

A close-up photograph of a woman and a young girl. The woman, on the left, has long brown hair and is smiling warmly. The girl, on the right, has dark hair with a small colorful bow and is smiling broadly, showing a missing front tooth. They are both looking towards the camera.

The *Inform*er

a publication of the Indiana Association of Home Educators

Spring 2015

What is Our Freedom
Worth?

Home School
Highlights

Teach
the **Child**

**2015 IAHE
CONVENTION
INFO**
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The Informer Core Values

- To be Christ-focused
- To be Indiana-focused
- To be encouraging
- To be a resource

IAHE

The IAHE is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1983 for the purpose of serving the Lord Jesus Christ by supporting and encouraging families interested in home education. We define home education as parent-directed, home-based, privately-funded education.

Our primary functions are maintaining visibility as home educators with civil government leaders, influencing the legislative process, sponsoring seminars for parent education, and publishing.

The IAHE is governed by a volunteer board of directors. Sixteen regional representative couples are in direct contact with local support groups across the state.

Our major source of income is our annual convention. With the growth of the home education movement, both our needs and responsibilities continue to grow, and we welcome your tax deductible contributions.

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Welcome

a note from the editor

Each January the IAHE Board of Directors and Regional Representative couples get together for a time of training and encouragement. Every year, I come away from this weekend feeling thankful for the time and energy that each person pours into the lives of the homeschool community around them. Indiana is blessed to have so many families dedicated to serving others through this ministry! These families are great examples of Christian service in all that they do. It might be easy to assume that we all agree on everything regarding homeschooling. But, we don't.

We're a diverse group, just like your own homeschool community. We don't dress alike, we don't raise our children exactly the same way, and we don't home school the same way.

And when we get together, we challenge and debate each other about the good and the bad of homeschooling--because we're aware that all home schools do not have to look alike in order for us to stand together.

As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. —Proverbs 27:17

*Two are better than one,
Because they have a good reward for their labor.
For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.
But woe to him who is alone when he falls,
For he has no one to help him up. —Ecclesiastes 4:9 & 10*

It's joyous to come together with like-minded people.

Do you have a local community of like-minded people? Staying connected to other homeschool families is an important part of homeschool success. If you don't have a local support group, consider starting one. Be sure to check out our article from Rebecca Barnes on The Importance of Support Groups.

Do you want to be encouraged and challenged? Join us in March for the IAHE's 2015 Home Educators' Convention in Indianapolis. You'll find more details starting on page 21.

I hope to see you there!



The Informer Magazine

The Informer is published quarterly by the Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE) to provide information, inspiration, and support to homeschool families. Subscriptions are FREE upon request. The mailing list for *The Informer* is never sold or rented.

The articles in this magazine reflect the freedom of home educators in Indiana to choose from a wide variety of homeschool philosophies and teaching methods. Opinions and attitudes expressed in articles do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the Indiana Association of

Home Educators. IAHE does not endorse or advocate any one method or philosophy. The Board encourages each home educator to seek God's will in determining what is best for him, his school, and his students.

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Inch by Inch, It's a Cinch

by Sharon Watson

Do you have a task that feels too big?

A friend of mine wanted to get into her craft room but could not. Bags of beads, scrapbook paper, ribbons, fabric, yarn, artificial flowers, and craft books littered her floor. No spot on the floor was bare except for a thin trail to her sewing machine. The room was completely unusable.

She wanted my help, but when I asked if she would sit in the room with me, she waved her hand at the heaps on the "It's not too hard for me," I said. "I know how to sort."

At the end of two days, her floor was bare and her room was usable again. We had conquered it together. My secret? I didn't attack the whole room at once. I dealt with only one little bag at a time.

Do your children feel like my friend did when you say, "Write an essay"? Do they feel it is too hard, and that they can't do it?

The trick is to break down all the tasks needed to complete an essay. These tasks are very specific, but if your children do not know them or know how to do them, they are looking at an insurmountable task and don't know where to begin.

How can you help your middle school or high school students when they have to write an essay of 300 words or more? Use a writing schedule.

A Writing Schedule

When I give students an assignment, I also give them a suggested writing schedule. Instead of hyperventilating, avoiding the too-hard essay, and waiting until the day it is due to write it, they now have a practical tool that divides up the tasks for them. If they follow the schedule, the essay will be completed on time.

One of my students, who has an attention deficit disorder, loved the writing schedules. She told me she could understand the assignment and could see the day it was due, but she did not know how to get from here to there. Students with or without learning disabilities will benefit from a writing schedule.

Here's a generic example of what I hand out in class. You can adjust it according to your specific needs and for your children's ages. Now, instead of an essay due in a week, each day's work is due that day.

Day 1: Brainstorm reasons, ideas, or points on sticky notes. Keep the strongest ones or the ones you feel you can write about. Move the sticky notes around until you have an effective point order for your essay. Show these to your teacher and discuss.

Day 2: Write the paragraphs in the body. Use the points on your sticky notes to devise clear topic sentences. If you have three points, you will have at least three paragraphs. Keep each point in its own paragraph.

Day 3: Write the introduction and the conclusion. Make sure the introduction begins with a reader-grabbing sentence. Put your main idea (thesis statement) at the end of your introduction. Check to see if the topic is very clear in your intro. For your conclusion, sum up your thesis statement, draw some important conclusions, and leave your reader with some food for thought. If this is a persuasive essay (an essay intended to persuade), include a specific call to action.

Day 4: Do nothing. Let your essay rest so you can come back to it tomorrow with fresh eyes.

Day 5: Print your essay and read it out loud. Proofread it using the printed paper. Is the essay clear? Is it concise? Look for mistakes. Check to see if you are saying what you really want to say. Make sure your points flow well from one to the next. Fix anything that needs to be fixed.

Day 6: Take a fresh look. Is there anything else you can improve?

Day 7: Hand your paper in to your teacher.

Note: If your student has to do some research, make it the task for Day 2 and move everything else down a day.

To see a specific writing schedule I handed out to my class, go to www.WritingWithSharonWatson.com/writing-schedule

A solid knowledge of proofreading marks and how to use them will save your students much frustration. Go to WritingWithSharonWatson.com/using-proofreading-marks to use this practical tutorial with your students. Answers are included.

For students who like to see their progress or who are kinesthetic, you might want to make a poster with all the days on it and let your children move an object from day to day to mark their progress.

Using a daily writing schedule will make assignments easier for students and for you. Now, each day's work is due at the end of each day instead of one huge, messy, too-hard essay due in a week but late by three or four days with much protesting and crying. You've broken down a gargantuan job into smaller tasks for your children. Now it is achievable. Now you will see success.

God bless your work.

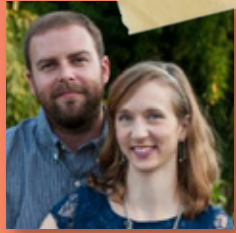
Yours for a more vibrant writing class, Sharon



SHARON WATSON, author of *Jump In*, *Apologia's* popular middle school writing course, is an 18-year veteran of homeschooling. Her informative blog she equips you to be the teacher you want to be. Find **FREE** writing lessons on WritingWithSharonWatson.com when you subscribe to her fun Middle School Prompts and engaging High School Prompts. Photo by Esther Moulder of ClickPhotography.biz.

#GivingBack

The IAHE is grateful to have a wonderful team of volunteers! While the vast majority of our volunteers are homeschool parents, we are blessed to have several younger members of our team. Thank you to each of these individuals who serve! We appreciate you.



Cassie Bottorff

Informer Editing Director

Cassie Bottorff is the eldest daughter of IAHE board members Mark & Tara Bentley. A public school student until middle school, Cassie was educated at home for the remainder of her teenage years. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Northern Kentucky University and spent several years working at the Creation Museum in order to further study God's creation. She now lives in central Kentucky with her husband and they are looking forward to homeschooling their own children someday.

Elijah Burk

Social Media Intern

Elijah James Burk, 21, is a homeschool graduate who completed his Finance Degree from The Kelley School of Business. Elijah works at Dixie Chopper as a Finance Analyst. He recently took part in his second international mission trip to minister to the people of Haiti. Elijah has a desire to homeschool his future children, continuing the multi-generational vision of homeschooling that began with his parents. He credits his strong biblical worldview and his firm foundation to his home education through high school and would love to encourage other parents that you CAN successfully homeschool through high school.



Aliesha Whitesell

Affiliate Program Intern

Aliesha, daughter of Karen and Warren Whitesell, is a homeschool graduate, recently graduating with a music degree through CollegePlus. She helps out at home, does farm chores, works at a bakery, teaches piano, and loves reading. First, and foremost though, as a daughter of the King, she hopes to encourage others in their Christian walk.



Amanda Runge

Informer Design Director

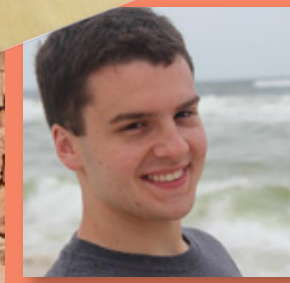
Amanda is the oldest daughter of IAHE board members Phil & Debi Ketron. She graduated from home in 2004, has a B.A. in graphic design, and has been laying out *The Informer* since 2011. She is married to a wonderful husband, and has a sweet daughter, who they plan on continuing the tradition of homeschooling with...as soon as she learns to talk and stops eating any paper she gets her hands on.



John-Paul Franks

Crew 4:12

John-Paul Franks runs Oak Ridge Farms, an organic operation. In the winter, he works part time doing primary care for his bed-ridden grandfather. He enjoys working with his hands, running machinery, 4-wheeling, listening to music, and especially spending time with family and friends. In 2014, John-Paul successfully envisioned, created, and ran Crew 4:12, the IAHE Convention's youth staff program.



Nathaniel Cantwell

Legislative Intern

Nathaniel David Cantwell is a homeschool senior, and was homeschooled all of his life. He earned his Eagle Scout rank at the age of 14 and has earned four Eagle Scout Palms. He has served in leadership roles in Boy Scouts and leads two youth bands at College Park Church. He has been accepted into the Honors College at IUPUI and currently plans to major in Physics with an accelerated Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He enjoys keeping up with current events and looks forward to being a representative of homeschooling to our State Legislators. He is the oldest son of David and Camille Cantwell and has a younger brother, Joshua, who is also homeschooled.

Rebecca Franks

Administrative Assistant

Rebecca Franks is a college graduate, working full-time for the family business, Profit by Design. When she's not working, she loves spending time with friends and family, writing, playing music, dancing, seeking out adventure, and getting creative in the kitchen. She has volunteered to run the IAHE Essay Contest for the past four years.



Moriah Mantel

Informer Editor

Moriah Mantel is a homeschool graduate who has a passion for the English language. She is the youngest of three children who were all homeschooled through high school. Moriah lives with her parents and older sister in Aurora, IN, and is very involved in her church where her dad is a pastor. Her goal is to save enough money to go to college to get an English degree with minimal debt.



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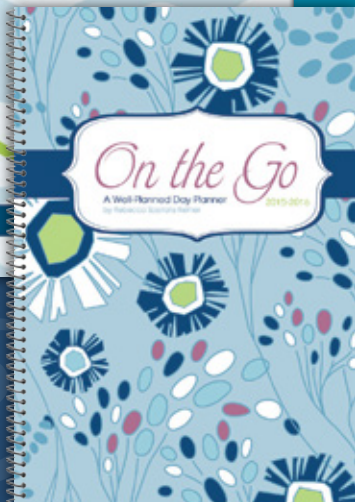
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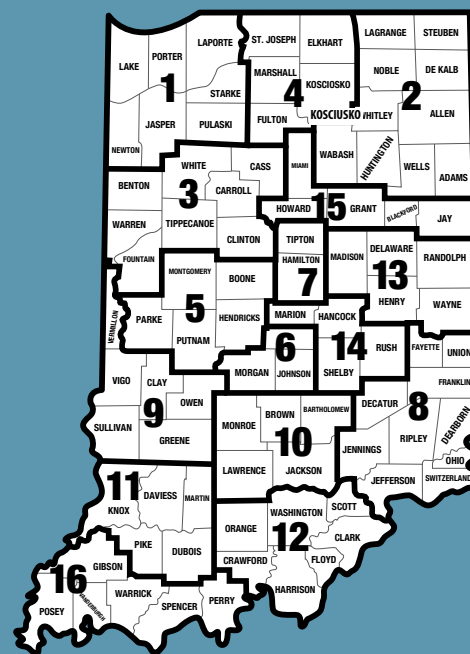
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Home School SPOTLIGHT

ANNA JONES is the fifteen year old daughter of Forrest and Donna Jones. She is currently in her Junior year of high school. Anna has participated in the American Legion Oratorical program since her Freshman year. She was the 2014 District winner for the 8th District. She is also the 2015 district winner and will compete at the Zone level at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. After graduation she intends on attending college and majoring in Marketing.



IAHE Regional Representative Map



Regional Representatives

serve the homeschooling community throughout Indiana. Each representative is a veteran homeschooler who can help answer the questions of a family just starting out. They also communicate with local support groups in their region and keep them up to date on changes in the law and activities throughout the state.

You can contact your regional representative for information about spelling bees, sport clubs, book fairs, curriculum advice, workshops, standardized testing and convention information. They can also help you find a support group in your area, or if none is available, they'll help you start one.

Region 1

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574-242-8595
r1@iahe.net

Region 2

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260-350-0993
r2@iahe.net

Region 3

Jeff and Lori Bennett
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r3@iahe.net

Region 4

Pat & Kathy Balke
574-594-3815
r4@iahe.net

Region 5

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Region 6

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Region 15

Jeff & Tammy Hierholzer
765-395-7137
r15@iahe.net

Region 16

Shawn & Theresa Slinkard
812-430-3115
r16@iahe.net

For all other regions,
please contact the IAHE Office at
office@iahe.net
317-467-6244

WHAT IS OUR FREEDOM WORTH?

by Debi Ketron, IAHE board member

With the large influx of new homeschoolers, it is a good time to review Indiana home education and funding. It would seem to make sense to some that since homeschoolers pay taxes, they should receive some tax dollars to operate their home schools. In a perfect world, it may be a good idea. If one sits in a committee hearing at the Indiana Statehouse and listens to debate related to taxpayer dollars, one quickly comes to the realization that it is not a good idea.

Once tax money is paid to the government, the state no longer views it as the individual's money. We must remember that there are others who pay taxes that may not chose to use a service, such as those in a traditional private school, singles, or the elderly. When tax dollars are doled out, there is a need for "accountability" as to where and how that money is spent. The state would have the right and obligation to know how that money is spent. The state would determine the parameters regarding who receives it. It would reward those who homeschool in a way specified by the government thus dividing the homeschool community. Having the state define homeschooling makes it easier to regulate. The one who creates the definition has the power to control it. IAHE has learned that leaders in homeschool organizations from other states have seen an attempt to increase regulations when tax credits have been debated. We must remember that the carrot of tax credits is usually followed by a big stick of regulation. In Indiana, we have already seen that government money comes with strings. We have one of the largest voucher programs in the nation, and a new report from the Center for Education Reform states, "The state is the second-worst in the country on infringing on private school autonomy, mandating such things as course content and insisting on allowing government observation of classes." (School Choice Today, Voucher Laws Across the States, Ranking and Scorecard 2014, www.edreform.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/VoucherRankings-Report5.pdf). This is what is to be

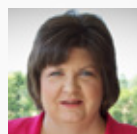
expected when accountability is required for the use of tax dollars.

Indiana has few homeschool regulations. IAHE reminds legislators when testifying in committee hearings that home educators do not take taxpayer dollars; therefore, we should not be regulated in the same way that those who take tax dollars are regulated. Indiana home educators would be wise to remember we are actually being protected by not taking taxpayer money.

Indiana statute does not require home school registration with the state. There are different types of deductions and credits that each come with their own pros and cons. The end result is that tax credits voluntarily put homeschool families on the radar of those who want to know how state money is being spent. Our precious freedom in Indiana is too valuable to be traded for government assistance.

IAHE assesses every bill with carefully with the input of HSLDA to make sure potential language would not have a negative impact on homeschool freedom.

We must continually ask ourselves what is our freedom worth? Why are we homeschooling our children? Are we trusting in God or the government to provide for them? If we are trusting God, He will provide creative solutions to meet our homeschooling needs for curriculum, supplies, and resources. ■



DEBI KETRON is wife to Phil and mother to four children. The Ketrons home educated for twenty-one years graduating all of their children from their home school. They served as IAHE Region 8 Representatives before joining the Board of Directors. Phil and Debi reside in Dearborn County.

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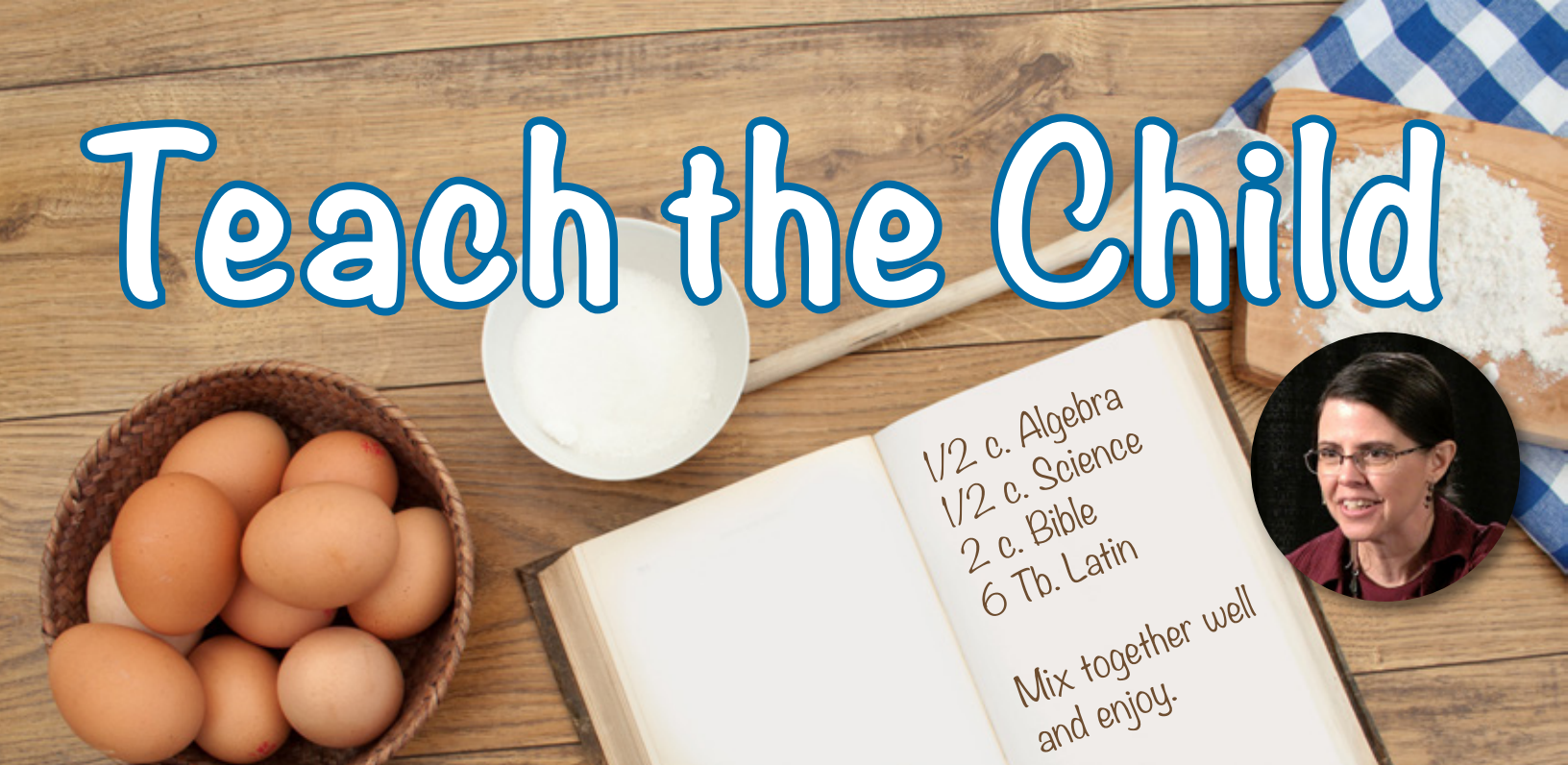
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Teach the Child



—by Sonya Shafer, *Simply Charlotte Mason*

When it comes to cooking, it seems that there are two kinds of people: those who follow the recipe exactly, and those who tweak it. Those who tend to stick to the recipe probably like the security of doing what they're told to do. "Someone has already figured this out so I don't have to," can be a comforting thought.

But sometimes the recipe just doesn't fit your situation. Maybe the person who created the recipe has a passion for hot and spicy, while your family prefers mildly spicy. Maybe the recipe says to bake at 450° for 15 minutes, but you know that your oven struggles at that high of a temperature.

So most cooks learn to make adjustments. They might reduce the amount of cayenne pepper or leave out the tabasco sauce. They might add more minutes onto the baking time. Whatever adjustments they make, they tweak the recipe to better fit their families and their situations.

CURRICULUM IS LIKE A RECIPE

Curriculum is a lot like a recipe. Whoever writes the curriculum is setting forth what he prefers; what worked in his situation. But just because the author presents it a certain way doesn't mean you have to use it exactly as is.

Maybe a certain curriculum moves a little too quickly for your child; you can adjust it to a slower pace. Maybe a curriculum doesn't include enough hands-on activities for your tastes; you can

add some. Maybe you like everything about the curriculum except one little part; leave it out. Maybe a particular recommended "ingredient" isn't available in your location; substitute something similar.

People who create recipes are dealing with ingredients, not your family's taste preferences or your finicky oven. People who write curriculum are dealing with the material, not with your unique child. It's impossible to write a curriculum that will address the specific needs of every single child. That's where you come in.

TWEAK AS NEEDED

Think of it like this. Imagine you were making a cake for a special occasion and the recipe said to bake it at 350° for 30 minutes. What if, at the end of the 30 minutes, you inserted a toothpick in the middle and it came out messy? If you were focused on the recipe, you would yank that cake out anyway because the time was up. But if you were focused on the end product—a delectable cake—you would leave it in the oven and monitor it closely until it was a beautiful golden brown and baked through just right.

It's the same with curriculum and your child. If you are focused on the curriculum, you will continue plodding along, checking off the lessons, but possibly not accomplishing your goal of educating your unique child.

As the parent-teacher, your focus needs to be on educating your child as a person. In fact, that premise is the foundation on which Charlotte Mason built her whole philosophy.

"The central thought, or rather body of thought, upon which I found, is the somewhat obvious fact that the child is a person with all the possibilities and powers included in personality." (Preface to the Home Education Series)

So don't expect a one-size-fits-all curriculum to suit each unique personality in your family; it won't. But that's the beauty of homeschooling—you can make adjustments at any time.

You have permission. It's your family. It's your child. You know them better than any curriculum writer ever could.

Teach the child; don't just teach the curriculum. ■

SONYA SHAFER is a popular homeschool speaker and writer, specializing in the Charlotte Mason Method. She has been on an adventure for nearly 20 years studying, researching, practicing, and teaching Charlotte's gentle and effective methods of education. Her passion for homeschooling her own four daughters grew into helping others and then into *Simply Charlotte Mason*, which publishes her many books and provides a place of practical encouragement to homeschoolers at simplycharlottesmason.com.



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Tomorrow is always FRESH, with no mistakes

—by Rebecca Scarlata Kelihen



I'll start Monday. Yes, Monday is a good day to start things anew. It is the best time to start a new diet or a new routine for exercise, better eating, or early morning devotions. Best of all, Monday is the day I will, once again, dive into my planner and set a course for the "perfect" homeschool day. My children will delightfully acknowledge and properly respond to my wishes, yes, on Monday. For today it is Tuesday, and so I will start next Monday.

Have you ever had that conversation with yourself? Best intentions in mind, you start out on Monday and by the very next day things have already fallen out of sorts and you are justifying why you should wait until the following Monday to start anew?

As a young mother of three little girls, our home would not have been complete without all three VHS videos of Anne of Green Gables. Tea party table set up, delicate cookies to snack on, and dressed up like princesses, the girls and I would spend the afternoon on Prince Edward Island.

I'll never forget the moment I heard the statement from Ms. Stacy, "Tomorrow is always fresh with no mistakes in it... well with no mistakes in it yet."

The thought had not occurred to me before. Tomorrow is always the best time to start anew, try it again, and give it another go. So why do we put off the tomorrow for the next Monday?

One of my favorite authors, Martin Lloyd Jones, a minister of the early twentieth century stated it best:

Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself? Take those thoughts that come to you the moment you wake up in the

morning. You have not originated them, but they start talking to you, they bring back the problems of yesterday, etc. Somebody is talking. Who is talking to you? Your self is talking to you. Now this man's treatment [the Psalmist in Psalm 42] was this; instead of allowing this self to talk to him, he starts talking to himself. 'Why art thou cast down, O my soul?' he asks. His soul has been depressing him, crushing him. So he stands up and says: 'Self, listen for a moment, I will speak to you.' Do you know what I mean? If you do not, you have had but little experience.

Homeschooling is not for the faint of heart and even with the best intentions; our schedules and routines can end up in the ditch. What to do? Tell yourself to start again tomorrow. Yes, it's as simple as that.

Not sure how to start? Here's an easy yet effective tool that I have used as I have planned, failed, evaluated and then planned again.

Get out a pencil and a piece of paper. On the vertical, jot down the times of the day, from the moment your feet hit the floor until it's night time, in increments of 30 minutes. On the horizontal, begin outlining the most important parts of the day: meals! You've gotta feed the kiddos if you expect to have any type of order. Next, jot down any commitments outside the home like piano, soccer, baseball, drama, co-op, etc.

You are almost ready to schedule in the homeschooling but first, stop for a moment and just stare. Stare hard and let it sink in, asking yourself this important question: Am I overscheduling myself before adding our schooling to the schedule?

As homeschooling has become mainstream, it has also become more convoluted with a plethora of available activities. Socialization, exercise, and outings are important and have their place, but the primary purpose of education is... drum roll please, you don't want to miss it... education. That's right, if you are homeschooling, it's pretty important to actually school the kids.

Ok, I am now stepping off my soapbox and back to that pencil and paper. Getting back to the horizontal, begin assigning the


most difficult and time consuming subjects first then proceed to the remaining subjects. Remember to leave room for breaks and cuddling time over a good book on the couch.

The next morning, your tomorrow, post the schedule on the refrigerator and give it a try. As you go, you will see where adjustments can and should be made. It's not a big deal; your investment at this point is a piece of paper and a pencil.

In the evening, get a fresh piece of paper, and try again, including your adjustments. Try again and in a few days, if needed, make a few more adjustments. Days turn into weeks, and weeks into months.

Children grow, schedules change and life throws you a curve ball every so often, but in the end, planning a successful day (ok, we'll try for a decent day) of homeschooling is as simple as a piece of paper, a pencil, and a tomorrow. ■

REBECCA KELIHER is founder and CEO of HEDUA: Home Educating Family Association (<http://hedua.com>), and a homeschool mom just like you. Married to Scot for twenty years with five kids ages 11 – 19, she has learned well that planning is essential to a productive day! Known as the Well Planned Gal, Rebecca used her eye for design and knack for organization to create the original homeschool planner, Well Planned Day. She also put her love of scrapbooking to work and created the beautiful Home Educating Family Magazine.



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The Importance of Support Groups

by Rebecca Barnes

God never intended for us to do life alone. He wired us to need each other, to need fellowship with like-minded people. That's why we attend the church we do, why we have the friends we have, even why God put us in the family we're in. Our homeschool "families" are no different.

When I first began homeschooling my first child, I was pretty clueless. She struggled with learning--a LOT. I didn't know how to handle that. Plus she was born with Spina Bifida, which was/is a huge medical ordeal. Those first few years of homeschooling were challenging. I often thought that I wasn't qualified to deal with this "special needs" child, and that I should just put her in public school. But I had some pretty fantastic people who supported me and reminded me that this was God's calling on my life. They spurred me on to run the race with perseverance. They were my local support group and my family. We have been fortunate to have the full and unwavering support of both sets of parents, but the support of my local homeschooling friends was even more of a blessing because they have "been there, done that" or were willing to "be there, do that" along with me. There is nothing like having the encouragement of someone who is doing what you're doing and are doing it for similar reasons.

So why are support groups important?

SUPPORT GROUPS HELP US RUN AND FINISH THE RACE OF HOMESCHOOLING

Ecc 4:9-12 "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: if one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Heb 10:24 "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

Heb 12:1 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders, and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

Support groups are our cheerleaders. They are our coaches. They are our mentors. Support groups help fill the need of fellowship and friendship. In a support group, your children will develop good solid friendships without peer pressure.

SUPPORT GROUPS ARE A NATURAL FIT FOR BEING A TITUS 2 WOMAN

Titus 2:3-5 "Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, so that the word of God may not be reviled.” We often see examples of how to teach, how to discipline, and how to interact with our children by simply observing the “seasoned” moms. Often times, I find myself talking with a group of moms and we’re all struggling in one area or another. We all share our ideas, share what has worked for us, what hasn’t. What curriculum we use, what we’ve tried and liked, what we’ve tried and tossed. We also share curricula. Through my group, I’ve been able to encourage other moms who have a child that struggles with learning. Giving them tips of how to help their child or where to go for help.

SUPPORT GROUPS ARE USEFUL FOR SHARED FIELD TRIPS AND REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Yes, you can take your kids to the zoo or the children’s museum on your own. My family has done so many times. But sometimes it is more fun to go with a group and it usually has some financial benefit as well. At several places we have been to, the teacher gets in free, the cost for groups of 10 or more is more than half off, and we’ve even gotten some extra perks for coming as a school group (like a “buy-one-get-one free” return visit coupon). Group field trips create camaraderie with your children as well as the adults attending. My group also has some monthly activities. Throughout the school year we have monthly skating and library days. We’ve also had bowling days or park days, just to facilitate fun and friendships.

HOW TO KEEP A SUPPORT GROUP GOING?

This can be a tough one. My own group has experienced growth spurts and then declines. Our group is more of a committee run support group rather than a few people doing it all. I find that when you have more voices in the planning stages of your activities, then you will generally get a good balance of what will meet the needs

of most people. It does take a bit of effort, especially when you have a wide variety in ages and grades amongst your children. Our group has every age from toddler to seniors, with the largest age group being the senior high school range. It’s impossible to meet the needs of every member of your group. That’s why a variety of people adding input to the planning process each year is so important.

It takes sacrifice sometimes. Let’s say a family has elementary age children and wants to have a field trip to the fire station. You’ve already been to the fire station... twice. But in order to help this other family, you sacrifice an hour of your day to go to the fire station so that this family (and others) can have enough people there to make the field trip a worthwhile experience for them AND for the firefighters that are giving up an hour of their day to give you a tour. It means sometimes you do teen oriented activities when you have elementary age children, or vice versa. But keep in mind that this is yet another opportunity to practice being a Titus 2 woman, by being involved and engaged in other people even though it may not benefit your family as much.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO BE INCLUSIVE

Being a Region 13 Rep, I see a lot of support groups that are exclusive, private, or even secret. My heart is always sad when I see this happen. I know the reasons: “Our co-op got too big, so we now don’t allow anyone new.” “We just really like the people that are in the group.” “Our group will grow, but by invitation only to ensure that they are a good fit for our group.” Yes, we all love to be with people we like and are fun to be with and we don’t want to add a new element that could potentially disrupt that cohesiveness. I get that. But remember when YOU first started homeschooling and the plethora of help and information that you gained from veteran homeschoolers? That is what a support group is all about! The veteran homeschooling mom encourages the not-so-veteran

homeschooling mom, who encourages another mom that she CAN homeschool her kid, then the veteran is encouraged because she has renewed hope that she is doing the right thing.

If you belong to a support group, I encourage you to go out of your way to include new families. It is so awkward, just like attending a new church... you don’t know anyone yet and it’s just plain hard to walk up to strangers and introduce yourself or jump into friendships. If you don’t have a support group, consider starting one. Chances are, there are several other families around that would love to do that too, but don’t know where to start. Getting started is pretty easy. You start with a meeting place, invite some people, and let the planning begin. There is a helpful article in the Fall 2014 edition of The Informer on starting support groups. If you happen to be in a support group that regularly restricts new people from attending group functions, then I encourage you to introduce some changes or offer to start a secondary part of the group to be an encouragement to new families. Remember what it was like when you first started and how the support of others made a difference to you on your journey. Or perhaps, you need to offer that support that you did NOT get, so you can be that difference to someone else’s journey.

A support group is not a requirement to homeschool, but it certainly makes the journey a little brighter and a bit easier. ■



REBECCA BARNES, wife to Steve, momma of four daughters, has been home educating since the birth of her first child in 1993. They live on a small farm in rural Randolph County and serve as Region 13 Reps and as local support group leaders. The family loves the closeness that homeschooling affords, as well as the flexibility it can bring. They have homeschooled and graduated two children and have experienced the joys and struggles that go along with educating a child that learns differently. Rebecca loves being an encourager to other families on their homeschool journeys.



THE NUMBER TWO:

Why Failure is Not the End of the World

by Olivia Chinchilla

At Regionals last school year, the capstone of my senior year of high school hinged on one ninety minute Team Policy debate round. After Regionals, when the invitations were announced, my partner and I were two slots away from the National Championship—both according to how we placed at Regionals and how well we had done in “At Large” points all year.

Two slots away, only two.

For a while, the number two would haunt me at odd moments: “You failed,” I would say to myself. Failed what? Failed whom? I knew that I had given my very best throughout my five years in speech and debate, and particularly during my last year. I knew I had learned an incredible amount during this time; I knew that my leadership skills had grown immensely, and most importantly, I knew that God had a purpose. This last bit of knowledge seems to have been the reoccurring theme of my senior year and is certainly worth sharing. God has a reason for everything, so give your best—learn, grow, lead—and leave the results in God’s hands.

People close to me encouraged me in all these points, but I still could not help feeling a tinge of sadness as I arrived in Informative speaking for the five-day National Championship. I was not in Team Policy debate with my brother, Craig, with whom I had debated for three of the past five years. As I walked through the hallway, crowded with debaters exiting their first round, a wave of regret washed over me. Just then, a friend from my Region greeted me warmly and handed me a note. I read it, re-read it, and read it yet again. “You & Craig are both incredibly talented & work so hard; you are as fine representatives of the region as any of the teams here,” she wrote. “The only reasoning I can come up with is that God has another plan (as we’ve

discussed many times).”

I do not think I would attribute my own speech and debate skills to any exceptional talent. Still, God blessed me with reasonable success in learning the material. My success is most evident in everyday life. I never made it to a final round in debate or to Nationals, but I can now easily look strangers squarely in the eye, when I shake hands after taking initiative to introduce myself. I can easily converse with others on the telephone, in my numerous internships and work—even if those folks disagree with me. I learned how to refrain from speaking unless necessary, and how to collect my thoughts quickly. I learned how to research

How true it was, that God could and would use me in matters, however small, throughout the week!

voluminous amounts of material in an effective manner. I do well in courses that heavily require note-taking, because I practiced listening many, many times when each “point” that the opposing speaker uttered mattered. Sometimes I succeeded in debate and advanced, sometimes I failed and lost. Each “loss,” however, was not a lost opportunity. I learned new lessons, implemented them, refined myself, and moved forward.

Throughout the years, my leadership skills also grew. During my junior year, I co-founded Speech and Debate USA, a national student-led speech and debate club that meets online. The club is meant for those who cannot travel to a club because of distance or a challenging schedule. It was a natural outlet for my love of leadership. There were many students whom I looked up to when I started speech and debate: my older sister who debated with me—an eighth grader—during my first year, when she was a junior, and a dear friend who won Team Policy at the National Championship during her last year, but was always a model of Christian humility and kindness. These people (and many others) had an impact on my life, and I seek to give back by mentoring others—whether in official or unofficial capacities.

My mentoring tendencies also served to make me more melancholy about not being at Nationals in debate during my final year. Craig still had two more years left in debate, but I had failed to help lead the team to Nationals. I felt solely responsible. I pondered all these thoughts as I stood outside in the muggy, June, Virginia air, continuing to read the note from my friend. “...God wants us to be filled with joy to the brim,” she exhorted. “If you’ll let Him, He will give you endless joy this week, working in your life in a unique way that only our Savior can do. How I pray that you will clearly see that plan at Nationals specifically!”

Moments later, as I was waiting outside of my opening Informative speaking round of the day, the first speaker arrived and I offered to pray with him. It happened to be his first time at Nationals, and neither of us wanted to be the initial speaker in the room during this particular round. When the prayer ended, and I offered a final word of encouragement with a pat on the shoulder, I suddenly found myself tightly hugged in the arms of the stranger from another part of the country. How true it was, that God could and would use me in matters, however small, throughout the week! I saw this again and again, and the joy of encouraging others was far greater than the misery of agonizing over a fleeting position. In the end,

I am reminded of the words from a hymn: “Have Thine own way, Lord,/Have Thine own way;/Hold o’er my being Absolute sway./Fill with Thy Spirit/Till all shall see/Christ only, always,/Living in me.” If I can speak those words with confidence—if I worked heartily to the Lord in debate and in my witness, while leaving the results to God—it does not matter whether I was first in line or two slots short. ■



OLYVIA CHINCHILLA is a co-founder of Speech and Debate USA, having served as its President & Acting Director for the past two seasons. She graduated from high school in June 2014 and is studying Economics at Northwestern University in Chicago. This past school year, she completed her fifth and final year of speech and debate in NCFCA, the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association. She has qualified to NCFCA Regionals and won numerous awards in Apologetics, Extemporaneous, Illustrated Oratory, Impromptu, Informative, and Persuasive. She also competed at the National level in Persuasive in 2012 and Informative speaking in 2014. In 2013 and 2014, Olyvia and her partner were Octafinalists in Team Policy debate at the NCFCA Region VI Regional Invitational, and Olyvia won 3rd place Team Policy Speaker in 2013. Olyvia is currently a Board member of Speech and Debate USA. More information about Speech and Debate USA can be found online: <http://www.speechanddebateusa.com/>

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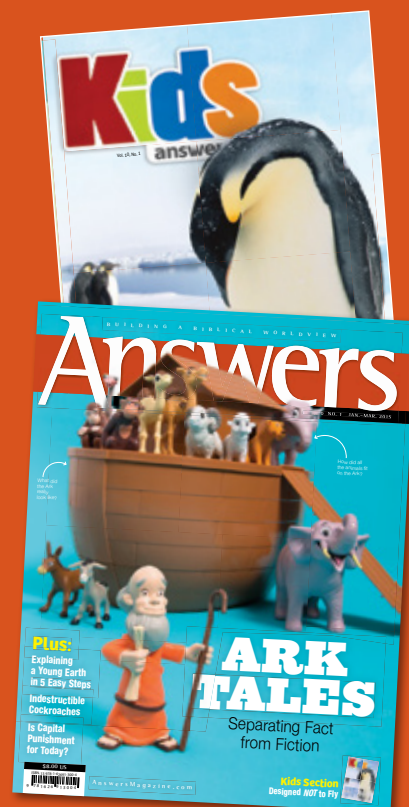
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Exhibitor List Preview

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See page 26 for "Exhibit Hall Only Passes".

*List is current as of 12/31/2014. Exhibitors are still being added!



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- Pre-registration saves time and money! Simply pick up your registration packet when you arrive and be on your way.
- **Pre-registration ends at midnight February 28th.** After that time, registration is only available "At-the-Door" on-site at the convention registration booth.

Convention Schedule

FRIDAY

8:00 Registration opens & Exhibit Hall opens

**8:30 Carol Barnier: 17 Years of Homeschooling
and I Hardly Twitch at All Anymore**

10:00 Workshop #1

11:30 Workshop #2

12:30 Lunch & Shopping

1:30 Workshop #3

**3:00 Ken Ham: Hope Lies in Standing on the Authority
of Scripture**

4:30 Workshop #4

6:30 Exhibit Hall closes

SATURDAY

8:00 Registration opens & Exhibit Hall opens

8:30 Diana Waring & Jay Wile:

Homeschooling: The Environment for Genius

10:00 Workshop #5

11:30 Workshop #6

12:30 Lunch & Shopping

1:30 Workshop #7

3:00 Todd Wilson: This, We Believe!

4:30 Workshop #8

6:30 Exhibit Hall closes

2015 Featured Convention Speakers

Ken Ham • Carol Barnier
Diana Waring • Dr. Jay L. Wile • Todd Wilson

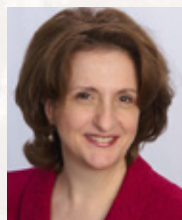


Ken Ham is president and founder of Answers in Genesis, the highly acclaimed Creation Museum (2 million visitors in six years), and visionary behind the construction of a full-size Noah's Ark—

has become one of the nation's most in-demand Christian speakers and talk show guests. Ken is the author or co-author of many books on apologetics, including the eye-opening book on why so many young people are leaving the church, *Already Gone*, and the best-selling *The Lie: Evolution*.

● **Hope Lies in Standing on the Authority of Scripture**

- One Race, One Blood
- Six Days or Millions of Years?
- Dinosaurs Explained for Kids and Adults



Carol Barnier is a fresh, fun and popular conference speaker who continually strives to have the wit of Erma Bombeck crossed with the depth of C.S. Lewis but admits that most days she only

achieves a solid Lucy Ricardo with a bit of Bob the Tomato. While her humor will have you leaning sideways, her faith is solid stuff. Whether speaking about her first born son's 13 surgeries, her family's many ADHD challenges, or her own walk from being a God-denying atheist to the most grateful recipient of God's amazing grace, this woman speaks from the heart. She knows why she knows what she knows.

● **17 Years of Homeschooling and I Hardly Twitch at All Anymore**

- Homeschooling 101
- Teaching Your Child to Read Made Easy
- A Prodigal Speaks Out
- HELP! How Do I Teach this Highly Distractible Child
- Your DNA (CREW teens only)



Diana Waring is the author of *Beyond Survival, Reaping the Harvest* and *Diana Waring's History Revealed* world history curriculum. Diana discovered years ago that "the key to education

is relationship." Beginning in the early '80s, Diana homeschooled her children through high-school—the real life opportunities to learn how kids learn. Mentored by educators whose focus was honoring Him who created all learners, and with an international background (born in Germany, university degree in French, lifelong student of world history), Diana cares about how people learn as well as what they learn. Audiences on four continents have enthusiastically received her energetic speaking style.

- The Key to Education is Relationship
- Sing Your Way Through American History
- Not Just Your Average Genius: Learning Styles
- **Homeschooling: the Environment for Genius** (with Dr. Jay Wile)
- Textbook Myths and How to Deal with Them (with Dr. Jay Wile)
- History: How to Love it While You Learn It



Dr. Jay L. Wile holds an earned Ph.D. in nuclear chemistry and a B.S. in chemistry, both from the University of Rochester. He has won several awards for excellence in teaching and has presented

lectures on the topics of Nuclear Chemistry, Christian Apologetics, Homeschooling, and Creation vs. Evolution. He is best known for his award-winning "Exploring Creation With..." series of science textbooks. Dr. Wile and his wife of more than 25 years, Kathleen, homeschooled their daughter, Dawn, from the time they adopted her until she graduated high school. Dawn is a Butler University graduate and is

currently a long-haul trucker with her husband, James.

- "Teaching" the Junior High & High School Sciences at Home Teaching Critical Thinking
- How Are Homeschool Graduates Doing?
- **Homeschooling: The Environment for Genius** (with Diana Waring)
- Textbook Myths and How to Deal with Them (with Diana Waring)
- Vaccines: The Real Story



Todd Wilson, is a dad, writer, conference speaker, and former pastor. Todd's humor and down to earth realness have made him a favorite speaker at homeschool conventions across the country and a

guest on Focus on the Family. As founder of Familyman Ministries, his passion and mission are to remind dads and moms of what's most important through a weekly e-mail for dads, seminars, and books that encourage parents. Todd, and his wife Debbie, homeschool six of their eight children (two have graduated) in northern Indiana and travel America in the Familyman Mobile.

- Taming the Techno Beast – Parenting in the INTERNET Age
- Answers for the Homeschool Critic in Your Life...even when it's you. An Unbeatable Team (for husbands and wives)
- Raising Dangerous Sons in a Safe and Mediocre World
- 10 Things You Need to Teach Your Daughter Before She Graduates
- **This, We Believe!**

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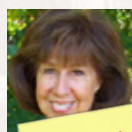
Special Guest



Dean Butler is an actor, writer, director and producer, but he is best known to Laura Ingalls Wilder fans all over the world for his portrayal of *Almanzo Wilder*

on the long running family drama, *Little House on the Prairie*. The series, which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2014, ran from 1974-1983 on NBC and remains among the most beloved family dramas in the history of television. Dean remains closely associated with the *Little House* series as well as the *Laura Ingalls Wilder* books; over the past four decades he has continued to make appearances in support of the series and produce entertaining programs inspired by the legacy of *Laura Ingalls Wilder*. His company, *Legacy Documentaries*, produced nearly 8 hours of DVD bonus content for the original *Little House on the Prairie* DVD collections. Separate from the series, Dean has produced two original documentaries based on the *Little House* books, *Almanzo Wilder: Life Before Laura* and *Little House on the Prairie: The Legacy of Laura Ingalls Wilder*.

- The *Little House* Series: An Unlikely Collaboration between *Laura Ingalls Wilder* and Michael Landon
- The Musical Legacy of *Laura Ingalls Wilder*
- *Little House*: Contrasting Books & TV with Real Life on the *Prairie*



Dianne Craft has a Master's Degree in Elementary and Special Education. She has

taught children and teaches their therapies. Dianne is also a professional children's issues. She is a writing firm, Co. She has their struggling learners easily and in the home setting.

- Identifying and Correcting Blocked Learning Gates
- Training Your Child's Photographic Memory
- Smart Kids Who Hate To Write
- Teaching the Right Brain Child



Jim Weiss has been a storyteller for over 25 years. In June, 1989, Jim decided to do something more with the craft that he had formerly practiced solely for pleasure. He and his wife, Randy,

formed a production company, Greathall Productions, and have thus far produced 50 + storytelling recordings with enticing titles from classical literature, such as *Greek Myths*, *King Arthur*, and *Sherlock Holmes*. In addition to the single CDs, Jim has also recorded numerous unabridged recordings. Jim's Greathall line is the recipient of 100+ major national awards and has received the highest acclaim from countless Home School journals and professionals. Greathall's motto is, "Intelligent entertainment for the thinking family" and the line is true to that motif.

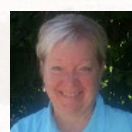
- *George Washington, Father of Our Country*
- *20th Century Americans: Profiles of Courageous Men and Women*
- *Storytelling: Up Close and Personal – A Family Workshop*
- *Real Life Heroes: Fascinating Stories of Great People*
- *Standing Strong: Stories That Reflect Emotional Strength*



Kathy Balke and her husband Pat began the homeschooling adventure in 1986 when their firstborn (who's now 33!) turned 5. Although they

began with the thought they'd just take one year at a time, they loved it so much they never looked back. Today, after homeschooling for 28 years and graduating 5 children, they have one son left who will be finishing this year! Kathy has taught workshops on how to get started in this wonderful lifestyle of homeschooling, and also on the life and methods of early homeschool advocate and educator Charlotte Mason. She has also helped lead a homeschool group in the Warsaw area for many years. One of her favorite things to do is to help and encourage moms that they really can do it!

- Homeschooling 101

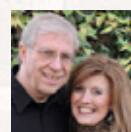


Jan Bloom developed a vintage bookselling business based on the knowledge she gained investigating and identifying the best books for

capturing the hearts and minds of children. This led to writing a book about these great authors and series, *Who Should We Then Read?* Jan's second book, *What Should We Then Know?*, encourages families to develop a quality home library. Volume 2 of *Who Should We Then Read?* with 155 new and different authors, is also now available. In addition, Jan has authored an ebook, *Business by the Books*, which highlights important character development and business understanding found in the pages of "ordinary" books. She is also a contributor to *Homeschooling Today*, *The Old Schoolhouse*, and *Home Educating*

Family magazines.

- The Foundational Five: Bible Stories, Fairy Tales, Mother Goose, Aesop's Fables, and Mythology

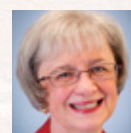


Ron and Vicky Broadfield, co-founders

of JoyQuest, Inc., have been enjoying the homeschooling journey for the past 15 years.

The Broadfields have 2 daughters, the oldest is attending law school, and the youngest is still at home. While ministering to their younger daughter with learning challenges and special needs, The Broadfields desired to minister to other families by sharing encouragement, hope, and practical advice on how to help their child reach their God-given potential. As a result, the non-profit organization, JoyQuest, Inc. (based on Psalms 16:11), began in 2007. The Broadfields have served in both secular work and full-time ministry, and have been foster parents to more than 20 children in Indiana where they reside.

- Homeschooling Special Needs Children in Indiana



Inge Cannon immigrated to the United States from Germany as a little girl who grew up with a deep love for classical music, reading

books, and serving the Lord. Her 43 years of experience as an educator include teaching in K-12 and college-level classrooms, along with many administrative posts. In 1983, the Lord turned her heart toward the home school community, where she has provided more than two decades of support as an author, publisher, seminar instructor, curriculum developer, testing consultant, lobbyist for parental rights in education, and conference planner. Inge has also done extensive work in taking the mystery out of the high school transcript production process, and in developing software to give transcripts a professional edge while keeping the reporting simple. Dr. and Mrs. Cannon have named their home school ministry Education PLUS to highlight their passion for helping home educators "Pattern Learning Upon Scripture."

- 12 Most Common "Transcript Transgressions" Committed by Home School Parents
- The Top 12 Opportunities/Obligations Parents Have in Mentoring Their Teens



Thomas Clark is a life-long teacher of Mathematics and Science with more than 49 years of classroom and tutoring experience at all levels, from elementary through adult. He began his career with twelve years of classroom teaching,

including a full year of graduate study, and then served for five years as the State Mathematics Supervisor for the Indiana Department of Education. As a result of all of his experience, he is convinced that everyone has the ability to understand Mathematics. Consequently, in the last twenty years, he has focused on the development of multimedia programs that challenge traditional methods of instruction, and which help with both individualized and group learning. In addition, seventeen years ago, he founded VideoText Interactive, a company that specializes in bringing the textbook to life through technology. He then began directing his attention toward helping homeschooling parents become more effective instructors, especially in the area of Mathematics.

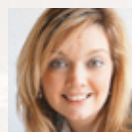
- Teaching Math Without a Plan? You've Got to be Kidding!
- Top Ten Myths about Homeschooling Math



Trista Hill has been married to Dave, the most patient man in the world for the past 18 years. They home educate their three children, Rachel, Gracie and

Isaac, whose appetites continue to increase along with their ages. In order to meet the demand for more and more food on the table, Trista speaks publicly, gardens determinedly, preserves unreservedly and also sells extra produce at an area Farmers' Market. Her passion is encouraging women in their roles as wives and mothers while empowering them to recognize their God-given strengths.

- Eat Cheap!
- Live Sane and Give Big!



Rebecca Keliher is the founder and CEO of *Home Educating Family Magazine* & *hedua.com*. Rebecca is also a homeschool mom just like

you. She put her love of scrapbooking to work and turned a homeschool newsletter into the beautiful *Home Educating Family Magazine*. Also known as the Well Planned Gal, Rebecca used her eye for design and knack for organization to create the original homeschool planner, *Well Planned Day*.

- When To Say Yes or No?
- 5 Babies, 7 Years, and a Little Homeschooling
- Well Planned Day, Yes It's Possible
- Kick Start Your Children



Andrew Kern is founder and president of the CiRCE Institute; the founding author of *The Lost Tools of Writing*, a co-author of the best-selling book

Classical Education: The Movement Sweeping America, which he wrote with Dr. Gene Edward

Veith; and is on the board of The Society For Classical Learning (SCL). Since establishing CiRCE as a research and consulting service to classical educators, Andrew has trained teachers, led board retreats, and assisted with institutional development and start up in over 100 schools since 1996. Since 2008 he has focused his time on building CiRCE, speaking, and writing. He and his family live in North Carolina.

- What Is Christian Classical Education (and how do I do it)? Socratic Teaching
- Teaching Like Christ/How Children Learn
- How to Read a Great Book (and a Hard One)



Sonya Shafer is a popular homeschool speaker and writer, specializing in the Charlotte Mason Method. She has been on an adventure studying,

practicing, and teaching Charlotte's gentle and effective methods of education for nearly twenty years. Her passion for homeschooling her own four daughters grew into helping others and then into Simply Charlotte Mason, which publishes her many books and hosts the simplycharlottesmason.com website—a place of practical encouragement to homeschoolers. To minister to younger mothers and those dealing with special needs, Sonya shares her heart through IntentionalParents.com and her book *This Anguishing Blessed Journey: A Mother's Faith Journal through Autism*.

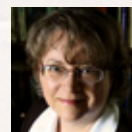
- Charlotte Mason and Her Methods
- The Early Years: Homeschooling Your Preschooler
- Laying Down the Rails: The Power of Good Habits in Your Homeschool
- Fine Arts the Charlotte Mason Way



Rex Smith has a passion to teach and defend the Scriptures. He graduated from Purdue with a BS in Civil Engineering and worked as an engineer in

the concrete industry for about fifteen years. During this time, he worked on and received his Master's Degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Rex has taught on biblical apologetics and cults for all ages since 2001. He began to transition from the construction industry to Youth Pastor at New Palestine Bible Church in 2006 and helped to found the R.O.C.K. Youth Group that has equipped teens to know and passionately defend their faith from several local churches up to the present time. He has served full time as the Associate Pastor at New Palestine Bible Church since 2009.

- Crew 4:12



Sharon Watson is the author of *Apologia's Jump In*, which appears in *Cathy Duffy's 101 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum*. She was forced to

retire from homeschooling after 18 years when she ran out of her own children, but she still enjoys teaching writing and literature courses in her local area. Her popular course *The Power in Your Hands: Writing Nonfiction in High School* is based on her sought-after writing classes. When she isn't avoiding cleaning her desk, Sharon enjoys attending hot air balloon events with her husband or playing with their two delightful granddaughters.

- How the Author Molds Your Child's Heart
- Writers Have Audiences: Moving Tweens and Teens from Social Media to Essays

ONLY WANT TO SHOP?

Get Our "Exhibit Hall Only" Pass!

This pass allows access to the Exhibit Hall only and is available only at the Registration Booth beginning at 10:00 A.M. each day and valid only on the day of purchase. The pricing per day is \$30/individual and \$50/family. A family is defined as Parent(s) or Guardian(s) and any children currently residing at home. Toddlers three (3) years of age or younger are free but must be carried or in a stroller. A grandparent is welcome to attend free with a paying adult.



Crew 4:12

Teen Staff Program

Come and meet other homeschooled teens from all over the state!

Be prepared for a high-energy, fun, and challenging convention that meets you where you are. CREW participants will engage in a three-pronged convention track that is specifically tailored to their age group, interests, and needs. Teens will be challenged to think deeply, serve others, and make new friends through workshops, service, and team-building activities. Students will explore what it means to Stand Strong in their faith and behavior through engaging workshops conducted by Rex Smith, Carol Barnier, and Peter Heck. A highlight of the CREW program this year is attending a session by Ken Ham.

CREW 4:12 is a full two-day program that includes a component of serving in the convention hall.

Students will be given a convention shirt to wear on both days and will serve as ambassadors as they represent the IAHE to convention guests & exhibitors.

Lunch will be provided for each day.

Teens ages 13-18 are eligible to attend.

\$20 per attendee

Questions? crew@iahe.net



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Bring Your Whole Family!

Children

Children are welcome throughout our convention. Please be sensitive to the other attendees and try to sit toward the back of the room so that you can easily take your children out if they become disruptive. Please be aware that sessions are recorded. We also ask that you keep seats available for adults and allow some of your little ones to sit on your laps or on the floor by you if additional seating is needed. For their safety and the safety of others, all children in the Exhibit Hall age three (3) and younger must be carried or in a stroller.

Teens

Teens love attending the convention with their families and are welcome in all workshops. It's a great way to make connections with other homeschooled teens from across the state, hear from encouraging speakers, and talk to college representatives. Bring them once, and they'll want to come back every year!



Grandparents

The IAHE encourages grandparents to become knowledgeable about home education. We value the support and contributions they offer to busy homeschool parents. Therefore, grandparents may attend for free when registered as part of a family registration. The grandparent's name(s) must be included on your registration form.

There is something for everyone!

What You Need to Know

FOOD

The concession stand in the Marsh Blue Ribbon Pavilion (Exhibit Hall) will be open during convention hours. During lunch hours, we have expanded the concession access with concessions open in both the Marsh Blue Ribbon Pavilion (Exhibit Hall) and the Champions Pavilion (Speaker Hall). The complete Barto's concession menu, including gluten free options, is available on our website. You may also bring your own food in coolers, stocked with food from home or picked up on the way!

PARKING

The Indiana State Fairgrounds charges \$5/day per vehicle. Please be advised that there is no re-entry without charge. Plenty of parking is available and a free shuttle service is available both morning and evening for those parked at a distance.

AUDIO TAPING

All General Sessions and most workshops will be recorded so that you may review or share the messages with others long after the convention. Please check the program book for the location of the booth where recordings are sold.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Registration fees are nonrefundable. Unredeemed registrations are considered a tax-deductible contribution to IAHE and, upon written request, we will provide a receipt for tax purposes.

HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY

The convention workshops and Exhibit Hall are handicapped accessible.

VOLUNTEERS


The IAHE is an all-volunteer organization and we appreciate volunteer help with many tasks and events throughout the year, including our Convention. If you enjoy being involved through serving, please send an email to volunteer@iahe.net for more information. ■





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