain open, so father and mother always have access to steadily urge them to be seeking Christ first, without that feeling of being "locked out" of their hearts but welcomed there. We should never al-

The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice. My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

Proverbs 13:24-26

"For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" - the worthiest goals in life, under God's rule, are much grander in scope than

low an emotional wall to be built up against us. We should be working at creating an atmosphere at home in which they know it is welcome, even desirable, to ask us about God's ways.

We should urge our children to come to Christ without delay, to recognize it as a temptation from the pit of hell to put spiritual needs out of mind for the moment and think about that "some other time." It's one of Satan's best tricks. We must warn our children that it becomes increasingly difficult to turn to the Lord with passing years, as sin has a hardening effect and tightens its grip on a life each day that the truth is spurned.

We should appeal to our children's consciences, to allow resistance to God no space in their hearts. Show them how it breaks your heart, unimaginably, that they would not live for God and would lose the blessing! Like Paul, who said in Galatians 4:19, "My little children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ be formed in you!" Tell them, as Paul did, "Now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord" (1 Thes. 3:8). In other words, be earnest with your children! Urge, appeal, compassionately exhort them to not halt between two opinions, but to choose this moment who they will serve. Let no parent hold back from

urging your children to now make the right decision to come to Christ, to bow the knee, to make no delay but repent today. The way Paul writes in 2 Cor. 5:20, "We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God!" is the same spirit as we find in the proverb, "My son, give me your heart, and let your heart delight in my ways."

If Paul were to say that to any child, he or she would know what his "ways" are - Paul's ways were clearly and decisively paths of pursuing Christ. So, to the parent reading this article, I pose the question: What are your "ways"? What would your child tell us Dad's ways or Mom's ways are, if we asked him or her to inform us?

Does your child know more about your opinions on sports than about the gospel from you? Does he or she understand more about your political preferences than about the word of God from you? Are your children better informed about dad's opinions about good investments or the value of a good education, or a dozen other things, than on what Paul could call

"my gospel"? It was abundantly clear to all who knew Paul that this gospel was what he really loved and stood for. It should be clear to our children that this is what you most live for as well.

If you want your child's heart to delight in the gospel, does yours? No one can stir a passion for something he is not seen to be passionate about himself. Make that delight evident to him, as your great passion - for if you are a burning and shining light to your children, they will have reason to follow the path of that light. ●

Dennis Gundersen is pastor of Grace Bible Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma. He and his wife Naomi also own and operate the ministry of Grace & Truth, providing seminars and re-publications of literature from past centuries. They have homeschooled four sons over the last 15 years.

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- >> 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

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

HSAP SUPERVISING TEACHER

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

CPI OPTION 2 (299A.3)

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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

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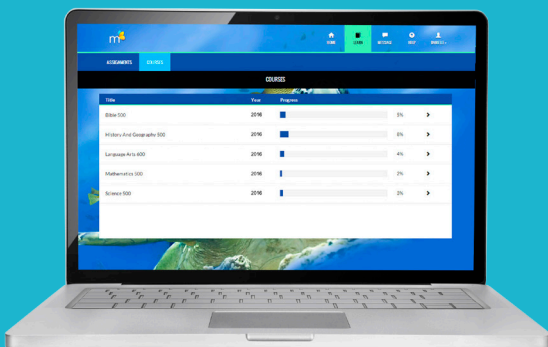


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