

May 2014 • Volume 18, Issue 2

TEXAS HOME SCHOOL COALITION

REVIEW

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of a Home
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The articles in this magazine reflect the freedom of home educators in Texas to choose from a wide variety of home school philosophies and teaching methods. Opinions and attitudes expressed in articles do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the Texas Home School Coalition. THSC 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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REVIEW

FROM THE PRESIDENT

TIM LAMBERT



Instead of fit parents being allowed to make legitimate parenting decisions for their own children, we are seeing growing trend of state bureaucrats removing children from fit parents, and judges arguing that they are making decisions “in the best interests of the children.”

Instead of fit parents being allowed to make legitimate parenting decisions for their own children, we are seeing growing trend of state bureaucrats removing children from fit parents, and judges arguing that they are making decisions “in the best interests of the children.”

A recent high-profile example of such abuse is the Justina Pelletier case in Boston. This 14-year-old girl was taken from her parents when doctors at Boston Children’s Hospital (BCH) disagreed with the diagnosis of doctors at Tufts Medical Center, who had been treating her for some time. When the parents sought to remove their child from BCH and return her to the care of Tufts’ doctors, BCH called CPS and the child was removed from her parents. She was placed under the care of CPS, which has allowed BCH doctors to keep her in the psychological ward there for more than a year and has restricted parental visits to one hour per week. Justina’s condition has deteriorated over that time.

While we are grateful that some of the Tutts’ children have been returned to them, it is astounding that a judge is now saying, in spite of CPS’s acknowledgment that the removal was not necessary.

In another instance of parental abuse by the government, THSC continues to fight along side the Tutts, who on November 21, 2013 had seven children forcibly removed from their home in spite of insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect, by order of Judge Graciela Olvera. Judge Olvera issued a removal order at an ex-parte hearing in which the parents were not represented nor notified.

In a January 7 hearing a new judge ruled that the taking of the Tutts’ children had not been justified. However, she returned only four of the children to the Tutts and also ruled that the parents could not continue to home school. The two children who were in the process of adoption at the time CPS removed them were kept in foster care and one child from a previous marriage was left with the biological father (having not seen his mother since he was removed in November).

In spite of the fact that the judge ruled that there had not been sufficient evidence to remove the children in the first place, now that CPS and the court are involved the focus of the case has turned to the educational status of these home schooled children. CPS has no authority in Texas over educational issues for children not in their care. But now, the decisions the Tutts have been making for their children are under scrutiny. The challenging backgrounds and varied disabilities of the children seemingly ignored.

The Tutt family is working to sort through the trauma they and the children have experienced. Please continue to pray for them as they seek to heal and recover from this ongoing travesty of justice.

The judge ruled that since the Tutts supported our efforts she would allow THSC to have a copy of the transcript with only the information related to home schooling and parental rights issue related to that issue.

In an effort to document the information provided to THSC by observers in the January 7 hearing, THSC went to court on March 26 to request a hearing transcript, which is a public document. The District Attorney’s office responded with a motion to seal the case files arguing that we did not have a right to the information because this was a CPS case involving children. The judge ruled that since the Tutts supported our efforts, she would allow THSC to have a copy of the transcript with content not related to home schooling and parental rights redacted.

THSC is continuing to fight for the Tutt family covering legal expenses and pursuing other legal remedies with the help of several attorneys. It is unfortunate but quite clear that the right of parents to make basic decisions for the good of their own children is under attack and must be defended. To help in that endeavor, make a tax-deductible contribution to the THSC Parental Rights Litigation Fund. This is a continually evolving case; you can get the latest updates on my blog at thsc.org.

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that they may put their hope in God

by Jeff Myers, Ph.D.

Let's say you parachuted into the middle of Central Park in New York City and were told by a mysterious stranger, "There is a \$5,000 diamond necklace waiting for you at Tiffany and Co. and it's yours free on one condition: You have to claim it in the next twenty minutes, or the deal is off."

"But what is Tiffany and Co., and how do I get there?" you ask.

"I can't tell you," says your anonymous source. "You'll have to find out on your own."

Your heart begins pounding. You feel your pocket—smart phone must have fallen out during the jump. You've never been in New York City before. You can't just wander around. You have twenty minutes.

Obviously you'd ask for directions. But who do you ask? And what happens if they are wrong? You could ask more than one person, just to be sure. But what if their answers conflict?

If you want the necklace, you'll have to figure it out before your time runs out.

Five Questions, Five World-Changing Answers

Some things about the search for the Tiffany and Co. necklace are very much like real life. People who figure out what works in life are rewarded. And there is a time limit—one out of every one person dies (you've probably noticed). There is a real world with real rules.

Yet confusion reigns, even among young adults raised in households of faith:

- Only one in five young adults ages 12-22 has a sense of purpose in life.¹
- Twenty-five percent of young adults are at risk of not achieving productive adulthood.²
- Young Christians are disengaging from their faith, embracing instead what sociologist Christian Smith calls "liberal whateverism."³

Home schooling families are not immune. If our children are to stand for truth in a world of lies, they must see the Bible as more than just a guide for morality or an anesthetic to help people with a low pain tolerance get through life.

In my experience, parents who raise spiritually healthy kids show their children through instruction and lifestyle that the Bible forms answers to the five questions that every human asks:

- **Where do we come from?** We are created to bear God's image.
- **Who are we?** All humans have intrinsic worth and dignity.
- **What is real and true, and how do we know?** Purpose is not just contrived. God has a plan for us, and we can find it.
- **How should we live?** God's rules for life lead to a much better life than what popular culture can deliver.
- **What happens next?** God's redemption does more than just qualify us for heaven; it makes a difference in how we live now.

Hope for Your Family, Hope for the World

Psalm 78 is a psalm of hope—a hymn about gaining courage to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. It says, “Give ear, O my people, to my teaching. . . . We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonders that He has done.”

At the end of the day this is what home schooling is all about: giving our children hope that there is a right way to go in life—a way of wisdom, a way of life—and that those who walk in it can be a powerful source of light in a dark time.

Throughout history it was Christians who believed the biblical answers to life’s ultimate questions who established free-market economies, liberated the oppressed from tyrannical governments, elevated the status of women, built hospitals and schools, instituted ministries to the poor, and ended chattel slavery.⁴

Putting our hope in God gives us the opportunity to share hope with our children, who can then share it with the world.

1 See William Damon, *The Path to Purpose* (New York: Free Press, 2009).

2 Commission on Children at Risk, *Hardwired to Connect: The Scientific Case for Authoritative Communities* (New York: Institute for American Values, 2003).

3 Christian Smith (2011), “Religious Tolerance: Karma, Christ, Whatever,” *Huffington Post* (9/16/11); Gary Railsback, Dean of the School of Education, Point Loma Nazarene University, “An investigation of the faith commitment of Evangelical college students at secular and Evangelical colleges,” found that between 30 and 50% of young adults who claim to be born again Christians as college freshmen claim to not be born again Christians when they graduate; “LifeWay Research Uncovers Reasons 18 to 22 Year Olds Drop Out of Church” found that 75% of students who were significantly involved in church in high school are no longer even attending church as twentysomethings: http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/article_main_page/0,1703,A=165949&M=200906,00.html 4 Rodney Stark, *For the Glory of God* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2003), 291. The entirety of Stark’s chap.

4, “God’s Justice: The Sin of Slavery,” should be carefully studied by all Christians.



Dr. Jeff Myers is president of Summit Ministries, a highly respected worldview training program whose tens of thousands of graduates are making a difference in politics, law, academics, medicine, science, and business. In the last 20 years Dr. Myers has become one of America’s most respected authorities on youth leadership development. Focus on the Family founder James Dobson referred to him as “a very gifted and inspirational young leader.” Evangelist Josh McDowell called him “a man who is 100% sold out to preparing the next generation to reflect the character of Christ in the culture.” Through his appearances on Fox News and other media programs, Dr. Myers has become a fresh voice offering humor and insight from a Christian worldview. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree and teaches leadership courses through CollegePlus and Belhaven University. He and his wife Danielle have four children and live in Colorado.

Dr. Jeff Myers will be a keynote speaker at the THSC Southwest Convention and Family Conference in The Woodlands this July.

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A HOME SCHOOLING MOM'S CONFESSIONS

by Rachael Carman

So, we started this journey eighteen years ago now. Through a series of circumstances, we found ourselves in a situation we never could have predicted. The system had failed us, and we had pulled our oldest son out of public school.

The ensuing years have been bumpy and blessed. Some of the bumps have been more like huge mountains, seemingly insurmountable. Some days have been too short, and others too long. But the blessings have been more than anything I could have imagined.

I am officially ready to confess the following:

1. I am addicted. This journey has given me a front row seat to the work of God. I tell you, I have seen miracles. I have experienced miracles. I have come to know God, not just know about Him. Through this journey God has become real to me. He has become real to my children. I get to see Him everyday—in little things and in big things. He is right here with us everyday and all through the day. We know we need Him, and He glories in our need for Him.

2. I am grateful. I did not want to home school my kids. I made fun of home schooling and home schoolers. I was not gracious or kind. I didn't understand, so I criticized. Now I am so thankful that God orchestrated circumstances that brought us to the decision to home school. His drawing us into home education was His drawing us further into relationship with Himself. Here on this path, which has been lonely and where we have often been misunderstood, He has always been close. He has directed, encouraged, and strengthened us along the way.

3. I am not perfect. If I didn't know this before today, I know it now. In many ways I thought I had it going on before we started home schooling. I really did. I had a plan, of which I was the center. Like most of us, I knew I was imperfect, but I worked diligently to avoid facing or dealing with that fact. Hiding and denying my inadequacies dominated my actions. Maintaining an illusion was the focus. Now I know that my imperfections are where God shows up the mightiest and I am no longer fearful. My imperfections and weaknesses are now where He can display His strength.

4. I do not have it all figured out. When we first started, I thought figuring it all out was the objective. I thought that I would plan out the ideal educational method (including curriculum) for all of the children and then just work the plan. I didn't take into account that my children are individuals. I wanted a formula. There were many for

sale. But they didn't work. Now I know that home schooling is a faith journey. It isn't about figuring it all out. It is about trusting God and walking by faith.

5. I am confident. My confidence is not in a curriculum, in an educational plan, or in myself. No, my confidence is squarely where God has intended it to be all along—in Him. I am confident in His good, pleasing, and perfect will. I am confident that I can trust Him to continue to be faithful. I am confident that He is in control and that He is sovereign. This confidence means that I can relax and rest in Him. I need not panic. He is faithful!

I'm a home schooling mom just like you. Every day is a challenge. No matter how much I plan, things happen. Challenges and obstacles abound. And yet this I know: "He is able to keep that which I've committed until that day." I pray "that day" is fast approaching, but until then, I choose to worship and trust Him! He is worthy!



*Rachael Carman is a wife and mother, and she is passionate about both. She and Davis have been married 27 years, and they have been blessed with seven children. She is the author of two books: *How to Have a HEART for Your Kids* and *Soundbites From Heaven*.*

Davis & Rachael Carman will be keynote speakers at the THSC Southwest Convention and Family Conference in The Woodlands this July.

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It's Killing You

by Todd Wilson

It's time: T-minus eight hours until Familyman Mobile liftoff. We've been running crazy the last several days, trying to get our big RV packed for a couple months of travel. Everything that needed to be fixed is fixed, the trailer is packed with all our books, and most of the clothes are put away. All I need to do is finish this article and . . . a million other things, and then we'll be ready to hit the road.

What's interesting to me is that no matter where I travel, home schooling parents are all the same. They may dress differently and vary from hyper-conservative to liberal, but they're all basically the same: parents who are trying to do the best they can to raise children who love God.

The other thing they have in common is that it is hard for them to be real. It just seems, from my perspective, that home schooling moms are trying so hard to look like they have it all together—yet they're really dying inside.

I talked to one of these moms this past weekend. She was trying to hold it together by smiling, but the tears streamed down her face. "I'm working so hard to make it look good," she said, wiping the tears

from her cheeks, "and we're having a terrible year because I'm so concerned about what people think."

I told her to quit worrying about her in-laws, friends, and other home schooling friends and just be real and enjoy her children, who are growing up fast.

Mom, I'm telling you that too. Quit trying to look like you have it all together, and be real. There is nothing as lethal to a healthy family as playing the "I've Got It All Together" game. I know a family who plays that game like seasoned veterans. The kids look great, always dressed impeccably, and the parents smile and give the right, biblical answers.

But as they've hung around us (a very real family that tells it like it is), I'm shocked by what they've begun to share about their lives (not that I'm shocked by the facts, but by the freedom they feel with us). Guess what? I can tell from their smiles and laughter that it feels good!

I'm telling you, Mom and Dad, if you feel shackled and worn out by family, you need to be real. Stop playing the game of trying to look good for others, and let a few others see the real you and the ugly truth. Believe me on this one: you'll never be the same again.



*TODD WILSON, author of **Lies Homeschooling Moms Believe, Help! I'm Married to a Homeschooling Mom**, and **The Official Book of Homeschooling Cartoons**, is a dad, writer, conference speaker, and former pastor. Todd's humor and gut-honest realness have made him a favorite speaker at home school 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 weekly e-mails for dads, seminars, and books that encourage parents.

Todd and his wife Debbie homeschool their eight children in northern Indiana and travel around America in the Familyman Mobile. You can visit Familyman Ministries at www.familymanweb.com

Todd Wilson will be a keynote speaker at the THSC Southwest Convention and Family Conference in The Woodlands this July.

Editor's note: This article first appeared in Homeschooling Today

A Review of

LETTERS TO OUR NEXT GENERATION

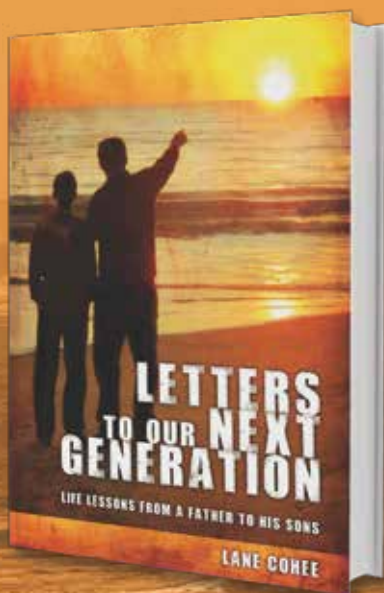
by Lane Cohee

by Marilyn Rockett

What would you do if you had only a short time to pass on life's most important lessons to your sons? When Lane Cohee, teacher, ministry leader, and, more importantly, father, realized what limited years we actually do have with our children, he decided not to waste them. Cohee's self-published *Letters to Our Next Generation: Life Lessons From a Father to His Sons* (CreateSpace, 2011) is the fruit of his resolve that became a guide for other parents, especially fathers, to convey important principles to their maturing sons. This

reviewer believes it is also very helpful for mothers and parents of daughters.

Letters is an easy to read, 107-page book using a framework of The Inner Ring, The Middle Ring, and The Outer Ring to divide its twenty-nine small chapters (two- to five-pages each) into appropriate sections. Its design is helpful for reading a chapter and then discussing it with your child.



Cohee touches on normal issues of life that may get lost in daily routines and schedules. He is not afraid to talk about real situations that a young person will face. For example, he mentions dating, says that dating has its place, and then makes the strong statement, "If you aren't prepared to marry, don't invest yourself in dating." He treats each topic with balance, humility (not presenting himself to his son as perfect), and wisdom.

I am not a father, but I am mother to four sons. This book would have been helpful as they each approached young adulthood. You can purchase the book at Cohee's website, LettersGeneration.com (which takes you to Amazon, and Cohee gets credit), or by going straight to Amazon.com. It is more than worth the \$9.95 retail price.



Marilyn Rockett is a veteran home school mom with four grown sons, six grandsons, one granddaughter, and three great-grandsons. She has mentored moms for more than thirty years. Her book *Homeschooling at the Speed of Life* provides organizational helps and encouragement. Visit her at MarilynRockett.com.

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We're, Like, Changing the English language

by John Erickson

Not long ago I overheard a group of young people talking. They spoke a type of dialect-English that is often used by members of their generation.

"She was, like, 'You've got to try this.' And I was, like, 'Are you serious?' And she was, like, 'You totally won't believe it.' And I was, like, 'I've got to get one!'"

It really bothered me to hear good, educated middle class kids talking this way, and maybe that was one of their reasons for doing it. I was the old guy in the group, and maybe they switched over to dialect as a way of asserting their . . . whatever it is that a generation feels it needs to assert: uniqueness, independence, coolness.

America is a land where youth never tire of outraging their elders, and it has been going on for a long time. My sweet sister used Elvis Presley records as an incendiary device on our Bach-loving father, and it worked every time. The louder she cranked up "Jailhouse Rock," the bigger the explosion.

There was more to my response to the kids than generational sword play. In my depths, I felt that these delightful, intelligent young people were inflicting damage on the language of Abraham Lincoln, Shakespeare, and the King James Bible—and they weren't even aware of it. They were just high school kids, trying to figure out how to hitch a ride on the bullet train of popular culture, trying to fit in and be "normal."

At their age I too yearned to be normal. Yet, for educated people, being normal must include an instinct to honor and protect the English language. Living languages evolve, but we

should be very cautious about the changes we legitimize through constant use. English is our conduit to the founding documents of English-speaking civilization—the body of law, literature, and Scripture that shapes our understanding of what it means to be a God-made, civilized human being. The more we change the language of the present, the more difficult it is for us to retrieve a clear message from the past.

We should also bear in mind the observation of George Orwell as he watched the growing horror of the Nazi conquest of Europe: Political evil begins with the corruption of language. Obscure language provides cover for a scoundrel. Honest language gives us some protection. Honest language can be diagrammed. "Jesus wept" is a perfect sentence that any five-year-old can diagram and understand. We know who did the action and exactly what he did. That is not the case with, "She was, like, 'You've got to try this.'" It is not clear at all what "she" did, and the sentence will confound anyone who tries to diagram it.

Our best defense against tyranny and the loss of cultural memory is a language that maintains honesty, simplicity, and clarity. The corruption of language does not begin with an act of Congress but instead with careless use and quiet neglect by people who should know better.

Erickson and his wife Kris live on a cattle ranch northeast of Amarillo. He has written about his mother's family in the book *Prairie Gothic*, available at www.hankthecowdog.com. Erickson and his sidekick, Hank the Cowdog, will be back again this year at the THSC State Convention & Family Conference in The Woodlands.



John Erickson will be a keynote speaker at the THSC Southwest Convention and Family Conference in The Woodlands this July.



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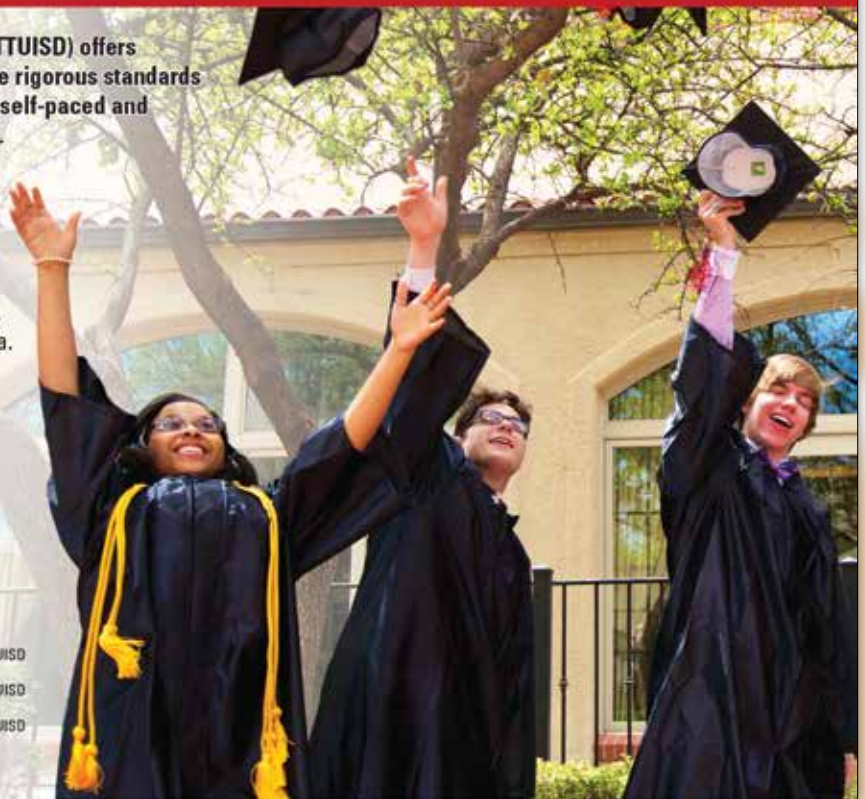
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So blessed.
Calendar clash.

Become Dad.
Ask about day.
Time with Lord?
Help your mom?
Chores done?
School done?
Help with math.
Help with science.
Bible read.
Share some truth.
Pray with kids.
Pray for spouse.
Pray myself.
Pray for relief.

Exercise.
Not tonight.
Too tired.
Have to wait.
Tomorrow's good.
Eat right.
Good food.
Healthy food.
Any food.
Fast food.

Something broke.
Funny noise.
You did what?
Where's the piece?
Find the glue.
Find the tools.
Fix it tonight.

Drive all day.
Drive at night.

Home schooled?
Math class.
Biology class.
Physics class.
Anatomy class.
History class.
Literature class.
Ballet lessons.
Tap lessons.
Jazz lessons.
Hip Hop lessons.
Acting lessons.
Spanish lessons.
Voice lessons.
Piano lessons.
Youth group.

Strained resources.
Money short.
NSF.
Time short.
Patience short.
Drive long.

Old cars
Drink much fuel.
Car trouble.
Oil change.
State inspection.
Flunk inspection.
Headlight.
Brake light.

Registration.
Funny noise.
Surprise repair.
Tires again?
Small dent.
Not my fault.
No margin.

Funds gone.
Christmas gifts.
Birthday gifts.
Baby gifts.
Outgrown shoes.
Lost shoes.
Ballet shoes.
Tap shoes.
Soccer shoes.
Hiking shoes.
Walking shoes.
Running shoes.
Always growing.

Aging parents.
Need more help.
I'll be fine.
Don't you worry.
Feed myself.
Forgot pills.
Forgot stove.
Forgot names.
Fell again.
Look for help.
Look for home.

Best for Mom.
Estate sale.
House sale.
What to keep?
Crooked siblings.
Don't leave me here.

You'll be fine.
Come and see me.
You'll be fine.
Take me with you.
You'll be fine.

Children struggle.
Foolishness.
Strong rebellion.
Foolishness.
Independence!
Foolishness.
Don't you trust me?
Foolishness.
Don't you know?
Foolishness.
They all have one!
Foolishness.
You don't trust me!
No, I don't.

Breakfast with him.
Breakfast with her.
Growing fast.
Teach to eat.
Teach to walk.
Teach to potty.
Teach to drive.
Brief influence.
Share the Truth.
Share my life.
Share my joy.
Share mistakes.
Gone soon.

Build a man.
Build a husband.

Build a father.
Build a leader.
Who is that?
What's her name?
Looks like trouble.
Listen to me.
Yes she's pretty.
Stay away.

Date night.
Movie time.
Pleasant talk.
Love talk.
Any talk.
Romance gone.
Flowers gone.
Jewelry gone.
Patience gone.
Years gone.
Miss my wife.
Miss you now.
Weekend away?
Maybe someday.
Maybe next month.

Neighbors lost.
Jesus saves.
Time with Lord.
Who's got time?
Scripture memorized.
Who's got time?
Church meeting.
Men's meeting.
Worship Team.
Ministry.
Home group dinner.

Health trouble.
Weight trouble.
Knee trouble.
Heart trouble.
Sleep trouble.
Eye trouble.
Stomach trouble.
Diabetes.
One more doctor.
One more pill.
One more shot.
One more ill.

So tired.
Want nap.
Want vacation.
Want a break.
Want some quiet.
Want my wife.
Fall on knees.
Pray for strength.
Feel so weak.
Sin looks good.
Chase some sin.
Give in.
Guilt again.
Yell at sin.
Ask forgiveness.
Repent again.

Kids in bed.
Finally quiet.
Wife time!
Wife on phone.
Wife prepare.
Wife home school.
Wife so tired.

Wife asleep.
Read the mail.
Bills to pay.
Email read.
Email written.
Email returned.
Facebook posts.
Twitter feed.
Prep for work.
Fix that lunch.
Bed at 1.
Up at 5.
Need 8 hours.
Sleep 4 hours.
Loss of hope.

Abundant life?
What is that?
Such a dope.
Loss of hope.

Jesus saves.
Jesus shines.
Jesus heals.
Jesus leads.
Jesus restores.
Jesus comforts.
Jesus rescues.
Jesus hope.

Promised movie.
Promised Wii.
Yes I did.
I'm so sorry.

Dad tired.



If you have a moment, please send an Email to ImperfectFather@Gmail.com.
I'd love to hear how the pace of life is impacting your family.

Pat and Belinda Harrell have homeschooled since 1995. They have five jolly children, and the loudest house on the block. If you send your thoughts on this article to Pat, he promises to write back.



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Scott Hardin holds a Bachelor of Science degree, with honors, from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, as well as a Medical Doctor degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He has been practicing medicine in Wisconsin since 1997.



The Home School Community's New Offensive

The THSC Rangers Program, a pilot program with unprecedented vision and potential, is being used to equip the home schooling community to be an unstoppable force for the 2014 election cycle. The Rangers Program is designed to match home schooling students and graduates with conservative political campaigns who need their help.

With the help of the THSC Rangers Program, the 2014 Primaries were a monumental success for Texas home schoolers. The requests for Rangers from the political community were extensive, and the effects could not be more evident. Out of 118 endorsed candidates, home schoolers emerged with more than an 80% success rate, winning 78 elections outright and sending 18 more into the Runoffs—with a surge of grassroots support behind them.

Now, with the primaries behind us, the Runoffs are dawning on the horizon. Make no mistake: The establishment is counting every one of their losses from the Primaries and is poised to throw hundreds of thousands of dollars into the Runoffs. Our Primary victories were won by our hands-on approach to block walking, phone banking, and massive get-out-the-vote efforts, of which the THSC Rangers were a critical facet. Changing the course of the election is not an easy undertaking.



Those who make the bold decision to invest in the future of this state by becoming a part of the THSC Rangers Program will receive a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will not only grant them an extremely valuable educational experience but will also give them a type of experience that cannot be gained through classroom education methods.

Home school students and graduates this year are taking part in an historic movement that will change the shape of campaigning in Texas. THSC Rangers may even receive college credit, along with other future opportunities, for some of their work.

The establishment is counting on a weak response from the conservative community in the Runoffs. The THSC Rangers could be the deciding factor between victory and defeat when the results come in on May 27!

**For more information about the THSC Rangers, visit our website at THSC.org/rangers.
Contact Amy Williams at 281-992-7596 or amy.williams@thsc.org**

THSC 2014

R U N O F F E N D O R S E M E N T S

We do not make endorsements lightly. Each candidate endorsed by THSC has been extensively vetted and determined to be a strong defender of home schooling and parental rights. We ask that you join us in supporting these candidates, who have proven their dedication to traditional values and to Texas families.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★										Statewide Endorsements			★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★									
Name		Office		District		Party Affiliation																
Ken Paxton		Attorney General		N/A		Republican																
Dan Patrick		Lieutenant Governor		N/A		Republican																
Glenn Hegar		Comptroller		N/A		Republican																
Sid Miller		Agricultural Commissioner		N/A		Republican																
Wayne Christian		Railroad Commissioner		N/A		Republican																

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★										Congressional Endorsements										★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★									
Name		Office		District		Party Affiliation																							
Ralph Hall		U.S. Congress		4		Republican																							
Ben Streusand		U.S. Congress		36		Republican																							

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★										Texas Senate Endorsements										★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★									
Name		Office		District		Party Affiliation																							
Bob Hall		Texas Senate		2		Republican																							
Konni Burton		Texas Senate		10		Republican																							

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★										Texas House Endorsements					★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Name		Office		District		Party Affiliation																		
TJ Fabby		Texas House		10		Republican																		
Ted Seago		Texas House		16		Republican																		
Matt Shaheen		Texas House		66		Republican																		

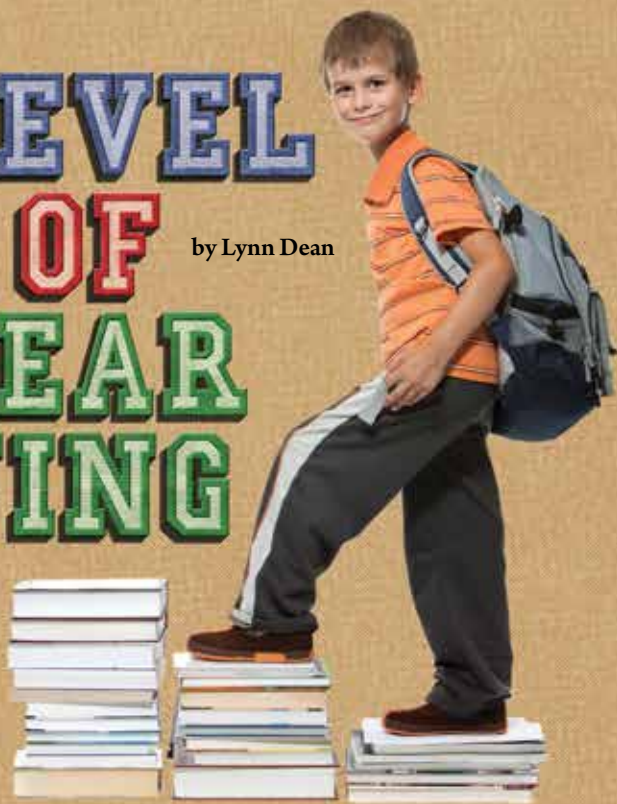
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★										Judicial Endorsements					★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★				
Name		Office		District		Party Affiliation													
John Schmude		Judge		247th District Court		Republican													
Crystal Chandler		Judge		Bexar County Court at Law 13		Republican													
Atticus Gill		Judge		Tarrant County Criminal Court 2		Republican													
Alex Kim		Judge		Tarrant County Criminal Court 3		Republican													
Russ Casey		Justice of the Peace		Tarrant County, Precinct 3		Republican													

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★										Local Endorsements										★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Name					Office					District					Party Affiliation														
Mark Reid					Collin County Commissioner					Precinct 1					Republican														

For an updated list, please visit our website at THSC.org/endorsements

LEVELS OF LEARNING

by Lynn Dean



Home school parents talk a lot about teaching and learning. We read books, go to conferences, and attend seminars. Intuitively we know that both teaching and learning happen on many different levels, but breaking the process down can be a bit boggling.

Scripture hints of levels of competence in Exodus 35: 31. In speaking of a man named Bezalel, Moses tells the children of Israel that God has called Bezalel to the work of building the tabernacle and has “filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all craftsmanship.” Modern educators use a tool called Bloom’s taxonomy to break down these terms and define them incrementally. By understanding the levels of learning, parents can teach in ways that help their children learn to their maximum potential.

REMEMBER

The most basic level of learning is remembering information. As we introduce children to primary information, we may ask them to recognize and memorize certain elementary facts. Learning in the early years tends to center on activities like matching, listing, selecting, or labeling. These exercises help children to internalize the basics. Checking for proficiency at this level may be as simple as asking your child to rewrite or describe the information.

UNDERSTAND

We would likely all agree that it is not enough to parrot data. We want to know that our students grasp the concepts behind the facts. To test your children’s understanding, you might invite them to explain the information in their own words, give examples, summarize, discuss, or predict how the bits of information they have gathered might play out in real life. This last exercise prepares them to segue into the next level of learning.

APPLY

Students demonstrate a firm grasp of new concepts by showing that they can apply their new skills to a variety of similar-but-different

situations. Repeated application results in mastery. Challenge students to develop proficiency by solving story problems, modifying samples, drawing illustrations to show cause and effect, or using their new skills in a presentation. Unit study activities are a wonderful way to pull these first steps together and cement them in memory.

These first three levels give students the tools for thinking. Too often “schooling” stops there, but true education does not. Now that our students have the tools for thinking, we must teach them how to use their tools and build on their knowledge.

ANALYZE

To develop wisdom, students must know which tools to use in which situations. We can help them separate their new skills into components, sorting facts from theory. At this phase they may benefit from examining, categorizing, comparing and contrasting, outlining, or diagramming--breaking down the components in new ways to understand how they fit together. It is at this level that students begin to make interdisciplinary connections. For example, they may realize that the invention of the printing press (science) enabled Shakespeare’s plays (art) to be published and sold as books (literature) to a newly literate population (history), standardizing English spelling and punctuation (grammar).

EVALUATE

By this time your student is beginning to weigh his growing collection of facts and form his own value judgments. Isn’t this exactly what we hope our children will be able to do as adults? They are learning to assess alternatives and make wise choices. We can reinforce their development by creating opportunities for them to critique options, to make their own decisions, and to offer persuasive recommendations. They may begin to enjoy activities such as debate, essay writing, or volunteering in civic causes.

CREATE

The ultimate product of an educated mind is creativity. When we create we recombine bits of our experience to construct new ideas into new forms that take on new meaning. Once your child reaches this level of learning, the knowledge he has mastered will begin to bloom in beautiful ways that may amaze him—and you! Then the process begins anew as he tackles new challenges.

Knowledge is meant to change us. It changes us on three levels. First, it changes our minds, then it changes our hearts, and, finally, it changes our lives. Remember our friend Bezalel? His Hebrew name means “in the shadow of God.” Christian education literally teaches us to live in the shadow of God—to take our thoughts captive and to allow the Lord to shape our character. Then, as each man thinketh, and out of the fullness of our hearts, we speak and we live.



Lynn Dean was a reluctant historian. Bored with schoolbooks that chronicled battle dates and dead people, she feared inflicting mind-numbing data on her own students. Fortunately, she discovered the classic appeal of storytelling--adventure sagas about real people who struggled to overcome obstacles while pursuing their dreams. For more than a decade Lynn has combined unit studies, field trips, and quality literature to create unique and memorable experiences in discovery learning.

I AM APOLOGIA SCIENCE

"Since high school, I have been involved in multiple research projects. My scientific pursuits have ranged from biofuels work in Denmark to computer simulations in New York. I've presented at multiple conferences, including one at Stanford University. This past summer, I participated in a Department of Energy-sponsored nuclear chemistry program at Brookhaven National Lab. Through all these experiences, my basic knowledge and passion stems from my education with Apologia Science."

Kyle Hancock
College student



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apologia.com

Avoiding Math + Phobia

I have taught algebra for years, both in the classroom and to my own children, but if you bring up calculus, my eyes will glaze over. Calculus was the stage in my math education at which I was dumped into the deep end of the pool. I emerged barely alive and never wanted to go back. Quite understandably.

For some, the word “algebra” has that effect. For others, the very word “math” has a negative connotation. This is all unfortunate and actually quite unnecessary. Really. Toddlers don’t fear math. They learn to count quite naturally. “One car, two cars . . .” A true fear and dislike of math is a response to poor teaching, which results, not surprisingly, in poor math performance.

Math is a language, a gift from God in the sense that it describes truth about His Creation. It is innately harmonious and beautiful, like music. The challenge is: How do we teach math in such a way as to expose our sons and daughters to this beauty and at the same time train them in the mastery of its grammar?

As home schooling parents, we must grasp that beauty ourselves. The ancient Greeks used a special ratio in their architecture that made their buildings pleasing to the eye; it is known, quite simply, as the Golden Ratio. The Byzantine Emperor Justinian decided to think “outside the box” in his search for beauty. He employed mathematicians to design his masterpiece, the Hagia Sophia, not along rectangular lines, but by using circles. The domed edifice that resulted sparkled in the sun, a wonder of the medieval world.

Architecture is but one application of the truth and beauty of mathematics. Take your child outside. Is he learning circumference? Have him measure the actual diameter of the tires on your vehicle. “How far can the car go if the wheels turn completely around ten times?” He is doing physics, quite painlessly.

Manipulatives tap into the necessity of relating the abstract to the “real.” They don’t have to be expensive. Count out twenty toothpicks and ask your daughter to put them into four groups, with the same number of toothpicks in each group. Then change the question: Divide twenty into five groups. Multiplication, division, and the commutative property—well, she will learn fancy terminology later.

Now for the practical, the everyday: Your child must master each concept before moving on to the next. This is incredibly

important. Math is not like history, where a poor grade one quarter may not mean much. Math builds. You cannot learn division without mastering multiplication.

Learning math is like building a house. You pour the foundation. Once that cures, you start putting up the framing, and so forth. What would you think of someone who wanted to frame the day after pouring, while the concrete was still soft? That's what we do to children when we pass them on to the next level before concepts are fully mastered in the last.

How do you learn to drive a car? If you have to think about each part of driving, you will crash! The various skills needed to operate an automobile, plus the rules of the road, must be overlearned. They must be automatic. Similarly, the fundamental skills of arithmetic must be overlearned. Your son must be able to multiply without thinking. Eight times seven is fifty-six. I know for some it's hard, but persevere. A few minutes a day, and he'll nail it.

Worried about algebra on the horizon? Actually, most of basic algebra is simply putting x's into fractions, decimals, and percents. Difficulty with algebra is usually difficulty with arithmetic. So assess the basics.

"But my son is already taking algebra and is so frustrated!" You might not need to go back two grades. Instead, start the math time with "warm ups." Every athlete understands the need for basic exercises before the game. Do a few arithmetic problems from his weak areas each day, followed by some work from his current curriculum. Always keep the math period short until some semblance of success is attained. Once that happens, lengthen the time until you are back to a reasonable schedule.

I remember advancing a young man who had passed with a "C." to the next level. The results were disastrous. "Just getting by" is not good enough in math; it sets up a student for future failure and math "phobia!" What a wonderful gift we have in home schooling our children: We can strengthen their weak areas and temper the speed of instruction in order to maximize learning and, hopefully, to maximize enjoyment!



Lynne Tagawa is a wife and mother of four sons. The author of Sam Houston's Republic, she is a secondary science teacher with experience in private schools and in homeschooling her own sons. Presently she tutors and teaches home-school co-op classes.

"We focused on the issues important to Texas families, and tonight's victory is an affirmation of the success we had fighting for our conservative values in the Legislature. I thank God for this victory and I will never stop fighting to keep Texas strong and our families free and prosperous."



"Your support and the support of the THSC has been invaluable, and I look forward to continuing to serve you in the Texas Senate!"

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Summer Reading Lists

by Ruth O'Neil

Ahhh! Summer vacation. Students breathe a sigh of relief, while parents may dread the "I'm bored" whining and also may worry about all the knowledge their children will forget over the summer months. One way to keep kids from forgetting all that we tried to get them to remember is by reading—something that is good for kids of all ages. The only thing that changes is the choice of books.

Reading is something you can do with your children, especially if they are younger, or you can have them read on their own. You can set up a specific time of the day for reading, having them read for thirty minutes on a daily basis, for example. You can allow them to read at night before bed. Whatever you do, make it fun and something they want to do. Sometimes I read aloud to my kids while they eat lunch. It's usually one chapter, which is not always enough for them. They look forward to the next day's reading!

Here are some ideas to keep your kids reading all summer long and not forgetting all that they learned during the school year.

Take them to the library.

The library is a great place to start. There is a wealth of books, on any subject you can imagine, that are free for the borrowing. Let your children pick out books that they just want to read, but you can pick out books that you would prefer they read too. Usually books are checked out for a couple of weeks, but in my experience it doesn't take them that long to finish reading all the books they have chosen. When they run out of the ones they have picked out it's time for you to pull out the books that you have chosen.

Let them watch the movie after reading the book.

When you hear of a movie coming out that is based on a book, read the book together to anticipate seeing it at the theater. Although watching a movie instead of reading a

book is never something I would suggest, it is fun to watch the movie after the book has been read. Many times kids will find that they actually liked the book better.

Buy or borrow books that remind them of what they learned.

One of the things my third-grader covered in science this year was the differences between mammals and amphibians. I will get books about frogs and toads that he might enjoy reading. While he is reading those books, he will be reminded of what an amphibian is and what makes it special. He will also be reminded of the vocabulary associated with amphibians that can sometimes be difficult to remember. Did your children learn about invertebrates, snakes, or entomology? Find books that reiterate what they learned.

Participate in summer reading programs at bookstores.

My kids have enjoyed the programs at our local book stores. Barnes and Noble has a reading program in which the kids read a certain number of books and the children are rewarded—with more books! These programs are an encouraging way for children to get something special for their efforts.

Take part in summer reading programs at the library.

Many libraries have reading programs also. Librarians do some reading aloud, but it's usually more fun than just sitting in a circle listening to someone read. There are projects and crafts to be completed. Sometimes they have a special storyteller. Check your local library to see if it has any special summer events.

Encourage them to read the classics.

A large portion of the SAT and ACT tests



is vocabulary. Reading the classics is a great way to increase children's vocabulary. They don't necessarily have to look up every word they don't know—it is summer vacation, after all. Sometimes they can figure out what an unfamiliar word means from the context. Your kids do not have to be in high school to get them reading the classics; start young.

Get books that encourage children to read for themselves.

Nothing is more discouraging than making children read books that are too hard for them. When you choose books, they should

be somewhat challenging so that children are not bored, but if the book is too difficult, it will be tossed aside and not read at all. Don't forget: This is summer vacation. Let them read books that may be lower than their grade level, just to keep them reading.

Help your kids continue their educations by having them read books all summer long. Buy a book for a reward. Buy a book to read on the way to vacation. Rainy days are perfect for reading. Choose books that reinforce what was learned throughout the school year, but make it fun. Make books something special so your children will want to keep on reading.

Finding Good Books to Read

So you want your kids to read during their summer vacation, but where do you find good books? Here are a few websites that give lists of books grouped by age. (Proceed with caution; some of these books may be unsuitable by some families' standards.)

<http://www.classical-homeschooling.org/celoop/1000.html>

www.education-world.com/summer_reading

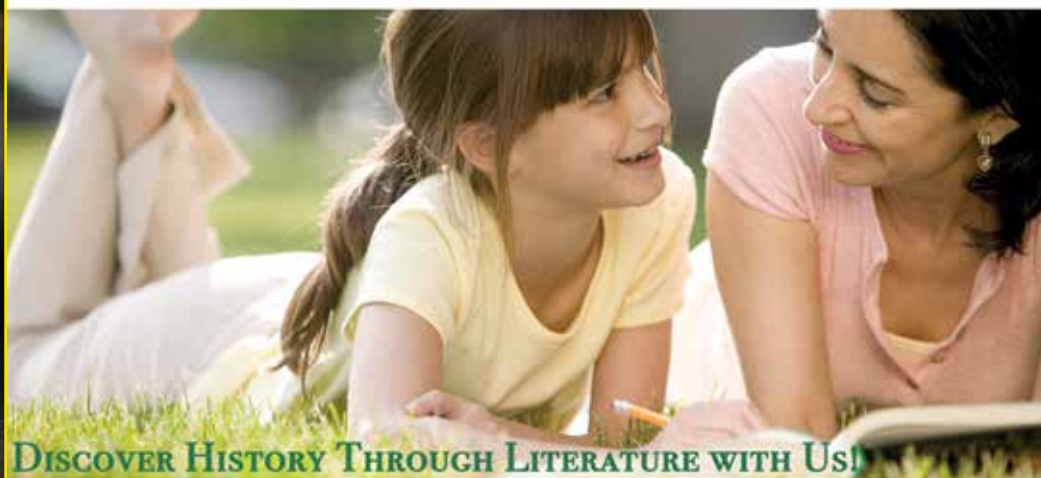
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberywinners/medalwinners>



Ruth O'Neil has been a freelance writer for more than 20 years, publishing hundreds of articles in dozens of publications as well as a few books. She has spent the last 16 years homeschooling her three children. When she's not writing or homeschooling her kids, Ruth spends her time quilting, reading, scrapbooking, camping and hiking with her family.



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ioLanche.com




The Texas Home School Coalition has been very active in protecting home schooling rights on three fronts: academic, legal, and legislative.

Guarding the Texas Academic Front


THSC President Tim Lambert addressed the issue of diploma mills with the Texas attorney general's office and cooperated with them in order to bring some of these businesses under investigation for fraud. Businesses such as these had in the past made false statements that they were "accredited" by the Coalition, something that THSC does not do. Because the office of the Texas Attorney General has pursued legal prosecution of these businesses, precedent is now set


by which these issues should be handled through prosecution of the guilty rather than through legislation of the innocent. Taking this route will avoid unintended, detrimental consequences that passing legislation would have had for private schools and legitimate home schoolers, yet will still provide justice towards fraudulent businesses and hold them accountable for disreputable practices. 


Protecting Texas Families on the Legal Front

THSC continues to support the Tutt family in their legal battle, following an incident in which CPS subsequently removed their children in November 2013 despite the lack of any evidence of abuse or neglect. Although the second judge ruled the removal of the children unjustified, the family remains separated. One child remains in state custody, with no legal justification provided. The family was required to put the other children into public schools. Attendees at the multiple hearings on the case state that arguments by the prosecution frequently devolve into personal attacks against the family, including issues of faith and home schooling, neither of which provides the CPS legal grounds for removal of children. Given the grievous wrongs that have befallen this family, THSC Association has questioned in an official letter the actions of CPS representatives involved in the case. The Department of Family and Protective Services responded with a letter denying any wrongdoing. THSC will continue to update its members on this case and to offer information on its Judicial Wall of Shame regarding questionable judicial practices in this and other parental rights cases across the state. 

A Boston case highlights just how important open records access is. A 14-year-old girl, Justina Pelletier was taken from her parents when doctors at Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) disagreed with the diagnosis of doctors at Tufts Medical Center. Tufts doctors had been treating Justina for some time for a rare condition. BCH doctors, believing the condition to be psychological in origin, ceased medical treatment and admitted Justina, whose symptom was difficulty walking, to a psych ward. When the parents sought to remove their child from BCH and return her to the care of Tufts

doctors, BCH called CPS, and the child was removed from her parents. She was placed under the care of CPS, which has allowed BCH doctors to keep her in the psychological ward there for more than a year and has restricted parental visits to one hour per week. Justina's condition has deteriorated over that time. The case became public only after violation of the court's gag order preventing anyone involved in the case from speaking about it publicly. It is not surprising that public outrage has swept the country against what has been done to this child and her parents in the name of "the best interests of the child." 

The home schooling community has also been closely following the case of the Romeikes, who fled Germany in 2008 to prevent the taking of their children by the national government, which does not allow home schooling. In 2010 a U.S. federal judge granted them political asylum, but the Obama Administration sought an appeal to overturn that decision and was successful—a decision that was met with outrage by the public. In response, on March 4 the U. S. Department of Homeland Security told media sources that it had decided to grant the family "indefinite deferred status," allowing the Romeikes to stay in the United States. 

Public awareness and political pressure are often the means of bringing about justice in situations such as these, when those who are required to dispense justice fairly refuse to do so. THSC will continue to make the public aware of these attacks against the fundamental, constitutional rights of parents and to fight this war on every front. 

Endorsing Candidates That Will Protect Parental Rights

THSC has been working diligently vetting potential candidates in state and local elections. The races for judgeships of the 247th District Court and 311th Family Court are key races. THSC endorses John Schmude, who has made a central issue of his campaign the current policy of the 247th District Court (which his opponent, as associate judge, is currently enforcing). That policy states that if

In the 311th Family Court, THSC is working to defeat the current judge, who is on THSC's Texas Judicial Wall of Shame. Judge Denise Pratt has been forced into a runoff as a result of numerous criminal complaints filed against her, not to mention the Association's concerns with her view of parental rights. Last year Pratt was admonished for failing to rule on a parent's visitation motion for ten whole months. A recent


It is that public awareness and political pressure are often the means of bringing about justice in such situations when those who are required to dispense justice fairly refuse to do so.

ANY parent does not file a form showing proof of completion of a government-mandated parenting course, then he/she cannot even visit his/her own children. John Schmude says, "This is the only court in Harris County (and, to my knowledge, the only court in the state) that imposes this flagrantly unconstitutional rule; and this rule applies to every single parent who has a case in that court..."

"gag" order issued by Judge Pratt also caused controversy, since it appears to apply to every pending case in her court involving children. Since that time, Judge Pratt has been removed from five more cases and has been criticized for making a final ruling in a child custody case without hearing any testimony or evidence. THSC endorses her opponent, Alicia Franklin, in the runoff. 🇺🇸🇩🇪



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Easy Grammar Plus and Daily Grams

by Shelli Simons

Easy Grammar: Plus by Wanda C. Phillips, Ed.D., geared for grades six and up, provides the next step from the big, red Easy Grammar book that I loved when we were home schooling our sons.

I must admit that I used Easy Grammar as a grammar reference book—I was enamored with the list of prepositions at the beginning of the book. Memorizing this list helps the learner to put nouns in their place: Is the noun the subject of the sentence or an object of a preposition; or might it be the predicate nominative? Some of my coworkers' eyes rolled or went blank when my boss and I started English geek conversations during staff meetings. I love the language to the point of taking offense when it's abused. The list that impressed me is continued in the Easy Grammar series.

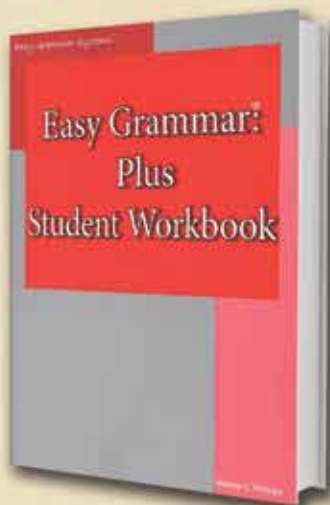
When I started a brief look-through of the updated, seventh grade book, I got a little giddy. The layout of the book generated a personal epiphany. On editorial projects, my boss often wanted to diagram sentences. I never completely understood the process. I had some excellent English teachers when I was a public school student; they loved the language, but I never succeeded in the dry task of diagramming sentences. The

epiphany was, "Shelli, you can diagram sentences!" I don't remember all the lines and slashes, but I can determine the gist of sentences and their parts being parallel. (I don't remember that word from school, but my boss used it often.)

There is an exercise after the introduction of each new element in this book. The student labels the different parts of a sentence or phrase—thus the tools for possible diagramming. Within each lesson are page numbers referring to the companion practice guide, **Daily Grams**. This resource guides students through practice drills of each new concept introduced in Easy Grammar: Plus. The author does an excellent job of guiding both the student and the teacher.

I was pleased to see that my old friend Easy Grammar is still around and am happy to recommend it as a valuable

addition to any home school curriculum! The new version, **Easy Grammar: Plus**, and its companion, **Daily Grams**, will enhance your home school experience! It is available at www.easygrammar.com.



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A Vision in the Law

By Sheila Campbell



“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

— Proverbs 29:18

I hate to get lost, so when I travel I usually take several precautions to make sure I know exactly where I am going. I set the GPS on my iPhone and I print the directions to my destination using Google Maps or some other online navigation program. These programs usually give me very detailed directions, but sometimes I can get bogged down with too many details, like, “Slight right to exit, continue right to stop, left on access, and left on new highway.” Sometimes I just want it to say, “Turn left and head west on US Hwy. 194.” So, despite all the modern technology available, as an extra precaution I still like to carry a good, old-fashioned, printed map. I want to be able to see the big picture and know where I’m going. I want to know what other roads may intersect my path, what roads run parallel to the road on which I’m traveling, or what alternate routes may be available if I should take a wrong turn.

Proverbs 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” A vision is a mental picture or foresight—a plan for the future. It is a map that provides direction for our lives. In this day and age we desperately need Christians with a vision for their lives, a vision for their families, and a vision for our nation. But when we think on Proverbs 29:18, we shouldn’t just stop at the first part of the verse. The second part of Proverbs 29:18 states, “But he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” In this proverb the law is the vision for the people and it was intended to give the people direction and guidance.

When our country was founded, the Constitution and civil laws that were established were a reflection of God’s law, and I believe that the vision held by our nation’s forefathers was that of a nation in which individuals were able to govern themselves according to the law. Today, as a nation, we have lost sight of God’s law, and the line between right and wrong has been so distorted that there are many who no longer believe in absolute truth nor hold to a set standard for morality. But we, as a nation, have been blessed to have easy access to an ancient guidebook: the Bible. Within the pages of this book, we can again find the law and the foundation on which we can lay the vision for our lives, our families, and our nation.

As Christian parents we have the power and the duty to impact a generation and perhaps even change the course of this nation, with the Bible as our map to find our way back and as our vision for the future. Its pages contain direction and a vision for individual lives, families, and nations. It contains the big picture so we know what roads may intersect our path, what obstacles we might encounter, and how to redirect our course if we lose our way.

When we give our children knowledge of God’s law and a love for God’s Word, we impart a vision for their lives and give them direction. This is a vision big enough to include and to influence the world our children may someday encounter, like the

public school peer your son wants to befriend or the working mother who may someday be your daughter’s neighbor. It is a guidebook to redirect our children when they wander off course, and it is a map big enough to remind us that our children may still be on course, even if the details of their lives do not exactly mirror ours.

We do not need to give our children detailed directions for their lives and their future. We guide them through details of the path we are traveling by simply living our daily lives together with them. As they grow older, our children may choose a different route than the one we traveled, or their path may be very similar to our own, but with God’s Word as their guide, whatever route they choose, we can rest securely knowing they still have directions and a vision for their future.

Sheila Campbell began homeschooling in 1991 and continued homeschooling as a single parent after the death of her husband in 2001. She was also the parent of a special needs child whom she cared for at home until his death in 2004. Now that her children have all graduated, Sheila pursues her writing,



after being a valued member of the THSC staff. She resides in Hale Center and invites you to visit her blog at www.pausingtopraise.com.

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The Calling to Wash Our Children's Feet



Image: Christ Washing the Apostles Feet by Dirk van Baburen, circa 1616, Public Domain

by Michael McHugh

The longer my wife and I home educate our children, the more I realize why so few parents today are willing to commit themselves to the task of teaching their own youngsters. For starters, the commitment to home school places parents in the position of having to spend numerous hours each week teaching, grading papers, preparing lesson plans, and providing their children with extracurricular activities or socialization. When these routine duties are completed, commonly there are areas of the curricula that need to be expanded or supplemented, such as in the realms of music or physical education. Then parents can also expect to deal with the challenge of sibling rivalry, as well as child discipline and correction. Oh, and did I mention that while the full-time efforts of home instruction are taking place, moms and dads must still look after things such as meals, laundry, the paying of bills, and general housework? I think I can rest my case.

There should be no doubt that the calling of parents into Christian home education is rooted in the duty of parents to minister to the needs of those whom God sovereignly places within their

household. It is emphatically not a call to be ministered unto, but rather to minister the grace of God to immature souls who are in desperate need of guidance, instruction, and direction. The high and difficult calling of parenthood is also a holy mission, for the “little ones” in the Kingdom of Christ rely heavily upon their parents to provide them with the instruction they need to be fit workmen for the Lord.

It is quite amazing to read the New Testament accounts of the exchanges between Christ and His disciples and the dialogue that took place among the disciples themselves. In many respects these passages enable readers to see how childish and immature the disciples so often were as they sought to follow the Master. On many occasions Jesus had to endure their slowness or inability to correctly perceive a situation, in addition to their petty jealousies and bickering. For these reasons and others, Jesus often encountered resistance as He sought to teach the very men whom He knew were called by the Father to sit under His teaching. What is even more amazing is that Christ never gave up on these “hard cases.” He

never became weary in well doing and never permitted anything to stop Him from ministering into the lives of those the Father had given unto Him.

A simple but powerful example of the perseverance and humility of the Master was when He washed His disciples' feet, just hours before He was to begin His march to the cross. This amazing scene of Christ washing His disciples' feet is a marvelous testimony to the truth that, "Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." (Matthew 20:27) The acts of Christ toward His disciples—i.e., His students—are made all the more meaningful as we reflect upon the fact that He knew that these same men would soon forsake and abandon Him. Nothing could or would divert the Lord from loving His sheep, with all of their faults and failings, to the very end. The opening five verses of John 13 record how Christ felt about His disciples; He called them "His own." Jesus regarded the souls of those under His charge as His peculiar property, as objects of special care that demanded His personal attention and diligence.

In like manner, home schooling parents must learn to train and disciple their children with the same type of humility and commitment that was modeled by the Lord Jesus Christ. The calling of parents as teachers demands that they be willing to pick up their crosses and condescend to the level of their students in order to help prepare them for service in Christ's kingdom. It also requires that parent-

teachers be willing to take upon themselves the role of servants, daily washing their children with the truth of God's Word, while enduring the immaturity and restlessness of their "little ones" for Jesus' sake. Home educators who are willing to abandon their own self-interest and pride are in the best possible position to inspire their students to recognize that they, too, must be willing to pick up a basin and towel as they pursue their own God-given destinies.



For over thirty years, Michael McHugh has worked as a teacher, lecturer, home school program administrator, and textbook author/editor for the Christian Liberty Academy in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Mr. McHugh is also the founder and director of a publishing ministry known as Great Light Publications. Over the last three decades, he has written numerous articles that have appeared in newsletters and scholarly journals across the US and abroad.

Michael McHugh is a graduate of Whitefield College, and holds a BS degree in the field of Christian education.

As a home school father, Michael lives in the Chicago area with his wife and seven children. Mr. McHugh and his wife were married in 1984 and have been actively engaged in homeschooling their children since 1988.

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THSC Association, a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization dedicated to serving and protecting the home school community of Texas, is supported by membership fees (not tax-deductible) and sales of resources. The Association now offers legal assistance in regard to home education issues as a benefit to its members, along with several other benefits and discounts.

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Paxton family, left to right: Tucker, Katie, Angela, Ken, Mattie, and Abby.

"Ken and I had the privilege of home schooling all four of our children at different points in their lives, and those times were an incredible blessing to our family. As a home school Dad, you can absolutely count on Ken to defend your right to home school your children. I hope you will vote for my husband in the May 27th Republican primary runoff."

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