



Poland

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6



K12 Independence provides you with everything you need to give your child an excellent education at home.

Developed by education experts from K12 Inc., K12 Independence provides:

- Full curriculum Language Arts/English, Math, Science, History, Art, and Music
- **Materials** Textbooks, manipulatives, science equipment, art supplies, CDs, and more
- Education tools Planning, progress, and assessment tools
- Online School Lessons and tools accessed from the Internet

This powerful academic program allows you to work side by side with your children at home to help give them an education for a lifetime.

Receive 10% off

all K12 Independence OLS and materials orders with a prepaid subscription contract of one or two years. Call 866.512.2273 before August 15 to take advantage of this great opportunity!



For more information about K12 Independence call toll free 866.512.2273 or visit www.K12.com.

Classrooms

The Ild Schoolhouse

Homeschool UK As a homeschooling mom, have you ever thought of yourself as Wendy trying to mother the Lost Boys?

98

Resource Room Taking a closer look at special learners. Unique needs of gifted children, plus firsthand accounts of vision therapy and Asperger's syndrome.

144

Fine Arts and Music

"Wet" your appetite for nautical art!

76

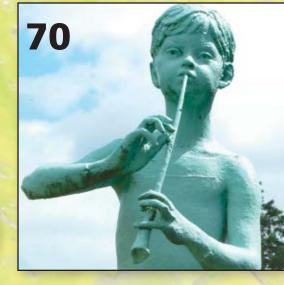
- 16 From Our Family To Yours Meet the publishers of The Old Schoolhouse Magazine in Gray, Tennessee.
- **24 Editorial** Who's behind the wheel of your homeschool "bus"?
- **30 Chapel** Overwhelmed with the extra demands of special needs children?
- 36 Teachers' Lounge Exchange ideas with and enjoy hearing from other homeschoolers.
- **46 Show and Tell** Homeschooling by the sea, and more.
- **Lesson Planner** Taking a closer look at two phonics programs.
- 58 Show and Tell, Too Meet the people behind Character Quality Language Arts, Lamplighter Publications, and Auralog: TeLL me More.
- Poland has a central spot in the history of Europe.
- **Real Science** The ocean offers a world of wonders for study and fun!
- 86 Top Hats & Parasols

 Beachcombing for some of the best sea-inspired poetry!
- **92 Homeschool 101**Homeschooling with less stress.

- **122 Styles** Charlotte Mason and living books methods.
- **132 HisStory** Recording your own family's heritage is an important part of history studies.
- 138 Homeschool Units
 This homeschooling family took school to sea!
- **152 Little Artists** Learn about the America's Cup and draw a sailboat!
- 156 Field Trip American Heritage
 Girls bring Christian values back to
 girl scouting; world studies through
 summer day camps; and more!
- 171 The Natural Schoolhouse
 Is seafood safe? And keeping
 your baby clean—naturally!
- 180 Contests for Readers
 Check out the prizes you can win!
- **Lab** Homeschool families share their experiences, good and bad, with a variety of resources.
- 195 No Joke
- 198 Homeschool Alumni







www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

Campus Store Index of Advertisers

A Beka Book*	Five Finger Paragraph, The53	New Little Blessings	177
A+ Educational Video Rentals	Focus 2 Learn*	No Greater Joy	191
ABBA Homeschool Academy*	Focus on Your Child / Briargate Media*5	Noeo Science Curriculum	
Academic Apparel	Foundation for American Christian Education 44	Nothing New Press*	150
Accelerated Christian Education* 15, 96-97	Fourth Day Press	Once Upon a Family / Vicki Merrill*	162
ACT Advantage*	Generations of Virtue*	Overcomers Books & Supplies*	137
Alaska Bible College*	GeoDeo Educational Resources	Paidea Classics*	
Aleks*13	Go Phonics Multi Sensory Phonics Program 187	Pam Marshalla*	
Alpha Omega Publications*35	God's World News69	Paradigm Accelerated Curriculum*	
Amanda Bennett Unit Studies*	Grace College142	Passport Learning	
America's Future*	Great Smoky Mountains Railroad	Pasttimes*	
Answers in Genesis*	Greek 'n Stuff*	PCI Education*	
APOLOGIA Educational Ministries, Inc.*83	Griffon, The	Peel Products / Drawbooks	
Art of Eloquence	Haptoons	Phonics Tutor	
Artistic Pursuits	Harmonic Vision	Pillsbury Baptist Bible College	
Art-Share*	Heart of Dakota Publishing	PixLit*	
At Home With Hebrew	Hexco, Inc*	PlanetCDROM.	
Auralog, Inc.*	High Desert Museum	Pocket Full of Therapy*	
AVKO*	Home Field Advantage	Portland State University, Continuing Educat	
Barchowsky Fluent Handwriting*	Home Science Tools*	Press, Getty-Dubay Italic Handwriting Seri	
Barker Creek	HomeScholar Books.com	Praise Hymn Inc*	
Beautiful Feet Books	Homeschool In The Woods*	Progeny Press*.	
Betty Lukens*	Homeschool Tracker / TGHomeSoft, LLC* 68	Quality Science Labs, LLC / Micro Chem	
		Rack Room Shoes	
Bible Literacy Project	HomeschoolingBooks.com*	Rainbow Resource*	
Bilingual Books*	Homeschoolopoly/Berthume Enterprises* 163	Regent University*	
Bill of Rights Bicentennial Committee	Homespun Tapes	Ripe 4 Harvest	
Biology 101 / Westfield Studios*	Homestead Originals*	Rod & Staff Publishers	
Birch Court Books	How Great Thou Art*		
BJU Press	ICAN/Little Giant Steps	Rosetta Stone Fairfield Language Saxon Math /Harcourt*	
Blue Book of Grammar & Punctuation*75	In the Hands of a Child*		
Bonnie Terry Learning	Inheritance Online.com*	Scaredy Cat Reading System*	
Book Close Outs	Insight Technical Education*	Schoolhouse Store, The*	
Bright Ideas Press	Institute for Excellence in Writing*29	Searchlight Ministries.	
Cadron Creek	K12*IFC	Secondary Solutions*	
Calvert School*	Keepers of the Faith*170	Sevenstar Academy*	
Cedar Valley Publishing*	Keystone National High School*129	Shiller Math*	
Christ Centered Curriculum*141	Kinderbach*150	Shop at Joes	
Christian Computing Magazine	Knowledge Quest	Shurley Instructional Materials, Inc.*	
Christian Liberty Press / CLASS Homeschool*.189	KONOS	Simply Music*	
Christian Liberty Press*	KONOS Connection*	Sports Spectrum Magazine	
Christianbook.com*	Kregel71	State History From A Christian Perspective.	
Citizens High School	Kumon~North America	Tandy Leather Factory*	
City Creek Press*	Latin Road to English Grammar*	Teachers' Institute for Special Education*	
Covenant Home Curriculum*168	Learning Adventures*	Texas Tech Outreach & Distance Education.	
Creation Sensation*	Learning Through History Magazine*	THE Science Fair.com	
CROSS Training HomeschoolKarate.com* 170	Liberty Fund	Timberdoodle Company*	
Daystar Publishing*	Little Giant Steps105	Tornado SafeRoom	
Deeper Roots*	Living Books Curriculum125	TOS 19 Free Gift Promo	21
Doorposts*31	Marmee Dear & Co.*	TOS Bulletin Board—Classified Ads	
Drive Thru History America	Master Books94	TOS Ebooks.	
Dutch Mill Bulbs 61	Math Mammoth*45	Treasure Box Press*	79
ED Anywhere*	Math Tutor DVD*	Trigger Memory Systems*	32
Educational Resources	Math-U-See	Trinity Western University*	
ELI (Essential Learning Institute)	Memoria Press	Visual Manna	144
Ellison*	Moody Publishers*	Whole Heart Ministries*	
Emerald Sun Beach Rentals*	Motherboard Books	Wilds Christian Camp, The*	
Family Safe Internet*	Multnomah Publishers / MP Books*9	Write Shop*	
Family Tools*	National Center for Constitutional Studies	Writing Strands*	
Farm Country General Store 172	National Response Marketing Inc. 127	Zeezok Publishing / The Book Peddler* 12	_

^{*} Go to our home page to find these advertisers' website links in our online Campus Store.

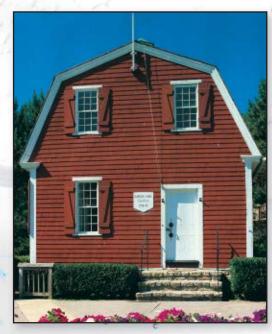
About Our Cover

The Nathan Hale Schoolhouse Cornwall, Vermont

By Tina Rice

wenty-one year old Revolutionary War Patriot Nathan Hale spoke the words, "I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country!" as he faced his death. The British hanged him without trial on September 22, 1776. Hale was a former teacher at Union Schoolhouse in New London, Connecticut, Union Schoolhouse is now called the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse and is featured on our cover.

The school was built around 1774 and is typical in architecture for schools of its time. It is currently a museum operated by the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The Connecticut SAR is working to restore damaged flooring and ceiling plaster in order for visitors



to see how it looked to Connecticut hero Nathan Hale. The plank flooring on the first floor is the original floor.

Nathan Hale was born in 1755 and actively encouraged education for daughters as well as sons. He graduated from Yale College in 1773 and taught at Union School from 1774 to 1775. He was an enthusiastic teacher and was loved by his students. One of his journal entries reads, "I love my employment; find many friends among strangers; have time for scientific study. My school is by no means difficult to take care of. It consists of about 30 scholars; ten of whom are college Latiners [college bound] and all but six of the rest are writers." Hale admitted girls to his school and several attended, even though they had to arrive before the boys came to school—at 5 in the morning!

Nathan Hale was elected first sergeant of the New London militia. In 1776 he was commissioned a captain in the Continental Army. During the Battle of Long Island, Hale volunteered to reconnoiter behind enemy lines. There he was captured and condemned. English general William Howe and his company were said to be very impressed with Hale's behavior as he faced death.

New London is a seaport city on the Connecticut coast located at the mouth of the Thames River. It was a base of naval operations during the Revolutionary War. During the 1800s, New London became a major whaling port. Currently New London is home to the United States Coast Guard Academy and several colleges. New London Harbor is homeport to the Coast Guard's Chinook and Eagle and to 17 U.S. Navy submarines.

Thank you to the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for their information about the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse and Nathan Hale.

Did you know that you can submit a school for cover consideration? Send us several deadcentered photos with natural surroundings. The front or front/side view is best. If we select your photo, we will need a 9 X 11 photo, negative, or digital image (300 dpi). If your photograph is used, we will pay you \$50, feature your name as cover photographer, and send you 2 copies of the magazine. Send photos and details about the school to COVER PHOTO SEARCH, The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, 535 Indian Trail, Taylors, SC 29687 or email digital photos to trish@TheHomeschoolMagazine.com. Be sure to include your name, email address, and phone number.

Home Room

Old Schoolhouse

PUBLISHERS

Paul and Gena Suarez, The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine, LLC Tennessee

SENIOR EDITOR Deborah Wuehler,

California

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Patricia Tirado, Dzign Associates, South Carolina

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Dena Wood, Washington

MANAGING EDITOR

Sarah White, South Carolina

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Marni Potvin, South Carolina

COMPOSITION SERVICES Kelley Moore, South Carolina

MARKETING MANAGER, AFFILIATES PROGRAM MANAGER

Julie Nott, Illinois

SALES & ADVERTISING SPECIALIST, NEW MARKETS DEVELOPMENT

Lisa Barthuly, Washington

SENIOR ADVERTISING SERVICES Mari Almon, Georgia

SALES AND WEB SUPPORT Amy Osborn, California

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

Laura Fox California

SCHOOLHOUSE STORE ADMINISTRATOR

Julie Forsythe, Texas

CUSTOMER

SERVICE ASSISTANT Pam McCormick, Nebraska

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANT

Julie Ott

WEB TEAM

Kim Sample and Christy Sample, Black Crow Designs, Pennsylvania

HOMESTEADBLOGGER.COM SENIOR EDITOR

Nancy Carter, Kentucky

HOMESCHOOLBLOGGER.COM SENIOR EDITOR

Tia Linschied, Oregon

FULFILLMENT

Marc Barthuly, Washington

SUMMER COVER PHOTOGRAPHY

William H. Johnson, New Hampshire

A Beka Book Excellence in Education from a Christian Perspective



Serving 250,000 Home School Students

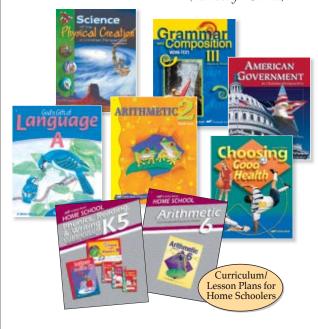


Attend a Home School Materials Display

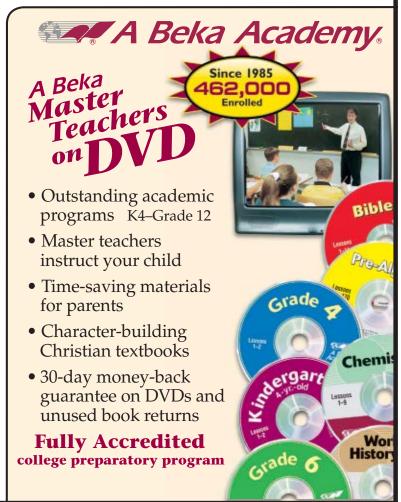
- FREE shipping on items ordered at display!
- Textbooks and support materials on display
- abeka.org/123 1-800-874-3597, ext. 123

Premier Home School Textbooks

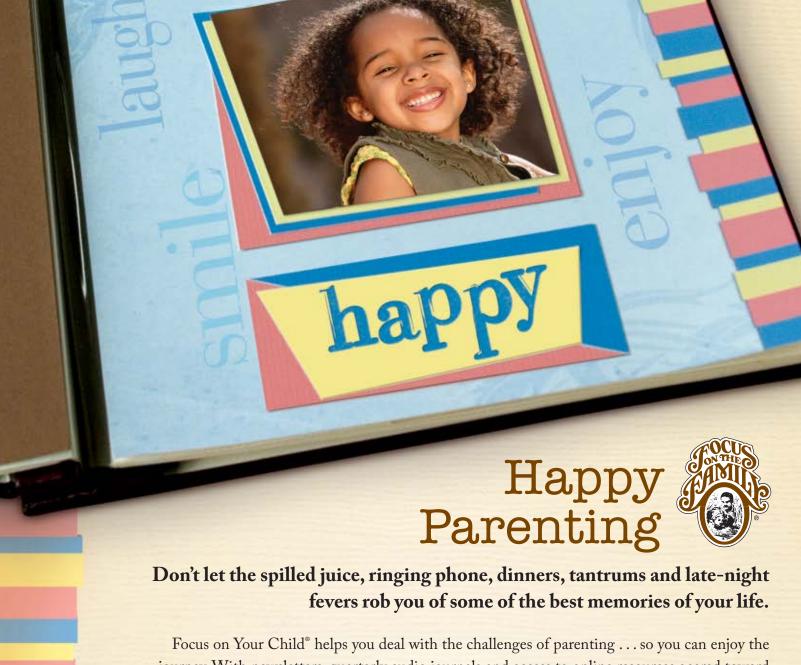
(Nursery-Gr. 12)



A Beka Book is a Christian textbook publisher affiliated with PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE®



For a FREE A Beka Book textbook catalog or A Beka Academy DVD brochure abeka.org/123 1-800-874-3597, ext. 123



Focus on Your Child® helps you deal with the challenges of parenting . . . so you can enjoy the journey. With newsletters, quarterly audio journals and access to online resources geared toward your child's developmental stage—your membership brings you practical, relevant advice all from a trustworthy Christian perspective.



* Annual Membership
Item code: FOYCSUB
Source code: YF07FFCEMG

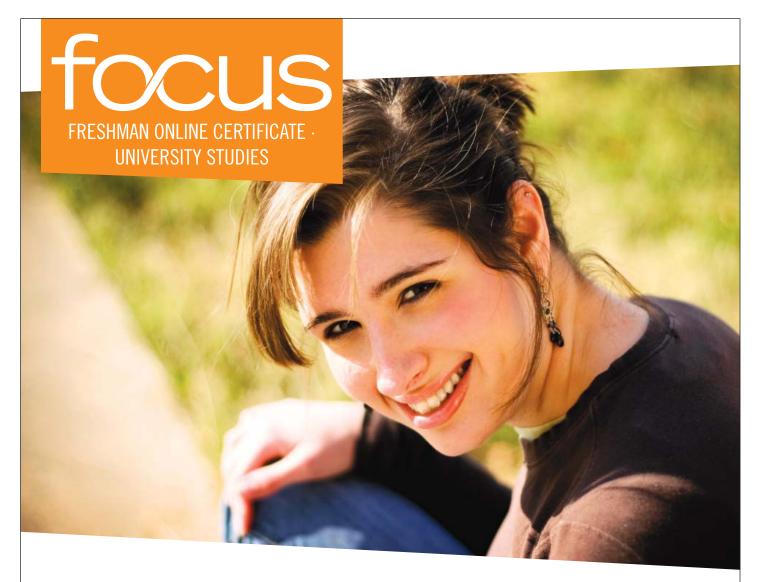
For more information, go to: focusonyourchild.com

Sign up by phone today and receive a complimentary copy of **20 Rules and Tools for a Great Family** (F00679B).



*Suggested Donation: The Internal Revenue Code permits you to deduct the amount you give to Focus on the Family that goes beyond the value of materials we send you. To help you determine the tax-deductible portion of your gift, your receipt will show the fair market value, along with the total gift amount. ©2007 Focus on the Family





Your <u>best</u> choice for first year university online!



Want to get started on your degree but can't get away for at least a year? FOCUS is ideal.

Study at home, study at the office, study in a distant land. With FOCUS at Trinity Western University, it's simple and handy. Supported by a learning coach and your peers, you'll complete a full year of accredited and transferable university credits with about 25-30 hours of study per week.

FOCUS is perfect for stay-at-home moms, graduating homeschoolers, mature students, missionary kids...even children working on the family farm.

Space is limited, so register early to avoid disappoinment.

Visit our site at www.focusyear.com for registration and course information.



Global Learning Connections

Simon Gibson, PhD, Program Advisor · TOLL-FREE 1.866.402.1897 (ext. 3899) · LOCAL 604.513.2067

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

Homeschool Faculty

The Id School Ouse. The Magazine for Homeschool Families

Paul and Gena Suarez Gray, TN

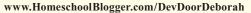
Paul and Gena Suarez reside in Gray, Tennessee, where they homeschool their four children: Paul (17), Luke (15), Levi (13), and Julia Rachel (10). They enjoy long country drives while listening to books on CD, hanging out with good friends, and staying up late. The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine, LLC www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com • www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/TOSPublisher



Deborah Wuehler Senior Editor Roseville, CA

Deborah Wuehler is the Senior Editor, Chapel editor, and Devotional editor for TOS. She resides in Roseville, California, with her husband, Richard, and their seven

gifts from heaven. She loves digging for buried treasure in the Word, reading, writing, homeschooling, and dark chocolate!





Heather Allen is TOS's Town Square chief contributing writer and Senior Analytical Consultant. She has a PhD in Experimental Psychology, served as an Aerospace Experimental Psychologist in the US Navy, and worked 11 years for Sandia National Laboratories. She and her husband Steve have homeschooled their five children for nine years.



Special Needs Review Consultant Senior Contributing Correspondent

Wheaton, IL

Christine M. Field, TOS's Resource Room columnist, practiced law for eight years before becoming a full-time mommy for her four children. Her husband serves as Chief of Police in Wheaton, Illinois. She is a freelance writer and the author of several books about homeschooling, adopting, and more. www.HomeFieldAdvantage.org www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/ChristineField

Amelia Harper

Contributing Media Editor

HomeScholar Books, Nashville, NC

Amelia Harper is a homeschooling mother of five and pastor's wife. She is the author of *Literary Lessons from the Lord of the Rings*, a complete one-year literature curriculum for secondary level students. She is also a freelance writer for newspapers and magazines.

www.HomeScholarBooks.com www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/MiddleEarthMom

Kate Kessler Product Reviews Manager/Contributing Writer Sacramento, CA

Kate Kessler and her delightful husband, Mark, an IT mastermind, enjoy their five splendid children. As a Classical/Charlotte Mason homeschooler, she enjoys a varied curriculum, historical fiction, and the many discussions that come up as a result of learning together. She loves living under God's grace and mercy through Christ.

www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/underthesky.



Susan Spann Senior Contributing Writer Sacramento, CA

Susan Spann is a a partner in the law firm Llewellyn Spann, where she specializes in copyright, trademark, and corporate law. Formerly a professor at Trinity Law School in Santa Ana, California, she currently teaches business law at William Jessup University. She blogs on legal issues from a Christian worldview at www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/SusanSpann.



Paula Moldenhauer Contributing Writer

Denver. CO

A homeschooling mother of four, Paula Moldenhauer is passionate about God's grace. She is published in magazines, book compilations, and devotionals. Paula loves hiking, cuddling her kids, good books, and walking barefoot. Her website, **www.soulscents.us**, offers homeschooling hints, book reviews, and a free weekly devotional.



Diane Wheeler

Contributing Writer

El Dorado County, CA

Diane Wheeler, chief contributor to TOS's Home Ec column, and her husband John have five children. Diane enjoys gardening, photography, working in her art journal, corresponding with friends, reading, staring out her favorite window, and laughing—all with a mug of dark roast decaf within reach.



Nancy Carter Contributing Writer

Elkton, KY

Nancy Carter, Senior Editor for HomesteadBlogger.com, is a homesteading, homeschooling wife and mother of three sons. She enjoys blogging with the other homesteaders at www.HomesteadBlogger.com/HSBFrontPorch and writing for The Natural Schoolhouse. Her family enjoys a lifestyle of learning on their farm in Kentucky.



Tia Linschied *Contributing Writer*

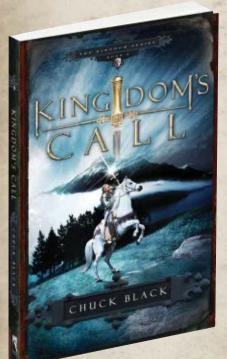
Prineville, OR

Tia Linschied is the Senior Editor for Homeschool-Blogger.com. She and her husband, Todd, enjoy homeschooling their four children in the high desert, as well as camping, geocaching, and blogging. Come visit her on the HSB Company Porch at www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/HSBCompanyBlog or on her personal blog at www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/sagerats.



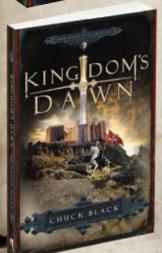


The epic clash between good & evil unfolds.













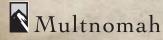
Journey to Arrethtrae—
where the King and His Son
implement a bold plan
to save their kingdom,
where courage, faith, and loyalty
stand tall in the face of opposition,
and where good will not bow to evil.

Experience God's victory like never before in this captivating retelling of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Now available at your favorite bookstore or online retailer

"A Pilgrim's Progress for the Xbox generation!"

—Dave Jackson, author of the Trailblazer novels



Keeping Your Trust...One Book at a Time



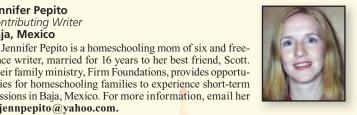
Ken Ham Contributing Writer Florence, KY

Ken Ham, TOS's Real Science columnist, is president of Answers in Genesis, host of "Answers with Ken Ham," editor and writer for Answers magazine, and author of several books on Creation and the Bible. Ken and his wife Mally have homeschooled their five children. www. AnswersinGenesis.org



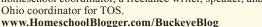
lance writer, married for 16 years to her best friend, Scott. Their family ministry, Firm Foundations, provides opportunities for homeschooling families to experience short-term missions in Baja, Mexico. For more information, email her at jennpepito@yahoo.com.

www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/esperanzavallero



Kim Wolf Contributing Writer West Milton, OH

Kim Wolf loves living in a small Ohio town with her husband of 21 years and their two teen daughters. They have homeschooled since 1993 and are very active in the music ministry of their church. She is a Miami County homeschool coordinator, a freelance writer, speaker, and Ohio coordinator for TOS.





Jennifer Steward Contributing Writer Georgetown, CA

Jennifer Pepito

Baja, Mexico

Contributing Writer

Jennifer Steward contributes to TOS's Homeschool Units column and is a humorous and encouraging speaker, drawing from her 20 years' experience homeschooling her eight children. She is the author of books on unit studies, organization, and many more. www.UnitStudies.com



Tina Rice Contributing Writer Epworth, GA

Tina Rice and her husband, Tim, homeschool their four children using an eclectic mix of classical and relaxed materials. She is in her twelfth year of homeschooling, with eleven more to go. When Tina is not schooling, reading, or writing, she is busy making tie-dye clothing and gifts. She blogs at www.HomeschoolBlogger. com/tiner.



Nancy Baetz Contributing Writer Colorado

Nancy Baetz and her husband Ken have four children. Nancy enjoys learning with her children about God's creation, and she lives for Summer! She also likes to write about her experience as a homeschooling mom, takes zillions of photographs as a freelance photographer, and spends as much time as she can in her wildflower patch! www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/ByHisGraceInColorado



Terri Johnson Contributing Artist San Antonio, TX

Terri Johnson is the creator of Knowledge Quest maps and timelines. Her mission for the company is to help make the teaching and learning of history and geography enjoyable for both teacher and students. Her Blackline Maps of World History have been widely recommended in the homeschooling community and beyond. Terri is married to Todd, and they have five children.



Jane Bullivant Contributing Writer Midlands, England

Jane Bullivant and her husband, Darren, enjoy homeschooling their three turbocharged children. She is an international homeschool writer, speaker, and author of Skydiving for Parents and Dear Lord, I Feel Like a Whale! Visit her at www.HomeschoolBlogger. com/livingheritageuk.



Marybeth Whalen Contributing Writer Charlotte, NC

Marybeth Whalen is the wife of Curt and mom of six children, ages 14 to 1. The family has homeschooled for ten years. Marybeth is the author of For the Write Reason, a speaker for Proverbs 31 Ministries, and a freelance writer. Learn more about Marybeth through her blog at www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/marybeth.



Bruce Garrison Contributing Writer Newark, England

Bruce Garrison is husband to homeschooling mom Pippa and dad to Josiah (12) and Bethany (10). Bruce and Pippa are involved in Living Heritage, a new organization for Christian homeschoolers in the United Kingdom. Bruce is also editor of Searchlight magazine, which publishes classic Christian writers in languages and dialects around the world. www.searchlight-missions.org



Carolyn Hurst Contributing Writer Poulsbo, WA

As publisher of the award-winning Draw•Write• Now® books, Carolyn Hurst has spent the last decade researching how children learn to draw and the benefits of teaching directed drawing. She is also a freelance writer. She, her husband Steve, and their two children enjoy a variety of animals on their farm. www.Barker-Creek.com



Dena Wood Contributing Writer Eastern WA

Dena and her husband, John, have been homeschooling their five children since 1991. Dena is co-owner of Trigger Memory Systems, publisher of Times Tales, marketer of nontraditional, creative educational materials, and freelance writer. She also works as a Research Consultant for TOS and blogs at www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/redmom. www.TriggerMemorySystem.com



Deb Turner

Contributing Writer New Hartford, NY





Michael "Hap" Halpin Contributing Cartoonist **Haptoon Comics** Citrus Heights, CA

Michael F. Halpin ("Hap"), creator of cartoons since he could pick up a crayon, seeks to use his abilities to glorify Jesus and edify His body. Subscribe to Hap's mailing list by emailing him at Haptoon@juno.com, visit his site at www.Haptoon.com, or find his work on www.ChristianCartoons.com.







Eye-popping footage combined with brain-boosting facts make each DVD a treasury of learning and instant classroom success perfect for children 5–12.

BIBLE ADVENTURES

This family favorite links the challenges of today with the compelling true stories of the Word of God, showing children ages 5-8 how to live for God like the heroes of the Bible.



THE NAME YOU CAN TRUST®

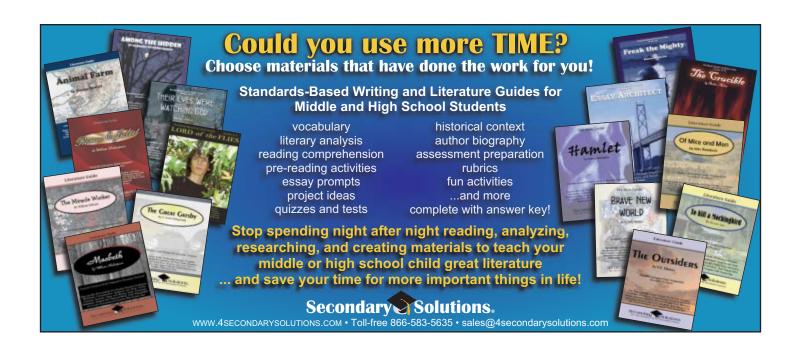
www.MoodyVideo.org

The world of science becomes a world of fun in this live-action drama series for ages 7–12. Ideal for homeshcooling, Christian education, and family viewing. Free Newton's Workshop study guides at www.MoodyVideo.org.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Award-winning cinematography is combined with passages like Psalm 23 and favorite hymns such as Amazing Grace.

Find these and other great titles at your favorite online or local bookstore.





Music Ace® Deluxe

World's Leading Music Education Software Now Configured for Home Schooling



Music Ace® Deluxe is a complete series of 36 engaging music lessons and games drawn from the award-winning Music Ace Family of products. The lessons teach beginning music students of all ages the basics of music theory, rhythm, pitch, note reading, listening, and the keyboard.

"My children don't ever seem to get bored with Music Ace. It has stimulated their interest in music appreciation, music performance and other arts."

A Home School Family, Michigan

Contact your school software provider or visit us at www.harmonicvision.com/hs

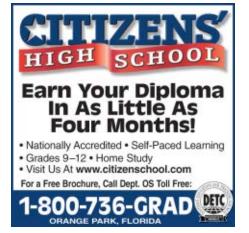
 36 award-winning lessons and games

MUSICACE DELLINE

- Motivates students to participate in music performance
- Assess and track student progress
- Conforms to and supports National Standards for Music Education
- Easy to use, easy to teach, self-paced learning
- New instructional guide designed for the home school environment available via download

HARMONIC VISION.

Software that Brings Music to Life!"





At last! A writing program that meets the needs of both student AND parent!





Step-by-step instructions. checklists, and word banks for students. Detailed lesson plans and schedules for parents, plus tons of ideas for teaching and grading writing. You'll love all the help and support WriteShop offers.

FREE sample lesson to first 50 responders!

\$5 off \$55+ coupon code: TOSMAG

(909) 989-5576 info@writeshop.com

www.writeshop.com

Help Your Child Achieve Math Success



ALEKS is a Powerful Online Math Program That:

- Assesses and Instructs with Standards-Based Content
- Provides Clear Explanations and Feedback
- · Accelerates Learning in Math
- · Offers 24-Hour Online Access



Back-to-School Special

Free One Month of ALEKS (for New Users)

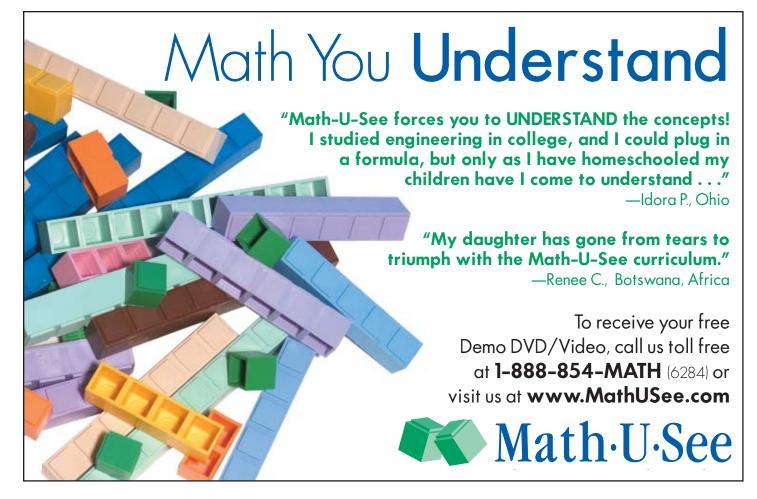
Sign Up Today At:

www.aleks.com/webform/c13 _I

www.aleks.com

Email Oldschoolhouse@aleks.com For More Info

ALEKS* is a registered trademark of ALEKS Corporation

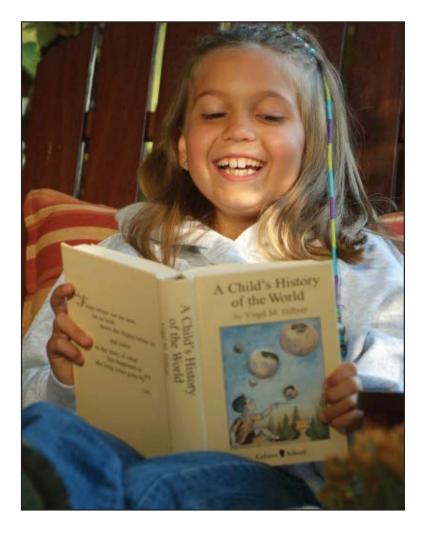


www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ 13

INSPIRE

best in YOUR child

Calvert School
has been providing
academically
challenging
curriculum and
enrichment courses to
homeschool families
for 100 years.



FREE ONLINE

Effective Homeschooling SESSIONS

at www.calvertschool.org/seecalvert



Visit www.calvertschool.org or call 1.888.487.4652 for a free catalog.



ALLSTAR DIE-CUTTING MACHINES MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE!

Eager young minds and hands just love to create. Give them the tools to succeed with the Ellison® AllStar® Machine and its own line of exclusive dies. This safe, affordable and easy-to-use die-cutting system provides the early hands-on experience your students need to help realize their potential and shape future AllStar performances. Call 800.253.2238 to order yours today!

ellison.cor





Delivering Quality Computer Education To Your Homeschool

Technology Training is a state-of-the-art self-instructional computer applications program offered under Accelerated Christian Education's aceconnect elearning banner.

Technology Training will allow your homeschool student to master current software and operating systems in preparation for the next stage of life. Workers in every profession are now expected to know standard office applications, such as the Microsoft® Office 2003 suite and the Microsoft® Windows® and Macintosh® operating system environments. As a result, today's student will need basic computer skills to prepare for the challenges of college and the workplace.

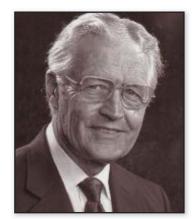
Sign up today for your unlimited one-year subscription at www.aceministries.com/ aceconnect or call 1.800.925.7777 for more information.

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **I 15**

From Our Family To Yours

Goodbye and Thank You, **Dr. Raymond Moore**

By Paul and Gena Suarez



Dr. Raymond S. Moore



or those of you who do not yet know, Dr. Raymond Moore, known to many as the "Grandfather of Homeschooling," passed away on July 13 after 91 long, fulfilling years here in

this life. Dr. Moore was a friend of ours. We met him a number of years ago in California where we resided at the time; Dr. Moore was less than 45 minutes up the highway from us. We have fond memories of the couple two or three times we were invited to his home—one particular visit found us laughingly turning down a "gift" he was trying to "pawn off" on us-his llamas. More often than personal visits were phone conversations, and Dr. Moore often insisted we end them in prayer. This man loved the Lord very much—he loves Him even more now, in His presence.

In other news, with a heavy heart we announce that Jenefer Igarashi has moved on from TOS. We so appreciate the six years she poured into our magazine. We want to publicly bless the Igarashi family and we pray that the Lord will continue to bless and keep them near to Him.

Here are a few words from Jen:

Hello, friends! It has been an incredible honor getting to know all of you and sharing in your lives while working together serving homeschooling families. As of this quarter, my journey with TOS has come to an end: I wanted to send a

quick note to express my extreme appreciation for all of you. TOS has made my life all the more sweet—and that is 100% because of the people I have worked with side by side over these last few years.

God has blessed my family tremendously through Paul and Gena and the entire TOS family, and I am so very, very grateful. God bless you as you continue striving to serve our Lord, and I give thanks and praise to Him for letting me be involved with such a precious endeavor for a season. Much love and deep gratitude. Jen

And a few words from the new Senior Editor of TOS Magazine:

I am honored to take on the position of Senior Editor and I hope to help bring you, our reader, the best articles and writers and relevant, practical themes just as we have always done. The magazine has been and will continue to be the Lord's doing, and as such, I will strive to bring Him glory in all that goes between these pages. We all absolutely loved Jenefer Igarashi's editorials and are so appreciative of all her years of labor for TOS and wish her the best in her new endeavors. It will be hard to replace her wit and wisdom, so I won't even try, but I do hope to do the job justice. My desire is to keep our magazine content consistent with our statement of faith and philosophy of education as well as to assist and support you, our readers, so if you would like to see something specific addressed, or need





help in any area, please email me at senioreditor@TheHomeschool Magazine.com. Looking forward to serving the Lord in serving you, Deborah

While we will cherish the memories of Jen being a part of TOS, we are equally excited about Deb Wuehler coming on board as Senior Editor. May the Lord richly bless her and her dear family and also you, the readers, as she uses the gifts God has given her to build up and encourage homeschooling families within the body of Christ.

As you can see, we have included a lot of pictures in this column. They best describe what we've been up to lately. Enjoy our photo essay!

Lastly, we wanted to make sure it was known that two of our favorite magazines are still alive and well. We were delighted to find out recently that the original *Creation* magazine has never ceased being available in the USA. It has been produced nonstop



Paul and Gena Suarez visit dear friends and subscribers the Dixon family in Indiana. Ironically, Gena is holding newborn Lucy Dixon just hours before she discovers she herself is pregnant with Suarez baby number five.



for nearly 30 years by the same Australian ministry (now called Creation Ministries International, with sister CMI offices in five other countries, including one in Atlanta).

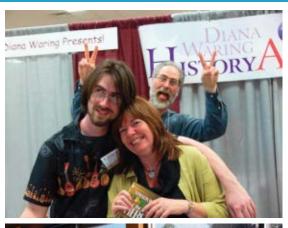
Creation magazine now goes to over 140 countries worldwide, helping strengthen and arm Christian families against the onslaughts of evolutionary and humanistic thinking.

To find out more or subscribe, go to **www.CreationOnTheWeb.org/creationmag** or phone CMI's U.S. office at 1-800-6161-CMI.

And for those who want to dig deeper into frontline creationist research, CMI's peer-reviewed *Journal of Creation* (formerly called *TJ*) is also still available. It is widely regarded among creation science researchers as the premier peer-reviewed creationist publication available.

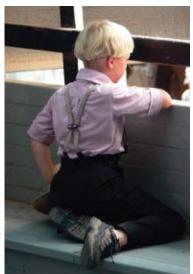
Well, we sign off now. God bless all of you and we'll meet up again next quarter!







Bill, Diana, and Isaac Waring laugh it up with the Suarezes and Jane Bullivant in Pennsylvania at the SEARCH conference where Gena, Diana, and Jane spoke.



The Suarez family visited the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, area, a.k.a. Amish country. Author/speaker Jane Bullivant from the UK accompanied them. Right: Computers in Amish country?

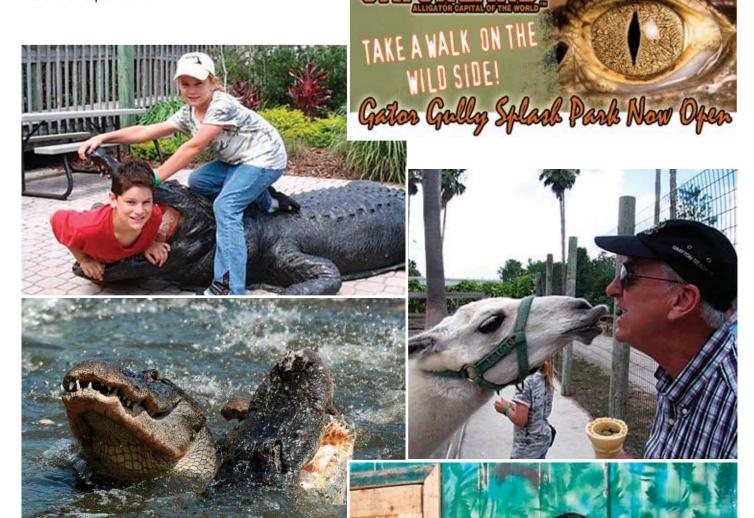




Adventures with the Suarez Family

Gatorland, Orlando, Florida

You can't get any closer to some of the fiercest creatures around. Excellent field trip adventure!





Clockwise from top left: Julia and Levi Suarez battle a fierce alligator. Pat Marcum, Director of Homeschool Headquarters, spent over a week in Florida with the Suarez Clan. Little did anyone know about his fascination with ... llamas. Paulie Suarez makes a new birdie friend. The Suarez kids have a great time rock climbing.

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **19**







The Great Smoky Mountains Railway Nantahala Gorge, North Carolina

Julia Suarez makes her way through the Smoky Mountains via the Great Smoky Mountains Railway—something we highly recommend homeschoolers checking out.





The Holy Land Experience Orlando, Florida

We had an exciting and educational time at The Holy Land Experience in Orlando— PERFECT homeschooling field trip!

The Id Schoolhouse The Magazine for Homeschool Families



Subscribe to or Renew your subscription to The Old Schoolhouse Magazine and receive

19 FREE Gifts!

Home School in the Woods

Receive a history sampler, including samples from our *History Through the Ages Historical Timeline Figure* sets and *Record of Time* notebook. Also included is a mini resource pack on authors showing multiple options for using the timeline

figures in other hands-on ways along with a couple of lessons from our new unit study series, *Time Travelers*.



www.homeschoolinthewoods.com



FREE Four issues of New Harvest e-newsletter!

The e-newsletter for women who love the home-centered life. Gardening, canning, backyard flocks & more!

www.newharvesthomestead.com



Audio Books

Free download of an entire, unabridged recording of the G. A. Henty

historical novel "With Lee in Virginia: A Tale of the American Civil War."



www.jimhodgesaudiobooks.com

Don't Miss Out - Call Today!

1.888.718.HOME

or subscribe at our website www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

The Magazine for Homeschool Families

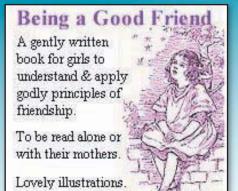
The FIRST 5,000 subscribers will receive ALL 19 Gifts from these popular homeschool companies absolutely FREE!



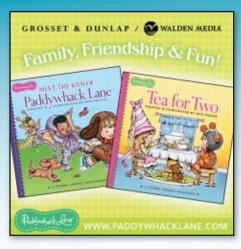
Homeschool Solutions for Families

Free twelve-month subscription! Enhance your curriculum with our extensive educational video rental library!

www.actadvantage.org



www.MiikoGibson.com



WriteShop

One Copying & **Dictation Exercises** eBook plus a Write-Shop I sample lesson and coupon.





www.writeshop.com







Build your childs character while at the same time teaching writing skills from some of the best writers in history!

Receive 2 Heritage Copywork Booklets:

Humility & Honor

www.FamilyRenewalMinistries.com



In the Hands of a Child **Lapbook Project Packs**

Bringing Laughter and **Learning Together** In the Hands of YOUR Child!

www.HandsofaChild.com



PEAH's Homeschool Digital IDs

Receive one digital homeschool student id card FREE!



- · Verify homeschool status at any time!
- · Easy access to student discounts!

The only nationally recognized homeschool identification that gives you the peace of mind you need, the convenience you want, and the confidence you desire!

www.peah.com

Hope Chest Legacy

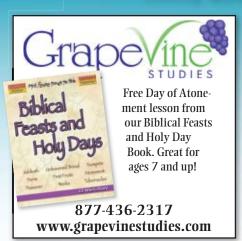


www.HopeChestLegacy.com

Call Today! 1.888.718.HOME

2007 Bouquet of Gifts

All these are **FREE** with a two-year paid subscription or renewal **(only \$39)** to *The Old Schoolhouse Magazine*!

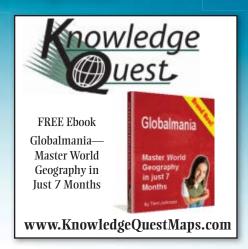




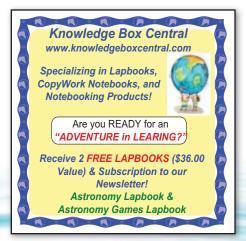


Free Lesson from our latest eBook, Say What You Mean: Defending the Faith. Included: free article and coupon!

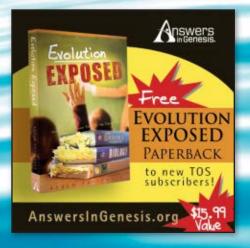
www.Artof Eloquence.com











Free shipping included.

FOR MAIL ORDERS

Send name, address, and phone number with check or money order for \$39 to The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, PO Box 10, White Pine, TN 37890.

Please see our website for further details. US subscribers only. International subscribers receive different gifts. See our website for details.

HOME Where They Belong™

Subseribe Online Today www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com



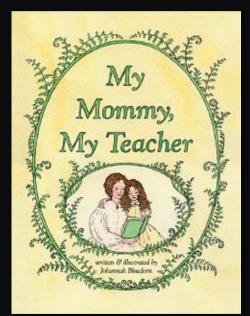
hat sounds pretty bad, doesn't it? I'm not referring to my parents. My mother, in fact, is the one the Lord commissioned to bring me to Himself. I can't wait to see her again (she resides in Heaven). I'm not alluding to grandparents, aunts, uncles, or any other adult in my life who may have had a hand in my upbringing, indirectly or otherwise. I'm talking about the ones who really raised me.

I'm referring to my peers and even some of my instructors; they were my true mentors and teachers. Everything I learned about the streets came from them. Any profanity, sensuality, hair-raising talk of witchcraft, and revelations of what gangs really do to teens in Salem, Oregon, were infused into my being, never to be forgotten. My mind was filled with all that I read in the school library; I won't elaborate for your sake and mine.

Johannah Bluedorn has written a book titled My Mommy, My Teacher. My Julia used to cart that small book around, tucked under her little arm, because she loved the pictures. She couldn't read the words yet, but if she could, they only would have confirmed in her what the pictures were already conveying—there is safety with Mommy. Home is where Julia belongs.

I too could write a book—My Public School, My Teacher. But my story would

read very differently from Johannah Bluedorn's, who, by the way, was raised in a normal home and received a true education—hence, her genuine ability to create a book which brings comfort to children all over the world. My volume would be dark, most certainly lacking of much comfort. It would be explicit and full of godlessness. It would contain heartbreak, rejection, shame, profound sadness, and abuse. Pictorially, it could be described quite easily. Here's a visual—an illus-



tration, if you will: myself, Miss Gena Renee Wright, commencing at the age of kindergarten and moving up (chaotically) through my high school years, sampling every last piece of fruit off of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Not just gingerly tasting, either. Gorging. In fact, my book now doesn't even need words. That artistic depiction says it all.

I'll never write that book. My God (Jesus, who is the Word) tells me that, because I am a new creation in Christ, I am to focus on what is good and lovely, pure and true (Phil. 4:8). I have no desire to wallow in the mud of my past, my sin. I keep my mind far from reflecting on that tree from which I ravaged. Why should I continuously go back to it? God gets no delight from my reporting on it in detail—even if the last chapter is victorious. We are not to delve into sinful memories for the sake of general reflection. We're not to boast of our "sowing the wild oats" days, either. The world is sick; everyone already knows that. Why savor it even in memory form? That can be a real trap, for others and for ourselves. Leave the sordid details in the dark, where they belong.

As a senior in high school, through a series of incredible, heart-wrenching events, I ran to Him and clung. The scales fell off and victory prevailed. The angels sang and Heaven rejoiced. I was new, reborn! I praise the Lord for drawing me to Himself. But I had years ahead of desperate struggle based on the wolves' prior (and even very current at the time) influence over me—those who had raised me had brought me up well. I could say I was a new creation, and I meant it. I could meditate on God's Word, and I really tried. I went to church and worshiped my God, my Savior. I recognized what He had done. But I had an entire "movie" still inside me, all my memories. Film after film. Screenshot after still form. Profanity was second nature; when you hear it thousands of times on a regular basis, it becomes almost a part of you. You default to "hearing" it internally even when you don't expect it (or want it!). Our children's minds are like sponges, and when they are little, what we allow in, stays in. Garbage in, garbage out-and in. It often stays.

throughout the day and even while sitting with them in our homes. If they are gone all day long, how does this work? Can it? Even worse, what about the sponge? Who is filling it? Even if you can get a few quick sound bites into them in the morning and at night, what about their *real* life? What about those who are truly raising them up? Because if you send them away, make no mistake, you are not personally raising them up. Someone or something else is. Beware of this truth, please.

The ones who raised me accomplished their goal. My sponge was filled and filled until it "ran over." And the things that ran out were a stench, pure sewage. I got quite the education while being raised by my wolves. And statistically, I should have ended up a wolf myself, wholly poised to carry on the tradition and raise my own.

But the Lord had the next generation in mind for something greater. He stopped

and dads what happens in class. Several schools force participation in "Gay Day" events or "tolerance assemblies." Kids have no choice but to go and watch the smut—this is "education." Teens in Georgia were taken to an offsite clinic where some were given pap smears, AIDS tests, contraceptive devices, and a "good talking to" (more "education")—all without the parents knowing of the little field trip. And if the parents ask for the results of pregnancy tests or AIDS tests, guess what they get told? Basically, to mind their own business! Have you heard of the Title X program? Look into it. There are "privacy rights" your child has that you probably don't even know about-and it's all federally funded and made use of by many schools now. If we turn our children over to the schools, they become the business of the schools. And the parents are often the last to know, if at all.

Parents are oblivious of the R-rated visuals their children are taking in on a regular basis, the exposure of pornography on the school buses, the hushed discussions and even sexual encounters their children get to gawk at. The parents are not there, so they do not know what happens during the hours and hours their children are away. See my blog for more of such reportings, complete with site sources (www.genasuarez.com).

I was there in public school; I can tell you. These things exist, and it's by far worse today than it was for us '80s kids. And please don't assume that these things are only happening in certain schools. To some degree, ungodliness is happening in ALL public schools every single day. And it will continue to spiral downward. That's the world's way.

3 John 1:4—I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

How I love the above verse and cling to it. It reminds me in a very practical manner of my children's sponges. May I work diligently to fill those precious minds with what is pure, lovely, and true. I pray that the Lord will bless our efforts. May our children grow to be faithful to Him, hopelessly in love with the very God who created them. Anything else is for the wolves.

Even if you can get a few quick sound bites into them in the morning and at night, what about their *real* life?

While now saved by the grace of God, my "sponge" was still full. And it was a dirty sponge.

Many of you were raised similarly. You know what I mean about the sponge. I don't want that for my children; it's not God's way. They are called to something much, much higher, and do you know what's really exciting about that? The Lord has equipped us, imperfect mommies and daddies, to raise them up in a way they should go. He gave us these precious gifts for a reason! We can direct what hits the sponge.

What does His word say about raising children? Deuteronomy 6:7—And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Can we achieve this if we send them out all day? Sounds like we are to be training them up in Him, teaching them, right? When we rise in the morning, when we lay them down at night, when we walk the tradition in its tracks and issued Paul and me a new one. Our children are homeschooled. Their sponges are filled by those who we allow to influence them, namely, us. We fill them with God's Word, Truth itself. We tailor their education so that, unlike me, they actually receive some semblance of "academics" within that education.

Many folks believe that their local government schools are safe. They have no idea what's really going on. I can tell you story after story, things that would drop your jaw. Parents are losing their Christian children to the world in droves because of the wolves who are truly raising them. They believe the lie (sometimes from their own pastors, even!) that, not to worry, they are the ones actually raising their kids up, not the schools. They are blind to the homosexual agenda, the "religion" of evolution, the "swaying away from" their parents which they are receiving from their teachers and/or peers. Some school teachers literally tell the students not to tell their moms

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **Z5**



WHO'S DRIVING THE SCHOOL BUS, ANYWAY?

By Deborah Wuehler

Perched up high in our beloved 11-passenger van, I sat with eyes shut tight, one hand gripping the side of my seat, the other reaching frantically for the nonexistent bar above my window. "Please don't drive so close to the edge!" I cried out to my husband, who, in fact, seemed oblivious to any danger on the two-way highway. Just when I started to relax, I saw the red taillights of the vehicle in front of us. I cringed as we drew closer to the other car's bumper before stopping abruptly. "Why do you have to get so close and wait so long to stop?" I wailed as I pulled my sweater up over my head.

I was not really asking for the reasons why; I was merely signifying that he must have temporarily lost his head and forgotten the rules of the road. My husband patiently explained that the car ahead should have started moving sooner and that he was just hoping not to waste the van's energy by stopping sooner than necessary. I wasn't laughing.

My stomach finally started to relax its churning when I noticed that we were not taking the route that was familiar. "Shouldn't you be turning here?" I submissively suggested. No.

Not today. We were taking the scenic route. And it is usually very scenic.

With all my commenting about his driving, it's a wonder that my husband makes it to work and back every day without me!

Just why are men so aggressive when it comes to driving? All the books on men tell us that it is because they are born to lead and made to race. Well, okay, but not when I am in the car, please. I think the better question here would be just why is it that I think my husband must drive like I do or else he is not driving the right way?

The physical example of trying to "drive" our husbands finds its way into our homes and homeschools as well, doesn't it? Do you find yourself questioning your husband's leadership abilities? Do you think he has forgotten to look ahead, or forgotten to look behind, or maybe even forgotten the direction you're supposed to be going?

I have too, from time to time, and in my arrogance, I've let him know a thing or two about how much help I could use and have questioned why he doesn't see the needs as clearly as I do. I have wondered (loudly) if he will ever take over some of the schooling responsibilities or at least care enough to look at what I'm trying to do with the kids. What a putrid attitude and how despicable in the eyes of God! So just what is valuable in the sight of God?

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward ... But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (1 Peter 3:3-4).

In learning gentleness and quietness, I have also found much more peace. I am learning to hold on for the ride and trust the Lord to arrive at the end of the journey safely.

So how am I learning these things? Usually the hard way. In looking back, I see that I haven't always honored my husband's plans; rather, I have labored under the false assumption that he hasn't always helped me with my plans. Let me explain.

I just wanted him to see my agenda and agree with it.

Over the years, the principal of this school has specifically asked that I make a few things happen. Many times I didn't really want to hear what he had to say—my pride causes me to be secretly upset that he thinks anything needs changing at all. I just wanted him to see my agenda and agree with it. Poor, foolish teacher.

"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord and depart from evil" (Proverbs 3:7).

Let me get transparent and demonstrate where I have failed and where I have triumphed in allowing my husband to drive this school bus.

Math

The principal believed it was really important to make sure that math assignments were graded regularly. Can you believe that? On top of all the bazillion other things I had to do? Couldn't hubby just do that one thing? Looking back, I realize

26 ■ Editorial www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com



Saxon Math Defines Success

Saxon (săk'sən) *n.* [1] The nation's best-selling, most comprehensive, and most thoroughly researched homeschool math program [2] More than 20 years of proven success [3] Easy step-by-step method to learn math [4] Offers ongoing, comprehensive support to parents and students







Every child can succeed with math!

Saxon Homeschool Math is the program parents trust to help their child succeed. Each homeschool kit has been developed for one-on-one instruction. And with math programs for every age, every child can achieve more.

"The lessons are so easy to understand and teach.
Usually our children are able to read the assignment and figure it out on their own, with very little extra help.
Thanks for such great books!"

Carrie Cummins,
 Homeschool Parent

Saxon Math features hands-on experiences and a user friendly format for beginning through advanced learners.

- Manipulatives kit for younger learners
- Investigations that deepen understanding for middle grades
- Algebra 2, Advanced Mathematics, and Calculus for advanced learners
- New concepts supported by review and reinforcement
- Full step-by-step solutions to problems and tests



how wrong my attitude was compared to what the Lord desired in me. And, looking back, if I had stayed on top of grading the math lessons (which I didn't), at least one of my children wouldn't have strayed so badly in his math progress. My child has had to pay the price for my lack of respect in honoring the desires of my authority. An even higher price to pay has been re-teaching him to respect my authority when he didn't see me respecting my own authority. Ouch.

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5).

History

I hated history in school. But, knowing I had to teach it in my own homeschool, I tried a lot of different curricula. Everybody I knew was using a certain "highly praised" book, and I thought I needed to as well. I asked the principal his thoughts. He said to teach history starting with the Old Testament. Humph. I didn't even like to read the Old Testament. How could that possibly be what was right? Lest you think this teacher is a total loser, I did actually try to teach them from the Old Testament, and boy did we learn a lot! What I thought would be boring actually taught me so much for life and godliness! We learned that the foundation of our faith was based on believing the Bible to be true from the very first verse, starting with Creation. We learned about the kings of Israel and what happened when they followed God or simply did what was right in their own eyes. We learned all those cool stories about the judges sent as deliverers. And we learned the cycle of history that repeats itself even to this day: when people or governments forsake God and turn to idolatry (whatever form that may take), they are eventually sent into bondage. From there, they learn repentance. God hears their cry and delivers them, and they find rest. Idolatry, bondage, repentance, deliverance, rest. Look at all the major civilizations and peoples to whom this has applied. The cycle continues to repeat itself, sometimes even in my own life or in the lives of my kids.

As we took the scenic route through the Old Testament, my children learned to enjoy reading the Bible, and they continue to see its relevance for today! Amazing what the Word of God (and a little humble submission to my authorities) could do in teaching me to do what was right in the sight of God and not in my own eyes.

"In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6).

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" (Psalm 119:18).

Language Arts

Language arts was my specialty and I knew how to teach it, thank you very much. The principal allowed me to drive as long as I also taught the kids Latin and Greek. Right. Well, I bought the material and started it a few times but never completed the task—ever. The kids still don't know any Latin or Greek. The fruit of my disobedience has been guilt on my part, knowing I have disappointed the principal and His God. And on the children's part, some have poor spelling and all lack

Instead of needing more hands, I need more of Him.

the ability to decipher a word by its Latin or Greek roots. I know that if I had honored the principal's request in this area, he would have felt respected and my children would have gained valuable knowledge. I think I had better humble myself, repent, and get that curriculum out and finally follow through with it. I think the Lord just might bless that.

And, lest you think my husband is a tyrant or expects too much, I want you to know that he has been full of grace and has never mentioned my failures. You see, it's not about whether I teach my kids Latin or Greek or not, and I wouldn't even go so far as to say that you should teach your children Latin or Greek. It's about my attitude of respect before my husband and whether I am willing to let him lead. If I do not respect my husband's leadership, how can I expect my children to respect their father?

If you view yourself as having failed, humble yourself. If the road looks too hard for you, cast all your cares on Jesus. He will make a way where there seems to be no way. Feeling low? He will lift you up in due time.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).

I used to always say, "I need help!" "I can't do this all by myself!" "I can't physically keep up with all that is demanded of me!" When I am tempted to say these things now, here is what I do:

Instead of saying, "I need help!" I first ask the Lord to show me how to fulfill my role as the helpmeet. My husband is not the helpmeet—I am. Maybe I am putting too much burden on myself, and what my husband is asking is really easier. Then, I humbly go before my husband and listen to his advice.

Instead of saying, "I can't do this all by myself!" I am learning to say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." The right curriculum doesn't strengthen me. The right method doesn't strengthen me. Christ strengthens me when I come to Him.

Instead of saying, "I can't physically and emotionally keep up with all that's demanded of me!" I yoke up with Jesus, who said He will teach me to be gentle and humble and promised rest for my soul. Instead of needing more hands, I need more of Him. And, when I draw near to Him and ask for wisdom and strength, He provides it. Are you weary and heavy laden with the burden of homeschooling? Get to know Jesus Christ; He wants to teach you that He is gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your soul.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Special Needs

I have one child who tends to take up a lot of time and energy. For years I struggled with this child to stay with the program. God created this one different, and I had no idea the road to take. What worked for the other kids didn't work for this one. This required many trips to the principal's office. He kept saying that all he wanted was for that child to be able to read, write, do math, and love the Lord. Through this our child would learn order and character. Why did I keep making it so difficult on myself and our child by expecting more? I finally listened, relaxed, and *slowed down*. Amazingly, this child has now gained speed and improved in character and is ready for more. All that worry and anxiety for naught, when I could have been happy with the principal's wisdom.

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding" (Proverbs 3:13).

Chores

The matter of chores was seriously hard for me to let go. I really believed they would be done better and faster if I did them all myself than if I allowed the little ones to help. After all, the children never did the chores quite right. I argued with the principal, but due to his long-range vision, he continued to have the children take on more and more chores. I had to admit his genius when I came to really need all of their help during later pregnancies and other unforeseen stresses. He saw the future benefit of teaching children to work when I had seen only the immediate result. The fruit is even evident at church and in the neighborhood as our children are not averse to work but apply themselves with fervor and excellence wherever needed. I would have made wimpy, useless children had I driven the bus on that one.

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof re the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25).

The Road Ahead

My husband sees more of the big picture of our schooling than I do. I am usually stuck in the details of working it all out. He sees a goal and lays out the direction we are to go, even if he has no clue about the streets or cities we must pass or the mountains we must climb, let alone any curriculum choices. But in seeing the goal, he is able to keep us focused on the road ahead. Some husbands want their wives to drive the bus all the time. Hey, he's the principal, so get behind the wheel and drive!





Although I have felt the failure of my attempts to drive this homeschool bus when I shouldn't have been driving, I have also learned many lessons on what is really required of me. It is really quite simple:

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8).

To do justly, I must walk in submission and obedience to God and my husband.

To love mercy, I must not be puffed up with pride in my own agenda or decry my husband's *seeming* lack of knowledge.

To walk humbly with my God is to also walk humbly with my husband, whether he asks me to drive the bus for him or help him read the map.

There have been times when neither of us has known exactly which way to go

and we have learned to put the following Scripture into real practice together:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

And just in case you were wondering who the real driver of the bus is, look here:

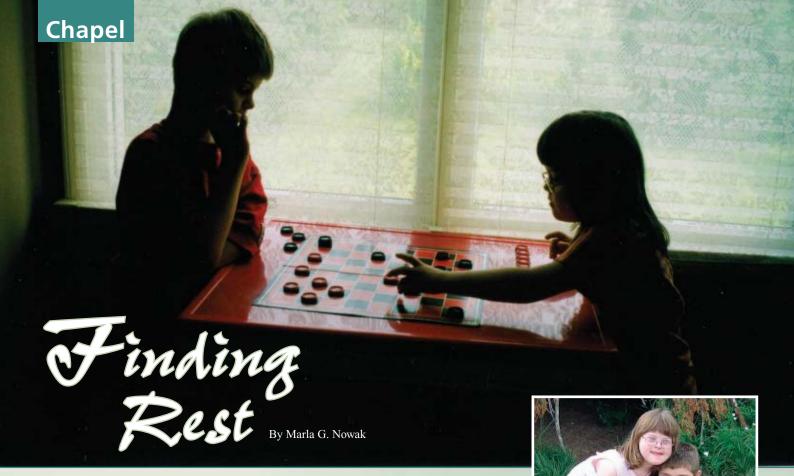
"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass" (Psalm 37:5).

"A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps" (Proverbs 16:9).

So, rest in peace, knowing the Lord will direct your homeschooling steps. It's time to move over and let Him drive.

Nuchler.

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ 29



t twelve months my little fellow with Down syndrome put a donut in the VCR. This was a foreshadowing of things to come. Whatever curiosity gene possessed

my boy to experiment at age 1 has followed him to age 13.

Today's summertime lazy morning had me feeling good with a song in my heart. Then I went upstairs. Daddy's shirt was arranged neatly on the ironing board, the hot iron face down on top of it. My "helpful" son had contemplated ironing, then walked away. Now, the song in my heart should have stayed. After all, the fire I instantly imagined did not happen. God allowed me this discovery, and I'm

Parenting a special needs child can be, among other things, wearying. Exhausting. Overwhelming. The fatigue factor packs a hard punch because the effort is so constant. Some of our children do not outgrow behaviors or mature like typical children. Many of our children lack good reasoning skills and impulse control. Until you encounter a fairly trustworthy child who can in a heartbeat make

a very careless decision, you may not quite understand the level of responsibility felt by the parents of some children. Parents of toddlers experience this for a season, but some of us might for a lifetime. Time and experience do not teach us to mellow. While we put our children in God's loving hands, we'd also better pay attention.

You have three door locks to keep someone in,

Your clock is set nightly so you can wake and monitor your child,

You hold your adult child's hand in public because he wanders,

Your 17-year-old still occasionally colors the walls with a marker,

Your son needs help blowing his nose or using the pottie at 19,

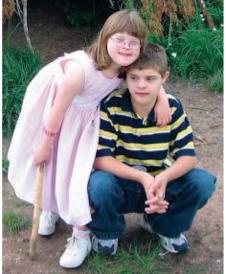
An entire stick of butter might be spread on one piece of bread,

Obsessive behaviors control your child,

Self-iniurious behaviors or violent outbursts are a constant threat,

You cannot run to the store without packing the meds,

You are brushing someone else's teeth for 16 years,



Lila and Stephen in Colorado, summer 2006.

You send your 27-year-old to her

Your child sobs but cannot communicate or generalize pain,

Your son can't go to Sunday school because there is no helper for

Your daughter could be very easily physically taken advantage of,

... then you, friend, may be able to relate to the fatigue encountered by some parents of special needs children.

Some parents whose children are very young may not have yet dealt with ongoing issues. Parents whose children are high functioning, or who have a good support system, may not experience the depth of the disability that others do. Some parents may struggle daily.

We deal with it. We love them. We find joy. Most days.

Many days, "inconveniences" are met with strength, grace, and even humor. We love and cherish our children for who they are. All children, all people have weaknesses and are demanding. Our children may have a different set of demands sometimes. We deal with it. We love them. We find joy. Most days.

Other days we are weary.

Fatigue may come from the need to advocate medically and educationally. Staying on top of the health issues with therapies, stethoscopes, needles, G-tubes, oxygen, and appointments gets tiresome. As our children progress through home education, we may, like many mothers, struggle with doubt. Doubt is draining. We encounter seasons when our children do not seem to make much progress or when they have setbacks. One year they amaze us; the next they struggle with some basics. Day after day after day, we keep plugging away. We listen to ourselves and realize we are not encouraging and cheery. Instead we hear ourselves saying things like, "Try harder! Why can't you get this?" Then the guilt of our impatience drains us. Lord, we are sorry.

Discouragement tires us. Your 10-yearold son wets himself at a sporting event. You have a very messy eater, and the other



Lila rolls out cookies.

children scoot over and stare. Maybe your child refuses to speak because he knows he is not easily understood. Maybe your child is extremely anxious. Maybe her friends outgrow her. Maybe she is too outgoing, huggy, and touchy. Maybe your relatives think you don't try hard enough. Maybe other children giggle behind her back or tease him to his face. Maybe someone cruelly told you, "You didn't have to have him." Maybe your typical children feel forgotten at times because of the demands of your special needs child. Maybe your children are never invited anywhere like other children are. And worse, maybe they ask you why.

Maybe you've been approached about your child's behavioral problems and the need for "discipline." The easy "solution" is offered. You already know there are issues. You try. You dread another incident where you overhear whispers. Maybe your medical bills are so high that you are broke. Some parents have personalities that advocate well, maybe even push. Some tire of pushing and some say no, this is mine to deal with—alone.

Fatigue makes everything worse. Not all days are difficult, but when they come



Use the Best Parenting Book in the World! (The Bible)

Doorposts will help you apply Scripture as you raise your children to be godly, mature adults.

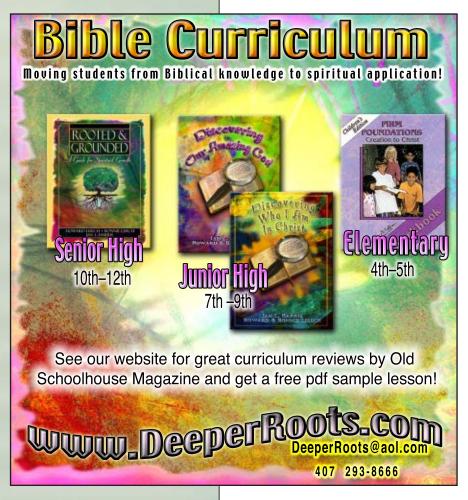
For Instruction in Righteousness puts clear, practical teaching from Scripture at your fingertips. This topical Bible for parents covers over 50 different areas of sin and helps establish consistent, godly discipline in your home. 312 pages.

\$30 (plus \$4 shipping)

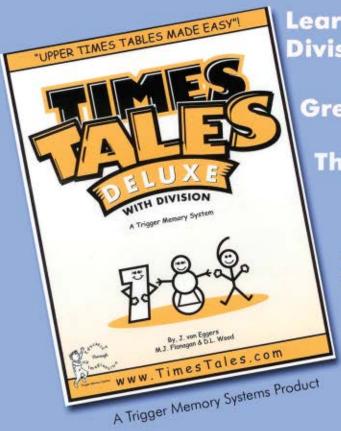
Doorposts is dedicated to helping you apply Scripture in your home. Visit our website today to view sample pages and other products!

Doorposts

www.doorposts.net 866-285-4758 5905 SW Lookingglass, Gaston, OR 97119



FAST! FUN! EFFECTIVE!



Learn Upper Multiplication and Division Facts In One Sitting!

Great for Learning Disabilities

Throw Away The Flashcards!

Non-Consumable!

Saves Time & Frustration

See How it Works and Read Testimonials at www.TimesTales.com

Trigger Memory Systems

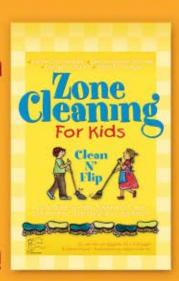
Your One-Stop-Shop for Creative Education

Visit us at: www.TriggerMemorySystem.com

- Through

 Imagination

 Trigger Memory Systems
- * Chore Systems
- * Blank Books, Puzzles & Games
- * Hands On Science
- * Memory Triggers
- * And much, much more!



they are heavy. You hate feeling like the martyr, the victim, but some days you are not a cheerful person of faith. Your entire family suffers from your discouragement. There are many problems with your fatigue. Find solutions.

Find Rest in God

We must remember our children are equipped to do all God has called them to do. And so are we.

When we are weary like David, we remember his lament:

"I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears" (Psalm 6:6).

God will give us rest as He promised:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

We are weary, but He is not:

"Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding" (Isaiah 40:28).

He will enable us to be refreshed:

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

He will strengthen and keep us.

Jesus is truth, and the enemy is a liar. We must abide in God, because the enemy will come to us without invitation. He will come at the most opportune time as he did to a hungry, tired, weary Jesus. If we possessed the ability to always stay "up," Jesus would not tell us, "do not be weary." The implication is that we will be weary. We are going to be tired, or He wouldn't need to give us rest.

It's easy to feel depressed and frustrated. It's hard to be patient. Patience is not a carefree personality. Patience is hard work, tiring work. We need to learn

to abide for rest, for peace, for hope. We must hear Hebrews 4:16: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Find Physical Rest

Sleep well, exercise, eat healthfully, relax. Bitterness can be disguised exhaustion. Rest will optimize your coping ability.

Find Rest with Others Who Understand

Find a friend or a group whose child or children have similar disabilities. Understanding can bring courage, laughter, solutions, and ideas. One parent said, "With these families, I feel normal." My son agonizes over high-pitched sounds. One Sunday a solo at church unnerved him. He sat curled up, tense, fingers in his ears. Some will criticize. A person who understood approached me, saying, "Your son was really in pain. Look how he sat, quiet, tried to deal with it." Instead of feeling uncomfortable, I felt pleased that my son did not leave the service running, and I felt God's grace and encouragement. People who have experienced a particular difficulty are often best at comforting and encouraging those with similar difficulties.

Find Rest in Christian Community

The feeling of isolation is not uncommon for families with special needs, even in church. The parents whose autistic son cannot attend Sunday school because "He doesn't follow directions" can explain it. On the other extreme, you find a child sitting on the floor in the corner, biting her nails, not moving or speaking, for two hours. Smiling, the VBS teacher says, "She was no trouble." Parents have been told, "Your child is no different from any other child and needs to be treated the same way." Tell that to the parents of the 11-year-old who left Sunday school class to go to the bathroom and was found walking down the road a quarter mile away.

Special needs ministry is overlooked in many churches. Some families stop attending church. They don't expect others to take their child for the weekend or even an evening. They would like more than "Your family is a blessing. God knew you could handle this," and a smile.

Many parents do not want to ask for special help. They know their child is different and may cause "extra work." As "ambassadors for Christ," as God's fellow workers, church family should be able to minister to all children and adults. Jesus seemed to go out of His way to find what the world considers weak. The brain of the most profoundly impaired individual and the most brilliant human mind are both far removed from God's wisdom and brilliance. In comparison to God, I'm not sure you could measure the difference in the two. All people need to be ministered to.

Value and ministry should not be performance-based. Special needs people need to hear the truth and experience Christian love. Though the mind and body may be racked with profound disability, the spirit can thrive. If your child cannot be part of your church family, you may want to pray that God provides such a church family.

As homeschoolers, most of us have learned to dismiss weak socialization arguments. However, special needs children may have less opportunity. Some have personalities, abilities, or conditions that allow lots of interaction. Many don't. Parents must be careful since many special needs children are at high risk for abuse. Yet parents should find some community for their child (especially those with little extended family). Many special needs individuals are lonely, especially as they age. Seek trusted community.

As parents, we sometimes worry about today and even more about tomorrow. I know I do. My children have wonderful siblings who are devoted to them. Still, none of us knows what the future holds. Who will ultimately care for our children? Let's seek to find rest in the Lord. He will care for them.

Marla & Nowak

Marla is delighted to have accomplished her childhood dream of being a wife and mommy. Originally from the Shenandoah Valley, Marla is still a small-town girl at heart and cherishes her family and faith. Presently in their eleventh year of homeschooling, she and her husband are the parents of seven children, including two children with Down syndrome and two children in Heaven lost to a rare pulmonary disease.

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **33**

THE BIBLE AND ITS INFLUENCE AN ACADEMIC STUDY OF THE BIBLE

NOW AVAILABLE FOR HOMESCHOOL INSTRUCTION!



The Bible and Its Influence

Includes: student edition, teacher's edition, and online tests

Supports academic study of the Bible from Genesis through Revelation

Shows Bible's influence on art, literature, music, and culture

English or Social Studies elective for grades 9-12

Respectful of all faith groups

Available at the introductory price of \$125 + S&H.



Endorsed by: Leith Anderson. Vonette Bright and Chuck Colson "An outstanding textbook."

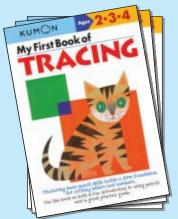
LEITH ANDERSON, President, National Association of Evangelicals

BIBLE LITERACY PROJECT

An educated person is familiar with the Bible

FOR ONLINE ORDERING AND INFORMATION: WWW.BIBLELITERACY.ORG SALES (TOLL-FREE): 866-805-6574

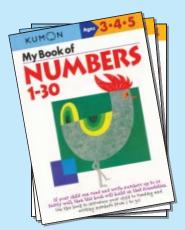
Build a Solid Foundation with Kumon Workbooks



Basic Skills Mazes/Coloring/Crafts



Early Verbal Alphabet/Words/Sentences

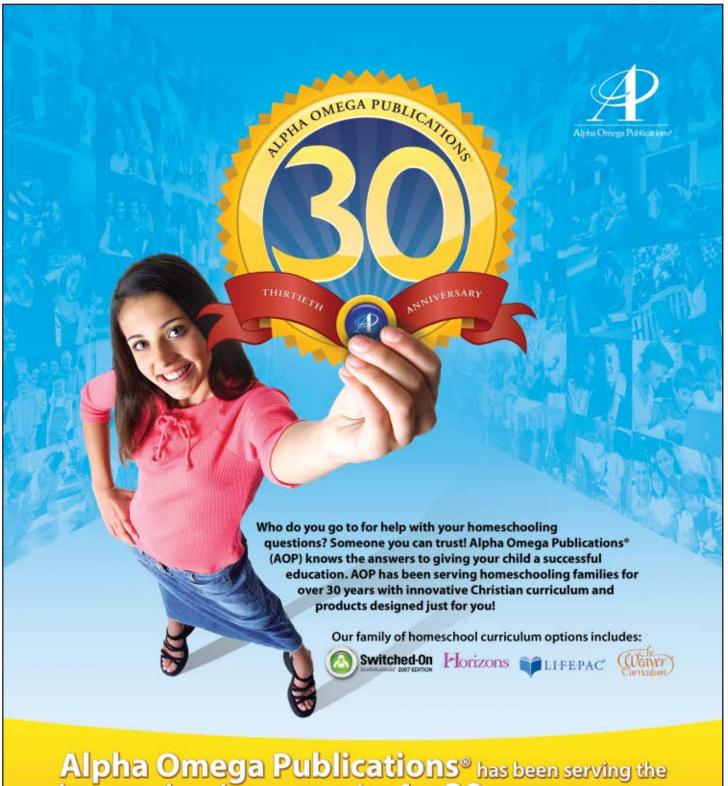


Early Math Numbers/Time/Addition

Our 28 Kumon Workbooks teach early reading/writing, math and basic skills. Each book is based on our unique step-by-step educational philosophy - the Kumon Method. This method allows children to master concepts without frustration, gain confidence in their abilities and become motivated to learn on their own. In addition to their superior editorial content, our workbooks feature the best paper and color quality of any product on the market!

Publishing North America

order online at: www.kumonbooks.com



Alpha Omega Publications® has been serving the homeschool community for 30 years – one family at a time.

For more information call 800-622-3070 or visit www.aophomeschooling.com.

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **35**



Readers Respond

I love TOS Magazine. It is packed full of stories, articles, and information. It takes many days to read everything, which is great because that way I can enjoy it longer! I even love the advertisements.

> —Carmen Kraf Myakka City, Florida

I appreciate all the different articles in TOS. There is something for everyone: parents of toddlers, grade schoolers and teens, hands-on activities, computers, unit studies, etc. Keep up the good work!

> -Roberta Cross Guavnabo, Puerto Rico

I'm so glad you don't publish every month; I'd have to skip some articles! Publishing four times a year is wonderful! I'm able to read through it cover to cover—EVERY ISSUE! I love you!

> —Wendi Wilkin Northglen, Colorado

Your magazine makes me think! I am forced to examine not only my homeschool methods, but my Christian walk. Thank you.

> -Brenda Thorn Auburn, Washington

Thanks for the Ken Ham article and the great variety of articles and ads. God be with you all!

> -J.B.Ohio

I'm usually checking my mail daily for TOS, but this spring has been very busy. So on a rainy, dreary day I was happily surprised to open the mail and find the Spring issue. Thanks for bringing sunshine to my day. By the way, the sun actually came out later that day as well!

> -LisaMarie Johnson Boone, Iowa

We love TOS. It is our favorite publication, but it is so much more. Many times it is a companion, friend, cheerleader, resource, shopper's guide, catalog, wish

The Old Schoolhouse is Looking for Qualified Sales Professionals

People with previous selling experience should apply for this work-from-home position selling advertising space in our magazine and on our websites. This is an independent contractor position paying commission only.

A complete home office setup is necessary, including an Internet-ready computer running Windows XP or equivalent, MS Office and Excel, along with a functioning on-site printer and fax machine. An international phone calling plan is also a MUST!

Professional demeanor, excellent communication skills (written and oral), and a high level of proficiency in MS Office, Excel, and Outlook e-mail are required.

Full-time/part-time (a minimum of 25 daytime hours per week).

Please respond with your detailed work history or resume to Candidates@TheHomeschoolMagazine.com.

book, joke-teller, tear-jerker, and smile-maker. Thanks!

—Brian and Jennifer Morris Stonefort, Illinois

It's like having my own little homeschool support group right in my own home!

> —Deborah Teague Van, Texas

Thank you for all of your hard work. What a blessing TOS is to me!

—Debbie Reynolds Ft. Meade, Missouri

Thank you for the magazine! I find the articles inspiring, love the product reviews and contests, and just the informational nature! Thank you for guarding the information that comes into your magazine for purity and godliness. You're a blessing!

> —Rod and Janet Miller Sarasota, Florida

What a magazine! It takes me forever to read through it because I don't want to miss a thing. I even love the ads.

—Shelly Darnell Oak Harbor, Washington

My family loves this magazine. I read it cover to cover as soon as it arrives. Thank you so much for producing such a great resource to homeschool families.

> —Vicki Martin Birchwood, Tennessee

I read each issue cover to cover! I especially enjoy reading about how other homeschoolers incorporate learning into their daily lives.

—Susan Wigent Ligonier, Indiana

I really appreciate your product reviews and articles. [Seeing the] homeschool resources really helps with regard to decisions for curriculum purchases.

—Angela Pfleiderer Fredricktown. Ohio

I am increasingly impressed by the quality of the magazine and the depth and breadth of the articles.

—Tricia Robertson Woodland, California

Single Parents Homeschooling

Dear Gena,

I am responding to your Winter 2006-7 issue. My response is an exclamation of gratitude and a celebration of humility.

I am a 49-year-old single Christian homeschooling mom of one. When I read your comments in "What About Public School?" about single homeschooling mothers, I cried in gratitude and relief! It was such a comfort to know we are not forgotten. Just prior to reading the pub-

lic school article, I had read "Good Ol' Southern Livin' " and mused over the accompanying photographs [of Paul Suarez and sons working on a friend's cabin together] with mixed emotions. It's such a blessing, on the one hand, to know that there are godly families coming together to help each other (especially fathers working with their sons); but on the other hand, I often feel so afraid for my own 9-year-old son for his lack of male Christian leadership and camaraderie.

When you quoted Paul as saying, "Looking around today's churches,



www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **37**

today's youth groups, we see ... the culture is affecting the church rather than the other way around," I nodded my head in grim agreement. And my own personal experience attending a church where there is a comparatively large population of homeschooling families is that there's no place for single moms. This is not a criticism. These parents, many of them with 5-10 children, are very busy doing what they're supposed to be doing—attending to their marriage, their parenting, and the ministries they are involved in as a family. It's just very lonely sometimes, especially when I feel like I'm constantly

having to do battle with aimless church "activities" that do nothing to delight or enlighten my son's precious spirit and are divisive to family life. So, thank you for understanding that "these children are orphans in a sense, their mothers, widows." Knowing that you understand, and that your heart is with us, makes me hopeful that God is moving on our behalf.

A word of encouragement to any single homeschooling mom, or any wanting to homeschool: If you know God is leading you, focus only on His leading, and you will be able to do this! Your children, and your relationship with your children, are precious to Him. It is not easy, but He tucks grace into all the hard places, and that grace will become the haven where you, and your children, will be safe and content. We grow and learn and produce only in His grace anyway. You'll learn what is truly valuable and He'll be delighted to provide what you really need, and excited as He watches you grow and learn along with your children.

Now, for the other area I wanted to talk about, "the celebration of humility." I've noted how you respond to letters of complaint or disagreement from your readers. God bless your tender, wise,

Favorite Article last issue

So many—"Morality Is Not the Point"; "Fighting for Dear Life"; "One Room, Several Ages, Many Lessons"; "Healthy Eating Simplified."

—Carmen Kraft Myakka City, Florida

"Morality Is Not The Point"—This article was a much needed reminder to me of exactly what God wants from each of us. I am changing my plan of study for next year to include teaching my children different ways to "love" God. Just what we need—myself included.

—Sharon Arrocha Grain Valley, Missouri

I loved Ken Ham's article about over-sheltering our children. It helped me to confirm my husband's and my approach to this topic! I love your magazine. It is always very informative and encouraging.

> —Judy Kramer Cleveland Tennessee

"Orange Sherbet Friendship."

—J.B. Ohio

Many of them were just what I needed right now! The articles about sheltering were especially encouraging to me to keep on the way we are with "sheltering" our boys. Thank you for another great issue of encouragement, inspiration, and ideas.

—The Albert Family San Diego, California All of them!

—Tammie Jurek The Woodlands, Texas

"Do Tell! Storytellers Are Better Writers" by Sheila Carroll. I love your magazine—it's always packed with great, encouraging articles. Every issue gives me new ideas to use in our home. Thanks!

—Cindy Horton Princeton, West Virginia

How can I pick just one? Sheltering interview with Ken Ham and all the writing tips articles and the healthy eating articles. I love this magazine!

—Alisha Hauser Wilkesboro, North Carolina

Ruth Beechick's writing tips.

—Rebekah Matt St. Louis, Missouri

Too many favorites—Ken Ham, "Travel Your Way to a Good Education," "We School for Jesus," all of the writing articles. Awesome magazine—especially this month! Thanks for the Excellence in Education Awards and curriculum reviews. They help tremendously. Keep up the great work. Also love those contests. God bless.

—Nikki Gill Glendale, Arizona

"The Story Is Not Over: Laura Ingalls Wilder" by Nancy Baetz. I love the wide variety of articles!

—Brandee Wofford Jacksonville, Texas

Any article about Little House on the Prairie. You have a great publication. When I get it, I can't wait to read it through.

> —Penny Mathis Kennesaw, Georgia

"One Room, Several Ages, Many Lessons" by Julie Nott. I wish TOS was published more often. I love reading it under my apple trees and being encouraged.

—Desiree Campbell Freeland, Washington

"A Grain of Mustard Seed." I love your magazine! I always read it from cover to cover and now my 13-yearold daughter is asking to read it, too!

> —Pam Jones Snellville, Georgia

Attorney David Gibbs, "Fighting for Dear Life."

—Tina M. Lewis Ravenna, Kentucky

Gena's response to shelter.

—Susan Washabaugh Ray City, Georgia

I love Cindy Downes! Nancy Baetz! Ken Ham! I love the Natural Schoolhouse section! I love the new Lesson Planner section!

—Cindy West Paris, Kentucky

"Scotland: A Small Country with a Surprising Impact" by Terri Johnson.

—Tricia Robertson Woodland, California

38 ■ Teachers' Lounge www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com







The Hard Drive contains an entire grade level of BJU Press Distance Learning classes for a whole year. Get our award-winning teachers and high-quality content in a new, easy-to-use device. It's convenient, and it may be just right for you.

Check out our Distance Learning website at www.bjupress.com/distance_learning.

BJU PRESS www.bjupress.com

System Requirements—*PC with built-in USB 2.0 interface • 1 GHz processor • 256 MB RAM • Windows XP • See www.bjupress.com for details on Vista

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **39**

humble hearts. Your teachable spirit, your patience in explaining, your courage in advocacy of spiritual principles, is a wonderful thing. It marks a spiritual maturity that is rare indeed and is the stuff true heroes are made of

I am enclosing money for my own two-year subscription. Also, I'm enclosing money for a one-year subscription for you to give to another single homeschool mom, or one who is being led to homeschool but doesn't think she can. Praise the Lord that I am able to do this! Also, if I am eligible for the free gifts, please give those to the recipient of the subscription.

Additionally, I don't have time to blog yet, but if you think any of these single moms you know would benefit, please provide them with my email address. [Send email for Rene to TL@TheHome schoolMagazine.com and we will forward it to her.] Thanks for all you do.

-Rene Evans

Dear Rene.

You have left us a little speechless with your letter. All we can say is thank you; we

don't have any other words. We think that a "main hub" of single homeschool parents at www.HomeschoolBlogger.com would be incredibly encouraging, particularly if you were a part of it. Perhaps we should explore something like that. Clearly you are wise beyond your years. You must have made it through many a trial. We have found that God tends to really mature people via multitudes of trials in life—that is, if we pass the tests He gives us. (Here's how, for those who don't know: OBEDIENCE to the Word at all costs—you do that, and you've won.)

Thank you for the scholarship subscription for a single mom—we'll put it to good use. And as a result, we want to offer TEN MORE free subscriptions to single homeschooling parents. All they need to do is contact us and mention they saw this letter in the Teachers' Lounge. We'll call this the Rene Scholarship, and the first ten who call in or email asking for them will receive one-year subscriptions to TOS Magazine. Our toll-free number is 1-888-718-HOME and our email is Publisher@TheHomeschoolMagazine.com. Thank you, Rene, for allowing the Lord

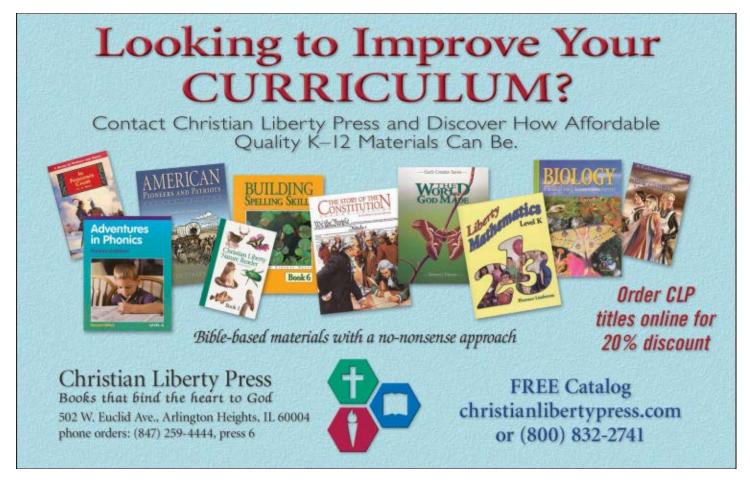
to work through you in such a lovely way. Please keep in touch; we so love meeting people like you.

In Christ,

—Paul and Gena

Protect Our Kids

Hello TOS! Thank you for your interview with Ken Ham (Spring 2007)! It was just what I needed to hear! I was so encouraged by his comments about homeschooled children being polite, disciplined, obedient to parents, having good character, and retaining their innocence throughout their teen years. This is so true! You cannot raise Christian children in the public school system. When children are sent five days a week to learn in the ungodly setting of a public school, they are going to be influenced more by their peers than by their parents or youth leaders. They will be unruly, immoral, ungodly, impure, disobedient, and undisciplined. Taking our children to church a few times a week is not sufficient in the day that we live in! The



40 ■ Teachers' Lounge www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

THE HOME OF LATINA CHRISTIANA: AN INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN LATIN LATINA CHRISTIANA HAS BEEN USED BY OVER 150,000 GRAMMAR, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

Memoria Press



Too many subjects, too little time? Simplify your curriculum with a classical education.









LATIN... LOGIC... RHETORIC... AND MORE.

www.MemoriaPress.com 1-877-862-1097

REQUEST YOUR FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE CLASSICAL TEACHER



only answer to keeping our children safe from the immoral things taught in public school is to homeschool them. As Ken Ham said, We must pour the salt into our children until they are mature enough to withstand the influence of the world, from elementary through high school. Again, as Ken Ham said, the Israelites never sent their children to the Philistines to be trained, so why do Christians send their children to public schools to be trained by the world?

Ken's comments about sheltering our teens from the youth group were also encouraging. The scripture 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Bad company corrupts good character," was a confirmation to me! How many times do we hear, "Your daughter needs to be in the youth group because she can be a good influence on the other teens"? How many times have we seen good teens go bad by the influence of their peers! Too many! We will be the ones standing before God to give an account for what we did with the precious children He blessed us with. Will our answer be, "I gave them over to the public school," or will God just have to look at our children standing next to us and say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant ..."? I thoroughly enjoyed this article, one that I will read again and again! Thank you so much. I love your magazine!

—Eileen Ealy Cincinnati, Ohio

Home Where They Belong

I just wanted to say that your column yesterday, and the "Home Where They Belong" video, were so encouraging to our family! I have watched the video four times, and I cry like a baby every time I watch it! [See the video at www.you tube.com/watch?v=_s18yj57iwU.] As a homeschooling mom of four boys I sometimes am filled with self-doubt. But today I am filled with renewed confidence and boldness that I am doing the absolute right thing with my children. It's amazing how such a small thing passed along electronically can give someone such a big blessing!

Thank you, thank you!

—Cheryl Samons Lexington, Kentucky

One Simple Solution

Ever since I found out I was pregnant with my first child nine years ago I knew I wanted to homeschool. I was scared to death when the time came, but somehow God had a plan and took me by the hand and led me to a hotel meeting that A Beka Academy was having in our hometown. I went and was amazed and apprehensive at the same time. I felt a little intimidated because I didn't feel like I was educated enough myself to be the teacher. Then the most amazing thing came in the mail. It was another flyer from A Beka advertising their DVD Program. It is where the teacher is recorded on a daily basis (all 170 lessons) in her own classroom with other students. It is a full day of classes in every subject. I felt so relieved. I am the assistant, my child gets a classroom atmosphere with other children (he's also not tired of listening to me), he gets a full day of classes that are all centered around the same subject—God—and he really enjoys it. It is a real relief for someone like me who felt like if I did the teaching I would be leaving something out and wondering if I was even on his level or not. I never have to worry about picking out curriculum or workbooks or teaching

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ 41

materials. Everything is sent to me UPS, including DVDs for the whole year. I do send in a progress report every six weeks with copies of tests for them to send me a very legal report card. I am worry-free every year, and I'm very thankful. This may interest parents who are considering homeschooling but were like me. It may cost a little more, but it is sure worth it. Grandparents can even pitch in too. My son enjoyed it so much that at the end of kindergarten he actually teared up when his teacher and fellow students said goodbye to him on video. I wiped a few tears myself.

I just thought this information might help someone.

I love your magazine and newsletters. Keep up the good work.

-Tracy Dixon

Natural Cleaning

I'm so grateful to have recipes for natural cleaners [from "What's That Lurking in Your Homestead?" Winter 2006-7]! I've been meaning to find recipes like this. Thank you!

—Laura Yackel

Dear Lisa,

I just wanted to let you know that I unloaded the CLEANEST, SPARKLIEST dishes from my dishwasher this morning! I used your "recipe" that was in The Old Schoolhouse Winter 2006-7 issue. I was truly amazed! I plan on making your clothes detergent next week and am looking forward to those results as well. Thank you so much!

> -Shav Carr Enoree, South Carolina

Feeling Desperate

We gave in right before Christmas and put our kids back in school. We had homeschooled at that point about three years. I haven't been unhappy about them being back in school but I have been unhappy about the "new" bad attitudes and such that they have picked up on. I'm already thinking to next year and homeschooling them. I miss them. I've started reading stuff and praying about this decision. I figure if I start now, I will definitely be prepared by next fall. I guess that I just got burned out. I never felt as though we were doing enough, but in reality, maybe we were doing too much. I tried different approaches and nothing felt right other than reading aloud to them. ... My support system is next to nothing. I do have my husband's support. There is no one at our church that homeschools. We do have a homeschool group that we belonged to that we took some field trips with and participated in a P.E. class. I want to do it and do it successfully. What advice could you possibly share with me to avoid the burnout? I'm desperate.

> —Rona Cassell Concord. North Carolina

Hi Rona!

Thanks so much for writing in.

The fact that you are missing your children and that you can see the influence of the public school on your children tells me that you probably know in your heart what to do, and I am so blessed to hear you are bringing them back home. Plus it



#1 rated Math & Physics Tutorial on DVD

Tens of thousands of homeschooled students have benefited from our DVD content ...all taught entirely through example problems!

"Buying your algebra, calculus, and physics DVDs has been the best educational investment. I went from a 'C' to an 'A' student last semester!"

"Your methods are so clear that my seven year old son was grasping the trigonometry lessons. I'm picking up some new stuff as well."



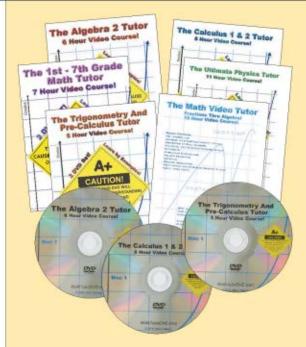
Now available: Basic Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1 & 2, Physics,

Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus and Calculus 1 & 2

Basic Math Word problems, Geometry, Algebra 3, Calculus 3. Available soon:

View free sample videos of every DVD course on our website:

www.MathTutorDVD.com/OSH



"Watching your videos is wonderful because, as you work the problems, you show and explain every step."

100% money back guarantee on all DVDs. They will raise grades immediately!

42 Teachers' Lounge www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com is so wonderful and such a blessing that your husband is supporting you.

Reading aloud to your children is an excellent part of education. They will learn so much! Just add in a few other ingredients and you will be doing so much more for them than anyone else can. You might want to check out Jennifer Steward's website www.unitstudies.com. She bases most of their learning around the books she reads aloud to the children. That might be the way to go for you. We also sell her unit study notebook at our store here: www.theoldschoolhousestore. com/index.php?main_page=product_ info&products id=362. I'm definitely not trying to sell you a product, just thought this might be the way for you to go since you felt successful reading to the kids.

A lot of homeschool moms, like you, do not have a support system but have found that if God is for you, who can be against you? And here at The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, we want to help support you as well. At www.HomeschoolBlogger.com many of these moms have found like-minded friends to share with and gain support from.

We all feel burnout from time to time, but if we remain faithful to God's calling, He will reward us with good fruit in our children as we seek to raise them for His glory.

I am praying for you today! Let me know if you have any more questions and please write us back and let us know how it is going when you get the kids back home!

P.S. Have you seen this video? It just might encourage you further: www.you tube.com/watch?v=_s18yj57iwU.

—Deborah Wuehler Senior Editor The Old Schoolhouse Magazine

Your Voice

This Issue's Question

Can you offer any solutions for my husband and me, who are expecting our first child and plan on homeschooling? We travel and minister internationally and sometimes have assignments for one year at a time in a different country. We are in Florida in the U.S. now and I am currently teaching as a public school elementary teacher in addition to our normal ministerial responsibilities.

—Michelle Kante Rotunda West, Florida



Each Month We Cover:

- Reviews of the latest Christian Software and Services
- The latest technology news relating to ministry
- Security articles with tips to keep you safe
- ▶ Bible study software tips, articles and reviews
- ▶ "How To" articles to keep your computer running fast
- Articles on ministry communications
- Handheld devices, personal communications and more!

Published for 19 years, and **NOW** subscriptions are completely **FREE!** Join our 50,000+ readers and sign up TODAY!

Visit www.ccmag2.com/freesub

Christian Computing Magazine is now digitally delivered directly to our subscriber's email address each month.

Your Answers

I can relate to your situation. My husband and I have been on the move since we were married almost 13 years ago. We married in Russia, went to Bible college in California, and then right back to Russia upon graduation. We have three daughters and have moved almost 25 times. The best thing that we did for them was homeschool. By homeschooling them they never had to worry about changing schools and they always took their "best friends" with them. They

know that even though we may change houses or even countries, their day-to-day routine is still the same. As for the schoolwork while in Russia, we used an umbrella Stateside to avoid any problems with either country. As you know, it's hard enough to be an MK without having to give up your family as well. So far, our girls are loving this life! In fact, we have been in the same place for four years, too long for them.

—Johnne Orelchikov Winnsboro, Texas

Budget Spent? Time to Rent... Homeschool Solutions for Families



* Rent educational DVDs, VHS, and CD-ROMs for as low as \$5!

* Order online, programs delivered to your mailbox!

★ Programs for Pre-Kindergarten to High School!

★ More than 2000 titles to choose from!

★ Free shipping both ways!







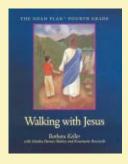




www.actadvantage.org

Homeschool Video Rental Library

Advanced Reading Package





Package

Special Price \$49.95 (plus s&h) Buy Now!

Use coupon code OS57.

Get the results of Biblical reasoning and knowledge through your child's reading program.

- Unique Bible-based reading program
- Classroom tested—advanced skills results!

Buy each individual item (visit www.facebookstore.net) or Purchase the complete Advanced Reading Package Now!

www.face.net

Foundation for American Christian Education

Your foresight and desire for your child are most admirable. Many times as parents we respond out of need and circumstance when it comes to the raising of our children. Because let's face it, being able to run on autopilot are refreshing days when managing family life. Keep in mind that homeschooling will not be something you do "to" or "for" a child. It becomes a natural extension of family existence. The greatest revelation a parent receives once they find confidence in their homeschooling and parenting is that children are our first ministry and disciples the Lord gives us. From there you will reach many nations in ways unimaginable. Now is an excellent time to reflect, ask the Lord, and journal the things your family name stands for when it comes to you and your husband's values, opinions, and preferences. That way as you live it all out daily and gain experience in how you want to implement these things, you can focus on using your expertise from ministry and teaching to accomplish what you want to impart.

> -Lisa Lyons Abilene, Texas

Next Issue's Question

I was wondering if any other moms feel as lonely as I do sometimes being the only homeschool family in our circle of close friends. My husband and I were led to adoption and now have two beautiful girls from China. They are 71/2 and 6 and truly blessings from the Lord. We knew from the time we brought them home that we would homeschool them. We belong to a group called Families with Children from China. We all have Chinese children along with some Korean and Vietnamese adoptees. We attended a play group when my girls were young so they could be with other children and the moms could have a morning with other moms in the same situation. I made two close friends at that group and we remain friends to this day. But, in this group of 72 families we are the ONLY homeschool family. Now the girls are older and my two friends have sent their children to public school.

So, what I'm wondering is, how many homeschool moms continue to have close friendships with public school moms? I do belong to a homeschool co-op. I've met one woman there who has become a good friend, but the other moms there just don't

Teachers' Lounge

Are you 100% satisfied with your math curriculum?

The Propert SRA DISTAR Reading

CHILD TO READ

Siegfried Engelmann

TEACH YOUR

IN 100 EASY

LESSONS

Phyllis Haddox

Supplement it with Math Mammoth worktexts!

- * downloadable (CDs also)
- * affordable: \$2-\$6.50 per book
- * print what you need, when you need it and print again

* Truly helps your child to understand math!

Download over 200 sample pages www.MathMammoth.com/samples

Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons

- With this book, children easily move step—by—step with phonics (sounds for letters) and learn the essential skills (left out of other phonics programs) to blend the sounds into words.
- Built on this unique phonics foundation, children quickly start to read those words in fully illustrated stories.
- This book was designed to be user–friendly for parents, grandparents, tutors or others who want to teach young (3- to 6-year old) non-readers.
- The book contains 100 twenty-minute lessons that are clearly color-coded and scripted (including how to motivate, teach, and correct) so that both you and the child you are teaching can be successful.
- After completing the 100 lessons they read on a solid second grade level.

Dr. Phyllis Haddox, co—author, highly recommends the Quickstart Video Training and support materials to enhance the effective use of her book.

TEACH YOUR CHILD TO READ IN 100 EASY LESSONS BOOK
"QUICKSTART" VIDEO
FIRMING PACKET (Optional)\$25.00 (plus \$7 shipping &chandling)
$KID\ SIZED\ SOUND\ PRACTICE\ CARDS\ (Optional)\ \dots \$8.00\ (plus\ \$7\ shipping\ \& chandling)$
DISPLAY SOUNDS (Optional)\$9.00 (plus \$7 shipping &handling)

Visit our web site to view our complete catalog with additional training packages and a complete listing of all of our valuable teaching resources for parents.



8268 Honeysuckle Drive • Liverpool, NY 13090





Phone/Fax: (315) 652-3175 www.erigroup.us



seem to want any contact outside of the days the group meets. I know I have Jesus as my ultimate Friend and Savior, but it sure helps to have some earthly friends to share this homeschool journey with.

—Pat Reading, Pennsylvania

If any of you experienced homeschoolers have any advice for our next issue, please visit our website's "Your Voice" section at **www.TheHomeschool Magazine.com** or write to The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, Publisher's Office, Attn: Readers Helping Readers, PO Box 8426, Gray, TN 37615.

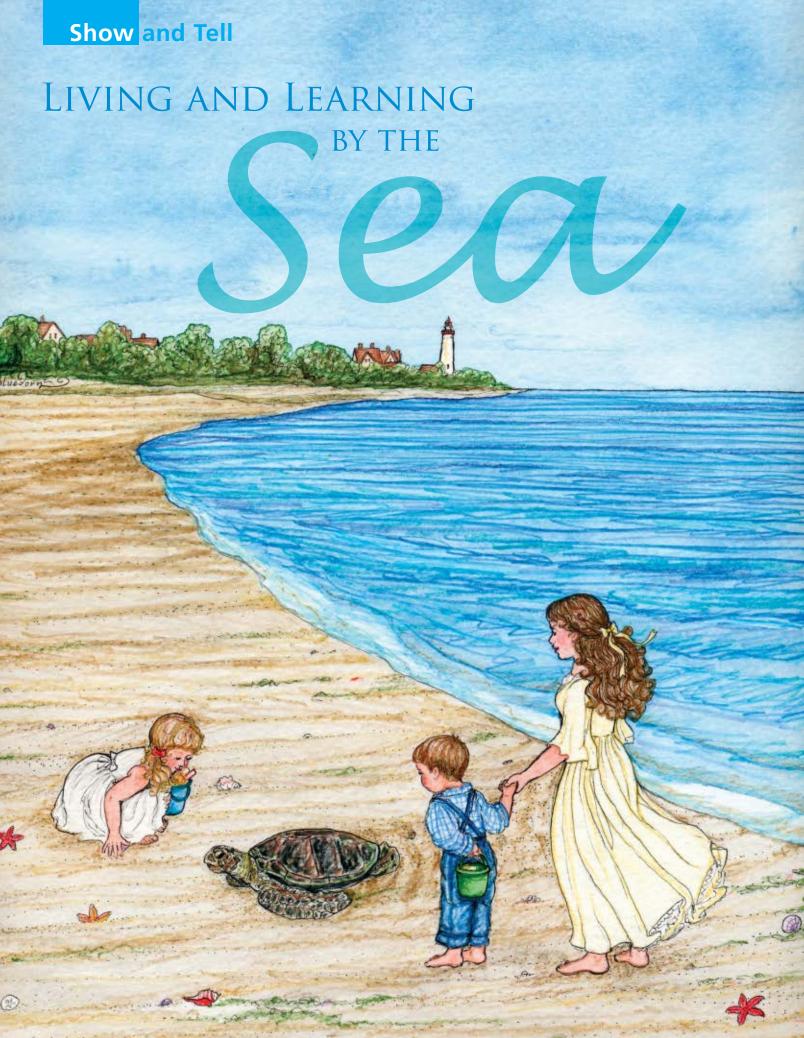


Do you have something to share?

Write to us at TL@TheHomeschoolMagazine.com or Attn: Teachers' Lounge, The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, PO Box 8426, Gray, TN 37615.

All submissions become the property of The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine, LLC ("TOS") and will not be returned. Submission of a letter or comment to the Teachers' Lounge constitutes full consent and a grant of unlimited permission and non-exclusive rights for TOS, to print, publish, broadcast and use all portions of your letter or comment, including without limitation your full name, on Internet websites owned or operated by TOS and in any and all Company publications, including The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine. TOS will make reasonable efforts to withhold personal names if requested in the

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 45



The Shaw Family

By Heidi Shaw

ome Education for the Shaw family has always been about two things: values and lifestyle. Teaching our children to know a real and loving God and see His faithfulness at work in their lives closely connects to our lifestyle choices and career directions. Living on and working from the ocean has allowed our family to live and grow from the bounty of God's provision while always being aware of the amazing majesty and power of His creation. So exactly how does life in and on the sea really play out in the day-to-day of our world? The fun part is that we never really know what each new day will hold, and that in itself teaches me to lean heavily on the promises of God, both for protection and provision. Whether we spend time at the shore playing and walking or waiting through a big storm, our lives and our homeschool have been wrapped around the Pacific Ocean for almost 25 years.

Dad and husband Mark has always loved his independence and the sea. It was natural for us to want to keep our family as close to the sea as possible. Our decision to homeschool came in 1989 when we had three small children, ages 2 (Jonathan), 4 (Kaitlyn), and 6 (Jordan). We really prayed about how to raise these kids and stay close to the life that we loved. Mark furthered his education and eventually wound up managing a large fish processing facility. After a lot of prayer we decided to follow Mark's desire to see life from the other side of the dock! We purchased a small 32-foot double-ended fishing troller in 1993. Mark fished that boat up and down the West Coast of Canada from Victoria to the Queen Charlotte Islands for two seasons. After the second summer with Dad away and our family soon to become larger (we were expecting our fourth, Isaac), we conceded that the boat was just too small to house our gang and allow us to stay together. In 1996 Mark came back to shore but we remained attached to the sea for our livelihood as he started designing, installing, and maintaining marine refrigeration systems. As he was working up and down the coast,

Facing page: Special thanks to Johannah Leah Bluedorn for this beautiful painting "The Sea Turtle."

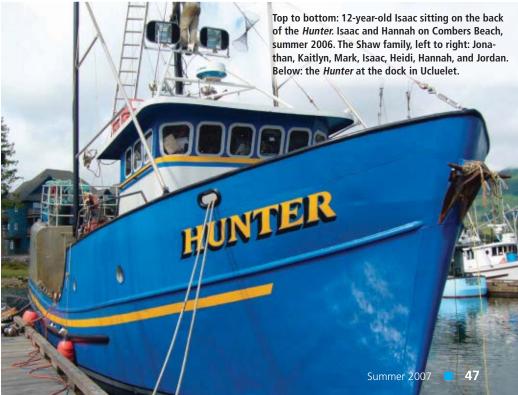
from Alaska to Hawaii, I remained at home, schooling our brood.

We enjoyed so many amazing learning opportunities living close to the ocean, and we tried to take advantage of them whenever we could. We don't get many white Christmases out here, but we felt pretty privileged to be able to walk on the ocean's edge on Christmas Day and glory in the setting sun. Indoor school activities always took second place in those days and we spent many, many afternoons exploring tidal pools and body boarding in the surf. After five years of land-based travel, the Lord blessed us with the opportunity to return to a living off the sea. He also blessed us with another beautiful baby, our second daughter and the youngest of the clan, Hannah. The older kids were growing up and ready to start working and fishing with Dad. I still tend to get seasick even at the dock, yet hope springs eternal that one day we will all be together at one time on one boat. Our new partners in this new opportunity were crazy fun Alaskan twin brothers who lured us back into the fishing world with just that temptation. A big, 58-foot steel boat with tons of room and needing tons of work became our new project. What started as a job led to a friendship that strengthened into a partnership, and we were off into the blue once again. This time Mark fished shrimp southeast of Alaska and cod in the Bering Sea, off the Aleutian Islands. One thing is for sure: we learned











Since 1967

- Solid Proven Curriculum
- Strong Biblical Values
- Superior Administrative Services

Contact us today and discover how the CLASS program can help your family succeed at homeschooling.

For Free Brochure homeschools.org/tos or (800) 348-0899

CLASS Homeschools 502 West Euclid Ave. Arlington Heights, IL 60004 custserv@homeschools.org



"CLASS has everything we were looking for in a home school program—high-quality, Bible-based materials with administrative services, all at a reasonable cost. Discovering that some successful homeschooling families we know used CLASS confirmed our decision. We're happy with CLASS!"

-Anderson Family, Illinois

to fully and completely rely on God day by day, moment by moment. Storms would blow in and we would pray; breakdowns would occur and we would pray. God has never failed, and we all know that no matter where our adventures take us, He will never leave us or forsake us.

Our oldest son was ready to give the sea life a try and hopped on a prawn boat for a short time when he was 19. It was a hard lesson for all of us when we realized that life was not the same on all fishing boats. This boat was harsh and full of men who did not care for or honor God or man. My son lasted two weeks, and despite the lure of a lot of money, he chose to walk off the boat and come home. It was a joy to see his appreciation for home and the values he had been taught. It was more of a joy to see his love for his Lord and the realization that life without God was no life at all. Hard as it was to see my son in distress, I know that the lessons he learned will never be forgotten. Just because the boat floats and fishes does not make it home! The Lord was not a partner on that boat, but He protected and blessed Jordan and allowed him the opportunity to see that only where God is at the head will

there be joy and grace. Jordan's next boat job was out on the Pacific Ocean fishing for tuna, and it was a totally different experience. He has now had two complete tuna seasons at sea and it has enabled him to follow his dreams of working in communication and with youth at a local summer camp.

All the time that Mark was fishing, his work was our only source of income. Never did the Lord let us down. We knew when times were tight that we were still together and that's what mattered. We ate well, all manner of bounty from the sea! We also learned to compact our study times into small periods and get the most out of every moment. Two weeks here, one month there, when Dad was at sea, we worked at home and got our "book learning" done. When Dad came home, we switched gears and enjoyed our time together. We learned what things we had to let go and we learned how to preserve and prioritize family times. Many times even our church family would be frustrated at our inability to commit to be at various events and functions. The kids quickly learned that days with Dad were valuable and that we had to protect our family time. I have never ever regretted the decision to keep our kids home and close, where they belong. If they were in public school, the family time we had would have shrunk to nothing. We are thankful every day for the opportunity to educate our children in the way we have been led.

During all of these years, the roar of the ocean was always in our ears and our hearts.

During all of these years, the roar of the ocean was always in our ears and our hearts. Literally, we live so close we can hear the waves crashing on the shore, so it is never out of our thoughts for long. Within our household, we depend upon the sea and its catch for our livelihood. Being a stay-at-home mom with a husband who is away for weeks at a time has had many unique challenges, none of which would have been manageable without the faithfulness of our Lord. Aside from being just

mom, I needed to be cook, driver, business manager, negotiator, and sometimes stand-in Dad, and I would never trade away one single second! I grew so much as a person, a wife, and a mother during those years. As a wife I tried to remember and realize that any loneliness I felt must be felt even more by my husband out at sea. Sometimes textbooks were set aside as the news came that the boat was on the way in, and we all went down to the dock to help clean and unload. Even grocery trips were an education as we had to figure out how much milk and bread, how many veggies, and how much meat the fishing crew would need for the next trip out. There are no corner stores on the way to Alaska! Sometimes when Dad was to be home for several weeks, our routines changed completely as we enjoyed our family times together. I began to gain a new perspective on what my kids really needed to have a balanced, healthy education. One thing I can and do attest to over and over again is that none of the really important learning came out of the textbooks. It all has to do with relationships, and without open, God-breathed communication, none of what we have achieved with our children would have happened. The common denominator that ruled our learning, whether on land or at sea, has been time. To choose time for our kids and time for each other, we have purposely taken a road rarely traveled, and I really believe our family has been the better for it.

I look back sometimes on what I tried to do in home educating our children, and I am so thankful I didn't feel pressure to conform or compare. We live a learning lifestyle, and it is not for everyone. As our children have grown and developed, they are making choices based on their dreams, experiences, and their desire to serve the Lord. All three of our older children have had time on the boats with their dad. Kaitlyn has tended a small boat while Dad and our partner were diving down below for sea cucumbers. Jonathan has traveled to Hawaii and Alaska to fish for prawns, as well as tuna fishing in the summer. That last tuna trip was close to home, just three days straight out west, approximately 400 miles! Mark goes to Alaska each year in the fall, and last year 11-year-old Isaac went with him for 6 weeks at sea.

He had an amazing time, learning more than any printed text could teach him about oceanography and sea life. There are opportunities for hunting as well, and we have all learned to appreciate the gifts God sends to us—most are simply delicious.

If you ask our children, they will tell you that though at times difficult, life lived and learning done by the sea has invaded their souls, and they all agree that it is a part of their life they will always be thankful for. We may never be wealthy as man measures wealth, but you could never measure the wealth we have accumulated during the course of this journey.

I long ago learned that the only way to watch my family sail away several times a year is to give them all to God. Over and over again I trust the Lord for the protection and preservation of my family. The story isn't finished yet and still the adventure continues. On January 7, 2007, we lost one of our boats while traveling to the Aleutian Islands. Caught in a wicked ice storm and 60- to 70-mile-per-hour winds, the *Hunter* was covered in 3 inches of ice and was simply too heavy to recover after a huge wave and gusts of wind knocked it sideways. The really miraculous part of the story is that all four men aboard were

rescued alive. In light of that, the boat's loss seems inconsequential. Where God is leading us in all of this we don't yet know, but what we do know is that life is a journey, an education, and an adventure none in this family want to miss. The kids are now 23, 21, 19, 12, and 7, with our 21-year-old daughter about to be married! Life continues to be about time, relationships, and adventure. Oh, and the sea. Always, the sea ...

Heidi Shaw

Mark and Heidi Shaw live and work out of Ucluelet, British Columbia, on the west coast of Vancouver Island. They have home educated all five of their children, with three still at home. Mark continues to work in various capacities of boat refrigeration and fishing, and Heidi is a full-time mom, teacher, and business manager.



Write a whole book while learning to write!



www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **49**



orning has broken and the seagulls are singing (more like squawking). I roll out of bed to another day in the islands. Today I have to make breakfast, do



chores, homeschool my children, and prepare lunch and supper. Sounds like everyone's life, right? It is, but I just get to do it in beautiful weather year-round. You see, I live in Nassau, Bahamas.

My husband, Egan, and I have been homeschooling our children for 6 years. My daughters are Anri, 9, my reader, and Celina, 8, my independent spirit. My sons are Samuel, 4, who is excited to start school like his big sisters, and Elijah, 2½, who loves to smile and swim. I am the children's primary teacher, but my husband covers science and, in the new year, math

Homeschooling is our life with our kids in our home. Every day I wake up, usually at my kids' prodding (we have very early risers in the Kemp house—too bad we don't live on a farm). I am teaching my children. Some may say you need a set time or a set place for homeschooling. Not so. To us homeschooling is our way of life. Don't get me wrong; I do set times for certain things. But what I am saying is that homeschooling is so much more than workbooks, tests, and memorization. It is you loving and nurturing your child as you teach through everyday things.

Homeschooling is us impressing upon our children or teaching them diligently (Deut. 6:7) the things that we value. For the Kemp family, that is serving and fearing the Lord.

Our main reason for homeschooling our sweet little ones is to train and teach the children how to learn, how to love learning, and how to teach others. I cannot think of a better person to relate this to my children than me, their mother.

Our days are full of fun and adventure.

Our days are full of fun and adventure, mostly because I have a 2½-year-old! We start every day with breakfast and chores. We don't really have time schedules; we just move from one thing to the next.

Maybe it's the ocean air that keeps us at our laid-back pace. We love our "table time," which includes Bible, hymn study, phonics, copywork, and notebooking. We usually need a break by then and of course a snack. My kids just love to play outside any time they can. Back inside we have reading time. I always have a basket of books by the couch (actually, I have four) that I have picked for our history, science, literature, and just-for-fun reading. I usually read until we get hungry. Then it's lunchtime, and of course it is outside in the fort. For the rest of the day they read on their own or play. Can I just tell you how much I love my life!

Homeschooling in the Bahamas is not very common. Our group is small and just forming our official association this year. Homeschooling is legal—or, should I say, a law has not even been made concerning it yet. We are working closely with the HSLDA as we walk in this unknown territory. Many Bahamians are not even sure what homeschooling is. We are slowly changing this and showing others the best option for their children's education (I might be a little biased on this).

The hardest part of homeschooling in the Bahamas is by far the lack of a proper library. I hear your gasps! If I were the box curriculum type of gal, I would have no problem. I am a true lover of books and have fallen in love with the Charlotte Mason approach over the years. I have used **Sonlight**, which I love, but this year I have ventured out on my own. I am covering United States and Bahamian history. I have had such fun collecting great books to use in each unit. I don't know who is more excited to start—the kids or me!

So, what is so different about home-schooling in the Bahamas? Well, for one, our nature walks. Oh, how we love to go to the beach and pick up shells, or rocks for the boys. I have a great shell guide so that we can identify each. We have also learned, with the help of my sweet husband and dear father, how to fish and dive. This includes identifying each wonderful sea creature. Not many kids have been able to do a shark study and see the sharks firsthand while swimming.

As I read more and more about Charlotte Mason, I know she would have loved the Bahamas. The freedom to be outside and experience real living education year-round is one of the best things about living in these beautiful islands. We dig our

hands into anything we can outside and love to have "school" outside.

Our garden, which is now overgrown with wild cherry tomatoes, is year-round. Whether it is tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, or just sunflowers, we love the chance to watch it grow. This year the girls have started a light study on Bahamian bush medicine. We all experienced how to prepare and use some when everyone in the house came down with the chicken pox. We boiled, drank, and bathed in our concoction with much success.

We have done basic Bahamian history through the years and have enjoyed visiting the many forts used during our buccaneer period of history. We are getting ready to dig a little deeper into explorers and pirates this year. Just imagine doing a Columbus study and getting to stand where he set foot on this side of the world. We also enjoy exploring the many bat caves on the various islands we have visited. My children love bats, mostly because they eat mosquitoes!

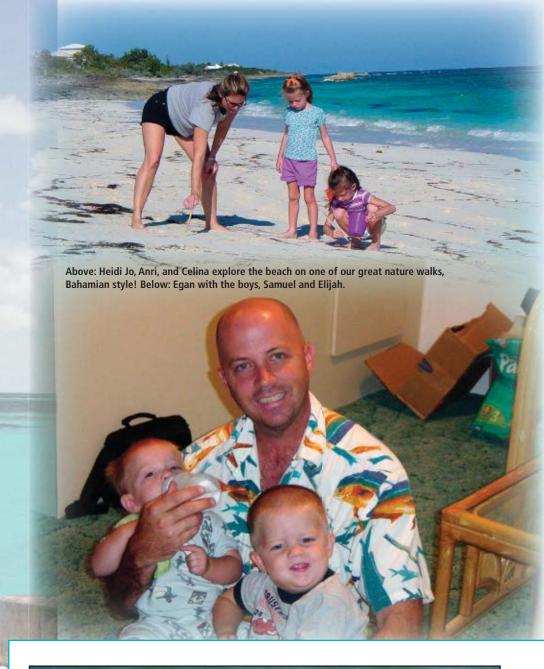
The great wonders of our 700 islands and the ocean we are surrounded by are a homeschooler's dream. We enjoy every minute that we get to explore more of the treasures that God has blessed us with. I am thankful for the freedom we have for now to homeschool. It is our prayer that this freedom continues. We would love for you to join us in this prayer.

I invite you all for a visit; it would make a great unit study!

Heidi Jo Kemp

Heidi Jo Kemp lives in the Bahamas. She has been married to her best friend for 10 years. There she homeschools her four beautiful children. She is the author of a series of seminars on "The Steps to Godly Home-keeping." Her greatest desire is to share the many blessings that God has laid on her heart—Home-keeping Help, Real Relaxing Recipes, Fabulous Forms, Beachcombers Bible Study, and so much more. Visit her website at www.HeidiJoKemp.com to experience a Bahama Blessing. Or you can catch her on her blog at www.Homeschool Blogger.com/bahamahomeschooler.







www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007

20 Years of HOMESCHOOLING

By Deb Turner

e began homeschooling in 1987, using Dorothy and Raymond Moore's Hewitt-Moore Institute. Our only child at the time, Bethany, was 10 years old. We learned during that first year that life gets in the way of the most carefully laid plans. Through the years, more children were added to the family—Rebecca, Ricky, Robbie, and Isaac, and home education seemed like a continual struggle. Looking over the past 20 years, I do not see two years the same. Every year I would say, "This *really* needs to be adjusted." This year is no different, and I have already noted the changes that need to be made for next year. The flexibility that homeschooling provides is one of its greatest advantages.

Throughout the years, we became more and more accepting of the fact that life will always get in the way of academics. Today I am very confident in the relaxed and natural yet powerful method that is presented in the writings of Dr. Ruth Beechick. We must make room for God's plans and life's greater lessons. Dr. Beechick's counsel concerning home education has helped us make the necessary adjustments to accomplish this.

Yesterday I was listening to our teens making music in the other room. Rebecca (18) was singing, and Ricky (16) was playing the guitar. Ricky would come in with vocals on different parts of the song. I didn't recognize the song, but they sounded so good together. Music is something we hear a lot of in our home, between the two of them. Sometimes I'm invited by Ricky to see his latest video. He edits what he videotapes into these wonder-







Robbie and Isaac play dressup with our two oldest grandchildren, Addie and Mikey.

ful creations. If I am having a bad day and need cheering up, I'll often take a moment and view the videos he's made. Some are hysterically funny, some so moving they make me cry. Rebecca is a gifted photographer. I love to sit and meander through her photos. I believe that homeschooling has given both of them the time needed to hone these gifts.

We use "living books" rather than textbooks, though I do have a textbook or two for reference. While I am too unstructured to use a planned curriculum, I am considering using **Sonlight** next year in a very unstructured way. I do love their booklist, as well as the one **Five in a Row** provides. I have several math programs we go back and forth with, including **Miquin**, **Teaching Textbooks**, **Math-It**, and inexpensive workbooks you can pick up at your local store. For penmanship, we love **Handwriting Without Tears**. We are relaxed with these, using the ideas of Charlotte Mason's shorter lessons for younger children. We have many of Ken Ham's **Answers in Genesis** materials available. With learning goals in mind, we can use any of these materials as a means to that end. We do no formal spelling or grammar,

Top left: Isaac and Robbie were invited by the pilot to check out the cockpit of the plane they flew home from Texas in.

Left: Three generations of the Turner family. Front row (L-R): the three grandchildren, Emily, Mikey, and Addie. Middle row: Robbie, Craig, Deb, Isaac. Back row: Rebecca, Ricky, Bethany, and (son-in-law) Joshua. yet all of the children score above the 90th percentile on the language portion of the annual test. In fact, despite life's many interruptions, they all do well on all portions of the annual test.

I believe that conversation is the number one best way a child can learn. What I learn I attempt to pass on to our children by way of casual conversation. While you can't take a photo of this for your portfolio, the knowledge gained in a two-way conversation is tenfold, with its immediate feedback. We do not push a full liberal arts education in our home. If our son is not going to be a science major, I am not going to make him take higher science. Rather, our focus with science will involve defending our faith by better understanding creation science versus evolution. I picture one or two of our children possibly excelling in science. There will be no need of a great push from me, as the motivation is already there. I believe we must pray for each child and ask God to direct his or her path.

His Word is our greatest textbook.

There is no such thing as a typical day in our home. One day might have all three boys at the table together despite the age gap between our oldest son and his two younger brothers, a six-year gap. Another day might show an armload of books from the library scattered all over the floor with the two younger boys devouring them and their older brother working on a video. Today we'll be joining our homeschool support group to play soccer. Next week we'll be in Texas on vacation. Ahhh, but homeschoolers are never truly on vacation, are they? No, we're always learning, especially when we travel.

One thing that I do not see changing in our homeschool in the years to come is the importance we now place on putting God's Word at the core of our studies. Ruth Beechick's recent book *A Biblical Home Education* has wonderful, practical ideas concerning putting this into practice. His Word is our greatest textbook. I see young people falling away from their faith in droves during the age we live in. Our children need to know the Word of God and the God of the Word. God's Word is one-third detailed prophecy, fulfilled and recorded in history. This needs

to be driven home again and again so that our children's faith will be a solid faith. Educating our children at home gives us greater opportunity to that end.

I've learned so much during the past 20 years and realize most of all that the materials we were using mattered much less than how much I exemplified Christ through my own life. We have come full circle in our homeschooling purposes—to raise up children in God's truth and see them carry on and do the same. We are enjoying some of this fruit as we see our first homeschooler play out her role as a godly wife and mother. She and her husband are raising *their* children in God's truth. Whatever our children do in this life, the greatest desire of our hearts is that they would do all to the glory of God.

Deb Turner

Deb Turner has been homeschooling for 20 years and is thrilled to have yet another 10 to go. She and her husband, Craig, have five children and three grandchildren. Craig works as a mechanical engineer, while Deb enjoys raising her childdren and loving up her grandchildren. She also enjoys writing and gardening. Visit her blog at www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/pattycake.



Ricky studies one of the lizards we encountered in Texas and would have liked to bring home.

As the author/illustrator of The Five Finger Paragraph, I'd like to ask for your help. Our home was struck by lightning and burned (total loss) on 6/29/07, along with my office and all computers, printing and publishing equipment. I want to let you know that I can only provide ebooks at this time, because they are located on a file server away from my office in my house.

The love and help just keeps pouring in! We have clothes, food, and a place to live, so we don't NEED anyTHING at this time. But since so many people still want to help, we've figured out a way to let you help US to help OURSELVES. Tell your friends and enemies, neighbors and relatives about The Five Finger Paragraph and all of the writing assistance it has to offer their children. That will help you, them, AND us to help each other. Our web site is www.fivefingerparagraph.com.

Thanks for your prayers. God took our toy poodles to live with him during the fire, but has showered us with different blessings in exchange. Who knows, maybe another children's book series will come out of this!

Praise be!!

Johnnie W. Lewis Telephone: 770-977-4185 FAX: 770-973-4128 Postal Address:

1860 Sandy Plains Rd. Suite 204 - 150 Marietta, Georgia 30066

eMail: info@thefivefingerparagraph.com

have liked to bring home.

The Tortoise or the Hare? Does Slow and Steady Always Win the Race?

By Kim Wolf

s a child I enjoyed reading Aesop's fables. What I always liked best about fables was that they used animals and they always taught a lesson. Jesus used parables when He taught, often using farm life or some other part of daily life that His hearers would recognize and relate to.

Probably my favorite Aesop's fable is "The Tortoise and the Hare." One day a Hare came across a Tortoise and began making fun of him because he was so slow. Tired of being teased once again, the Tortoise challenged the Hare to a race. His victory assured, the Hare took the old Tortoise up on his offer. After the fox had set the course, the race was on! The Hare was ahead in no time and decided that he had plenty of time to take a nap. Upon waking he looked toward the finish line only to see that the Tortoise was crossing it and he had lost the race! Lesson: "Slow and steady wins the race."

Slow and steady—does that always win the race in every circumstance? Well, let's put that in homeschool terms. What about reading?

When a homeschool family begins their journey from day one of their child's schooling, reading is one of those scary subjects on the list. Can you remember how you learned how to read? I couldn't. With such a huge variety of reading programs out there, some guaranteeing fast results and some out for the long-term, scope-shaping journey, how do parents pick and choose what will work for their children? I'll show you two tried and true favorites, *Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons* (the Hare) and **Hooked On Phonics** (the Tortoise). Both of these methods are fine phonics-based methods, and I have used both with great success.

Why phonics? Simply because it works! Several years ago, at a Christian Home Educators of Ohio convention, I listened to Samuel Bloomenfeld discuss the utter failure of the "look-say/whole-word" method that so many public schools have been using. This method attempts to teach reading by causing children to "memorize" what certain often-used words "look" like. Basically, once these key words are memorized by sight—not sounding out, but what they look like—the rest of their reading instruction ends up just being a guessing game. This look-say/whole-word method was originally created to teach deaf people how to read. The program was such a failure that it is no longer used with them—but it is still used in three out of four government schools! Sounds like one more reason to teach them at home.

Enter: The Hare

Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons (TYC) is a product of DISTAR, published by Science Research Associ-



ates (SRA). Remember those fun and teachable SRAs we used to do in third grade? (If not, don't worry—I'll get to them later.) These are the same folks! I always enjoyed doing those little SRAs and I was thrilled to find out that this was the same company.

In the Introduction, they take what Samuel Bloomenfeld told us at CHEO by quoting Robert Benjamin from his book *Making Schools Work:* "Many schools continue to employ instructional methods that have been proven ineffective. The staying power of the look-say or whole-word method of teaching beginning reading is perhaps the most flagrant example of this failure to instruct effectively." As we all know, if a child is a good reader, the whole world opens up to him. TYC has proven to be very effective with young readers, especially preschoolers.

As the title implies, the book consists of 100 lessons that last roughly one-half hour each day. My advice is to *not* skip any lessons, as they build upon each other. By the time your child finishes the book she will be reading at a whopping second-grade level! And your child will not be the only one who benefits. As the book says, "After you complete the program, you'll know more about teaching reading than most public school teachers, because you will have carefully observed and participated in the step-by-step development of your child's reading skills." As we all know, parents learn, or re-learn, right along with their children.

The Parents' Guide outlines the program's sequence, which consists of (1) beginning with simple exercises, (2) teaching reading skills, (3) modifying exercises slowly, in small ways, so that they are easy for the child, and (4) communicating very clearly with the child.

Sample from the Pronunciation Guide				
Symbol	Pronounced	As in	Voiced or Whispered	Introduced in Lesson
m	mmm	ram	W	1

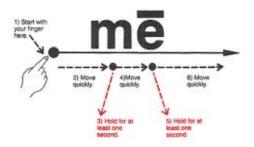
TYC uses a very special "funny" print to spell words to help the child decipher the sounds more easily. As we know, because our language is a peculiar mix of Greek, Latin, and French, many of our letters can represent several different sounds in different words. TYC helps a child understand these differences early on by using a "funny" print. I can't show it to you here, only inform you that it includes all the phonics-related symbols that we grew up with: long and short vowels, digraphs such as *ch*, *sh*, *th*, and so on. The pronunciation guide is very simple and easy to use, and it will probably look slightly familiar to most from your own memories of learning to read. The guide gives the letter symbol, how the letter is to be pronounced, a word example, whether the sound is voiced or "whispered," and which lesson this concept is introduced in. See the table above for an example.

Two of the keys to phonics are saying the words slowly and sounding out words. The first few lessons will begin with saying letter sounds slowly. Each sound, and each word (as you get further into the book), is written the way you should teach your child to say it. Each word is marked with a big dot to show where to point as your child begins to sound out the word. You then quickly move your finger to the letter to be sounded out next and then move on quickly to the next letter or sound.

After you have shown letters make, she three times. Then quickly to the lext letter of sounds. your child the sounds that the sounds it out with you two or she sounds out the letters and



sounds herself. To practice sounding out a word, the student repeats the sounds a little faster each time until the sounds run smoothly together to form the word. For example, the sounds "mmm" and "eee" run smoothly together into "me."



As mentioned earlier, TYC insists that no skipping is allowed. Even if a child can read at a faster rate than the program's sequence of instruction, it is important to remember that "The goal of decoding instruction is to make decoding an automatic practice, not something that requires a great deal of thinking or a great deal of effort." A person who reads well spends very little time mentally sounding out words. By learning in sequence, one learns wholly. If a reader's mind has been trained well, the sounding out process is automatic and produces a person who not only reads well and reads quickly but also absorbs and maintains more of what he has read.

Now before this all sounds too overwhelming, and as we get into what a lesson actually consists of, one thing you must know is that all lessons are scripted! You don't have to worry about not explaining a concept or new sound correctly because it's all laid out for you on every page. TYC even explains what to expect from your child. Making the program easy on the parent is one of the reasons TYC has been such a success.

The daily lessons, divided up by "tasks," may conclude in as quickly as 10 minutes, but I would recommend that you schedule 20 minutes, especially in the beginning, until you and your child are more familiar with what is expected. These lessons should take place every day for five days per week. Do not compromise! As mentioned earlier, these lessons build upon each other, and continuity, just like consistency in discipline, is the key to your success. You may even have days when you do two lessons in one day, as some lessons go quickly. However, use your own judgment so as not to load your child with too much information. If working on reading is enough for your child at this time, do not overwhelm him with Sound Writing.

On occasion, once you actually get started, there may be times when you wonder what the exercise has to do with anything your child is learning as some things seem to go off on a completely different tangent. Stick with it—have you ever noticed that if you have something weighing on your mind, or if your child has a big test coming up, getting your mind off that particular thing for a few moments and going to something else makes you better able to deal with it a little later? This, to me, must be the idea that the writers had in mind. By the time you get to task 4 of the lessons, you will review what was already taught in task 1; task 5 will review what was taught in task 2. You will be amazed at how successful that first lesson was and what your child retained!

I use a similar technique when I am teaching from a book (what Charlotte Mason referred to as whole book learning). While I am reading, my children will be doing something with their hands—drawing, coloring, painting, or latch-hooking a rug, for example. Keeping their hands occupied helps to make their minds free to accept what they are learning on an auditory level. Their retention level is far greater than if they are only half-listening because they are so bored their hands are looking for something to do. So, when TYC begins with one task and seems to switch to an entirely different point, only to come back to the original task, I believe that this same concept is what they are aiming at. Teach something meaningful, get away for just a short bit so that the information can sink in, and—bingo! Lesson learned!

Enter the Tortoise

Hooked on Phonics was the first reading program I used. Hooked on Phonics (HOP) now has several programs to offer, but why mess with perfection? Their original program, which we will discuss here, is now called Hooked on Phonics Classic. It is so much fun when that big HOP box arrives! Inside you will find 7 workbooks with lessons, stories, and activities; 9 audio cassettes; 3 sets of fun stickers; 9 sets of flash cards; and a parent guide. Yes, while TYC's strength is in simplicity, HOP has all the bells and whistles! Another find—remember those SRAs that we talked about earlier? They are here! But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

The first thing to do is to listen to Tape 1, the instruction tape. This will give you a great run-down of what you can expect as you use HOP. Your next step will be to open up the yellow Book One and grab the yellow flash cards and the white tape 1. Each tape will lead your child through what he is to say and do. (Of course, brand new readers will need your help until they become familiar with what is expected.) The tapes take the child through the sounds and letters that are on the flash cards. After they are familiar, you will move to the book and Read Out Loud! The first section is "Say the Sound." Each letter is represented by an object beginning with that letter: a—apple, b—bell, c—cat, and so on. In no time at all, your child will be moving on to the letter a and actually putting words together. From one of the first lessons he will be putting a and t together and reading the words at, bat, cat, fat, hat, mat, pat, rat, sat. Each lesson ends in review, and by the time you get to the third review, your child will know 25 words! By the time the student finishes the very first book, she will have gone through the whole alphabet and will be reading whole sentences. My children were so excited when they could read sentences. Book 1 focuses on sight words that everyone reads time and time again, day after day.

Each book works in progression as the student's reading abilities grow. HOP teaches children to read in a deeper, more complex way. Book 2, along with the corresponding tape and flash cards, teaches ending sounds, more complex sight words, and beginning sounds. Book 3, along with its tape and flash cards, teaches more complex beginning and ending sounds and long vowel and other sounds. Set 4 gets a little more in-depth with the diphthong, schwa and other sounds, and more vowel and combination sounds. Set 5 covers combination sounds, silent letters, and prefixes. Set 6 gets deeper into suffixes and silent letters

6 Lesson Planner www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

and gets into larger, 4- and 5-syllable words. Book 7 is a complete reading review book; this book is actually referred to at specific points during the whole lesson plan.

Now, we can't forget those SRAs. I'm glad to say that my daughters enjoyed these just as much as I had as a child. There are 100 SRAs, called Power Builders, that range from beginner's reading level to advanced and are divided into three levels. The beginner's level has a short little story of one- and two-syllable words, then has various activities such as comprehension questions, sounding out words, and "yes or no" (true or false) questions. The intermediate section is for those who have progressed approximately to Book 3 and has much longer stories (one and a half pages, smaller print, more complex words), comprehension questions, Learn About Words (definitions, etc.), and thinking questions. Upper level has far more complex stories, comprehension questions, vocabulary, and word studies. In all three sections the stories are everything from fiction and nonfiction to science and mini-biographies. They are all very interesting. A small word of warning: these are not necessarily from a Christian perspective and may mention evolution as fact, millions of years, and so on.

You Decide

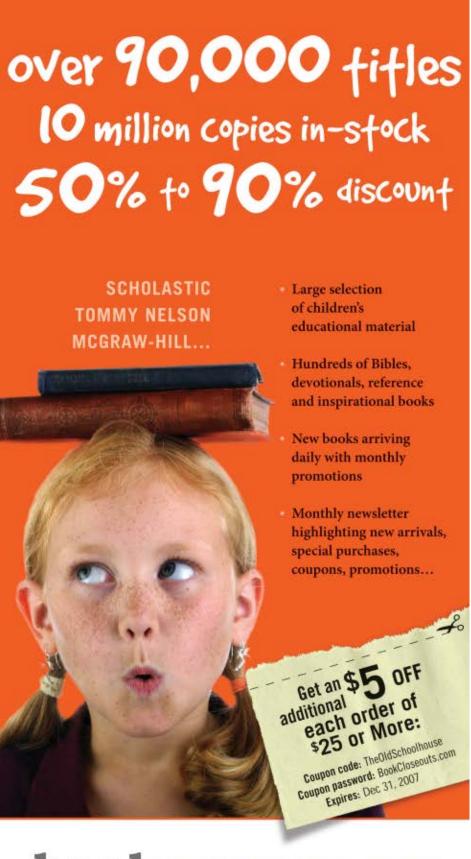
So now it's up to you. Which is better, the tortoise or the hare? You decide. But I warn you—your child's excitement in learning how to read may even rekindle a long-lost love for reading in you that was misplaced long, long ago.

Contacts

Teach Your Children to Read in 100 Easy Lessons is available from many sources. Some are Christian Book Distributors (CBD) at www.Christian book.com (or 1-800-247-4784) and Farm Country General Store at www.home schoolfcgs.com (or 1-800-551-FARM).

For Hooked on Phonics, go to **www**.hop.com or call 1-800-ABC-DEFG.

Kim Wolf



book CLOSEOUTS.COM

Innovation for Language Learning

Introducing Auralog: TeLL me More

By Christine Field

earning a new language is a challenge for homeschooled students—and their parents! Should you try to find a private teacher, take a community college class, seek out a co-op situation? If none of these is available, there are some tape and CD products on the market to assist you, but can they effectively facilitate language mastery?

TeLL me More is different! From the on-screen presentation to the myriad of learning activities available, this is an exciting program. We are so thrilled to have two representatives of Auralog, the publisher of TeLL me More, with us. Answering our questions for this interview are both Antje Graham, Homeschool Sales Manager, and Julien Picard, Retail Marketing Manager.

TOS: This is an innovative program! Can you tell us about your company and the development of TeLL me More?

AURALOG: Auralog was created in 1987 and was the first multimedia publisher in the world to apply speech-recognition technology to language learning software in 1990. Auralog has established itself over the years as the global leader in its field, in particular with the TeLL me More series. Our software TeLL me More now has more than 5 million users worldwide and is used in more than 10,000 academic institutions worldwide and more than 300 global organizations. The goal behind TeLL me More is to create innovative solutions and one-of-a-kind educational tools which facilitate the language learning process.

TOS: When did you begin to offer products to the homeschooling community? What led to that decision?

AURALOG: We introduced our homeschool version of *TeLL* me More® to the homeschooling community in July 2006. Understanding the learning needs of homeschoolers, we believed and still believe that our program for language learning corresponds and meets these needs. Indeed, our software is the only language software that really covers all the skills to learn a new language: reading and writing, listening and speaking, but also grammar, vocabulary, and culture.

TOS: What ages are most appropriate for the homeschool product?

AURALOG: We recommend *TeLL me More* for learners ages 11 and older for more independent learning. (A younger child could benefit from the program perhaps with more assistance from a parent.)

TOS: Which languages are currently available?

AURALOG: Currently we offer the following languages: English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Dutch, Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic. We also have a software program for kids to learn English, with explanations in Spanish or English.

TOS: Can a student who already knows some of the language benefit?

AURALOG: Absolutely! One of the very unique aspects of our program is the availability of various levels of learning in one package. Each TeLL me More homeschool package includes levels Complete Beginner, Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. It represents up to 950 hours of learning, making it the most extensive offer on the market. A complete beginner with little to no prior knowledge of the language can use and learn from the program, or a more intermediate student can continue their language learning and reach an advanced level.

TOS: The program adapts to meet the needs of the student. How does that work?

AURALOG: There are very distinct modes of learning available within the program. One of these modes (the Dynamic Mode) moves according to the student's mastery of objectives. If a student has shown mastery of the objective, they will be advanced accordingly. If they still require more practice on an objective, the program will continue to provide practice and instruction until the learner is ready to move on.

TOS: Students can choose to work in different modes. Can you tell us about them?

AURALOG: Yes, students can choose to work in three different modes. The three modes available are the Guided Mode, Dynamic Mode, and Free to Roam Mode. The Guided Mode moves students along a pedagogically laid out path with activities that build and reinforce learning as the student progresses. The Dynamic Mode evaluates your progress as you work and adjusts your activities based on the results of previous exercises, just as a teacher would. The Free to Roam Mode allows students to pick and choose what they want to work on: grammar, vocabulary, culture, written activities, or pronunciation. The great aspect of these modes is that you can choose and change the mode you are working in without information being lost. Also, different users can be working in different modes. If a family has more than one student learning the language, each child can be working in a different mode, for example. Everyone learns differently, and learning needs can change, hence the flexibility and choice in the program.

TOS: You can also choose Total Immersion Mode. Tell us about that.

AURALOG: The option for total immersion is always available no matter which mode you are working in. This is another unique aspect of the program. With total immersion, you have all the explanations in the language you are learning. For instance, you could learn Spanish and have all the explanations in Spanish. We do not recommend it for complete beginners, obviously!

There is an option for translation; however, it's just that—an option! We provide various translation tools along the way if a learner is curious what the translation of a word might be. We have found this to be integral in language learning. Oftentimes a picture doesn't suffice in explaining what a word or expression means. In that case the translation tool is available if the learner wants a full understanding of the word or words. If the learner does not desire translation, this is a tool that can be ignored.

TOS: The number of activities available is amazing! There is literally something here for every interest and type of learning.

AURALOG: The amount of activities and the many different types of activities is very extensive: *TeLL me More* includes up to 37 different types of activities and up to 5,000 exercises for each package. In every part of the program the learner stays engaged and focused on their language learning. The many different types of activities also insure that any type of learner can be successful with their language learning.

TOS: One of the more innovative features is that of voice recognition. How does that work?

AURALOG: Auralog was the first company in the world to integrate speech recognition into language software in 1990. Therefore, we have the most advanced speech recognition technology on the market. Our advanced speech recognition not only helps with pronunciation but also covers common phonemes (sounds) in a language. The technology can pinpoint a single word in a sentence that has been mispronounced using our unique SETS (Spoken Error Tracking System) technology. It also grades the learner's pronunciation from 1 to 7, allowing the homeschooler to get an immediate feedback on her/his pronunciation. Through various help techniques, the program helps learners pronounce words and expressions until the learner is comfortable speaking them.

A key part of learning the language is also being able to practice it. Indeed, a lot of people learn the language for years, but without practice, they forget it. With our speech recognition technology, you are able to practice as much as you want and also have interactive conversations with the computer.

TOS: The program also features videos and interactive dialogue. That is so cool! Do the videos feature cultural education?

AURALOG: Culture is an important part of learning a language. In that sense, our videos include cultural content so homeschoolers can learn about the culture of the country they are learning the language of. At the end of the videos, they are also asked questions about it, therefore reinforcing their learning.



Using the Dialogue Activity, the learner can practice her speaking and have an interactive dialogue with the computer.



In a pronunciation activity, the learner practices saying a sentence in the language he is learning. The program helps him improve and practice his pronunciation. It can pinpoint a single word in a sentence that needs improvement.



Video activities allow the learner to listen to a native speaker reading the text aloud while reading the text himself. He can practice his listening and reading comprehension skills at the same time.

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

TOS: How does the use of this program compare to being in a classroom?

AURALOG: In terms of language learning in a classroom-type setting, content and hours of instruction are comparable if not slightly more extensive. With up to 950 hours of language learning and four levels of learning (Complete Beginner, Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced), homeschoolers are exposed to an amount of content that equates to four or more years of language learning. Similar to what would be practiced in a classroom, homeschoolers practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing. As they do this, they also receive grammar instruction and practice along the way, as well as exposure to cultural content that provides education about the country/countries from which the language originates. It is a very complete language learning curriculum that's interactive and engaging at the same time!

TOS: What kind of feedback have you gotten from your homeschool users?

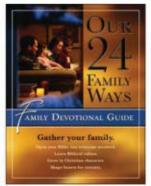
AURALOG: We have received very positive feedback from our users and various homeschool sources. One recent comment we received from a homeschool mom in an email said, "The program is going great! We love it. It's comprehensive, and it keeps our interest because of the variety of lessons." We also recently received a 5 out of 5 star rating from *The* Old Schoolhouse Magazine!

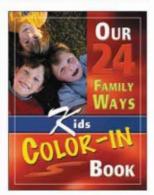
TOS: How can our readers learn more?

AURALOG: By visiting our website, www.auralog.com/us/homeschool home.htm, you can find more information on the homeschool Version of TeLL me More®. On this page, you can do a free online demo of the program as well. If there are more specific questions, or to get a demo CD-ROM, you can email us at Homeschool@auralog.com or call 888-388-3535, or 602-470-0300.

TOS: Rich content, easy to use, lots of options. Auralog's TeLL me More is a winner for serious homeschool language learners. 🚠







Our 24 Family Ways Family Devotional Guide - ISBN 1-888692-07-3, \$14.95

Our 24 Family Ways Kids Color-In Book - ISBN 1-888692-10-3, \$4.95

Train up your children in the 24 Family Ways they should go.

Teach your children the language of family values, fill their hearts with Bible truths, train them in Christian character, and strengthen their relationships with the Lord. Just pick up your own Our 24 Family Ways, open your Bible, and add your family. It's like having a guidebook for walking together on the path of life. Easy to use...hard to forget!

The O24FW Family Devotional Guide (112 pages) includes:

- 24 easy-to-learn family "Ways"...in six key areas of family life.
- 120 complete family devotionals...five easy outlines for each Way.
- 25 original screened illustrations...24 Ways plus Proverbs 22:6.
- 24 character quality definitions...in child-friendly language.
- 24 Scripture memory passages...in NIV, NASB and NKJV.

The O24FW Kids Color-In Book (34 pages) is a perfect keepsake companion book for younger children, with easy-to-color line-art illustrations, fillin-the-blank 24 Ways practice pages, a personalized "I'm On the Way!" commitment page, and a final "Way To Go!" completion certificate.

Our 24 Family Ways products were created by Clay Clarkson, father of four wholehearted children, author of Educating the WholeHearted Child and Heartfelt Discipline, and director of Whole Heart Ministries. O24FW products are available from quality home school suppliers, or directly from Whole Heart Ministries. Additional O24FW resources, and free downloadable PDFs, will be available soon at Whole Heart Online.

Whole Heart Ministries

— Keeping Faith in the Family — www.wholeheart.org • 888-488-4HOME (488-4466)



A+ Educational Video Rentals

DVD/VHS for K-12 homeschool curriculums

NO LATE FEES

FREE SHIPPING

How the A+ program works... It's as easy as ABC!

- * Create a list of videos you want.
- * Your selections arrive in the mail.
- * Keep the videos as long as you like...no late fees!
- * Done with a video? Send it back in the prepaid shipper.
 - * You pay only a flat monthly fee.

Unlimited DVD/VHS rentals as low as \$10.50 a month!

Thousands of titles in stock!

Math DVD • **Science DVD Social Studies DVD Language Arts DVD** • **Humanities DVD**

WWW.APLUSVIDEORENTALS. COM



YES! We want to earn 50% on every sale!

Please send FREE Sales Kits immediately.				
Name	Title			
Organization				
Address				
City	State Zip			
Home Phone ()				
Business Phone ()_				



PO Box 407 Hershey, PA 17033

Call for faster service! 1-800-533-8824 Ext. 314

www.dutchmillbulbs.com

FUNDRAISING WITH BULBS SINCE 1960.

CHARACTER QUALITY LANGUAGE ARTS

with Donna Reish

By Christine Field

ow many different resources do you use to teach language arts? If you're like most homeschoolers, the answer is, "Too many!" Multiply that number by the number of different aged children in your family and you can feel overwhelmed by this subject.

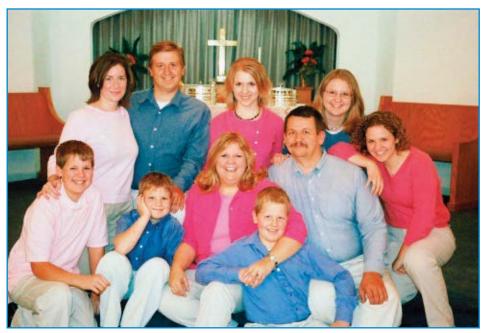
Donna Reish felt that way too. As the mom of seven, she had her hands full. Out of that challenge came a vision—to create an all-in-one language arts program that could be taught to multiple levels of children.

Sound like a dream? Not any longer! TOS is thrilled to introduce Donna Reish, the writer and creator of Character Quality Language Arts (CQLA).

TOS: Mrs. Reish, your curriculum is the answer to many prayers. Can you tell us how you came up with the idea to write the program?

MRS. REISH: Ten years ago when I had six children 13 and under, and I called them one at a time to come to the dining room table for language arts, each one came with his or her arms loaded down with various books: vocabulary, language arts, spelling, penmanship, composition/creative writing, grammar, and grammar drill. I remember telling friends that "someday I am going to write a language arts program that is based on character qualities and has all of these areas of language arts in one book." They smiled, patted me, and said, "Okay, Donna, you do that."

Several years later during a period of grief after losing our eighth baby and my fertility, I felt the Lord tell me that out of my belly would flow rivers of living water. When I reminded Him that life would never come from within me again, He told me that out of my innermost being would come rivers of refreshing waters for homeschooling moms. Over the past



The Reish family

few years of writing Character Quality Language Arts, that is what we have seen happen. And writing CQLA was harder than any labor or C-section I have ever had!

TOS: Which other programs influenced you the most?

MRS. REISH: I based CQLA on my favorite parts of some of the best language arts programs available: Learning Language Arts Through Literature, Tricks of the Trade spelling book, Easy Grammar, Jensen's Grammar, Daily Grams, Editor in Chief, IEW's Structure and Style, Writing for 100 Days, and Understanding Writing.

TOS: Tell us about the volumes and levels available. How do I know where to start my child?

MRS. REISH: I always say that understanding the volumes and levels of CQLA is more confusing than using it! Let me begin with the levels. CQLA has four levels of books: Pre-A for second and third grade levels; A for fourth and fifth grade levels; B for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade levels; and C for high school levels. Within these levels, the lessons are geared toward upper, lower, and middle level students in those grades.

In order to meet my goals of CQLA—all in one book, multiple levels within each book, all levels studying the same character qualities at the same time,

mom-friendly layout and sequence— CQLA is divided up into three volumes: Volume I, Volume II, and Volume III. This has nothing to do with the levels but is simply a way to divide up the twenty-four character topics. Each of the three volumes has eight character qualities in it. Thus, each level (Pre-A, A, B, and C) has a Volume I book, a Volume II book, and a Volume III book (twelve total books). This is so that if a family has a student or two in each level (Pre-A, A, B, and C), all of the students will be studying the same character quality at the same time and can use their language arts as a springboard for family devotions, read-alouds, Bible time, assigned readings, etc. (There are suggestions for all of this provided, as well.)

As far as where to begin CQLA, we have Frequently Asked Questions at our website, an extensive Teacher's Guide with a cassette tape available, and monthly samples for each level at our website for families to "try before they buy." By using the samples at our website, parents can get a good feel for where their students are in all areas of language arts. Once a student begins CQLA, he just moves up level by level. For example, a sixth-grade student might do Basic material in Level B, Volume I, this year; then next year he might do Extension material in Level B, Volume II; the following year, he might do Further Extension material in Level B, Volume III; then, when he is in ninth grade, he might do Basic material in Level C, Volume I.

TOS: Walk us through a typical week of instruction. Is it the same sequence each week?

MRS. REISH: Each CQLA book is divided up into eight monthly units, and then each of those monthly units is divided up into four weekly lessons (with Optionals for a fifth week, if desired). One extremely important feature to me was that everything would be contained within one book and that it was laid out day-by-day, step-by-step.

To that end, all of the books look identical in layout. When a mom first opens a CQLA book, regardless of level, she will see the character-based passage first, followed by the comprehension and vocabulary material for that passage, then the spelling lesson, then usually the grammar/editing drill, then outlining of an essay, then a grammar lesson, then (depending on how many grammar lessons and how elaborate the writing assignment) more grammar, a rough draft writing assignment, a revising assignment, possibly an opening and closing paragraph assignment, the spelling test, the dictation quiz, and then the final copy essay for that week. Each section is numbered clearly and each assignment is labeled and has thorough Answer Keys as well. This sounds laborious, but it is laid out item by item, day by day, in such a way that Level B and C students can work independently and just call for Mom when their lessons have (T), indicating a need for the teacher to check something or give a spelling test.

TOS: There are a few areas CQLA does not cover. They are (1) penmanship in-

struction (although suggestions are given for practice); (2) extensive literature; and (3) reading instruction. How can a parent tell if their child is ready for CQLA? What do you recommend a child do before that stage?

MRS. REISH: We do not recommend beginning formal language arts before second grade, and then only if a child has completed all of his phonics for learning to read and can read at least picture books easily. Prior to this, we recommend that moms work on reading instruction; oral comprehension; discipline and responsibility; and, especially, creating a love for learning, reading, and school within the child.

We highly recommend that a CQLA student have a penmanship book that details the strokes. CQLA has biographical as well as Christian literature suggestions in the sidebars and teacher's guide. These correlate with the monthly character quality but are not literature courses per se.

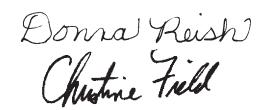
TOS: You also have a vigorous speaking ministry, with many teaching tapes available at your website. There is also something called *Meaningful Composition*. Tell us about that.

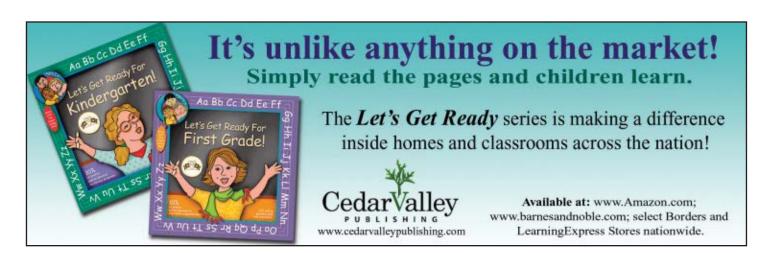
MRS. REISH: Our four oldest children (ages 16 through 23) are involved in Training for Triumph Family Ministries with us (in addition to their own ministries of Bible teaching, discipling, interpreting for the deaf, and ministering to those affected by disabilities). Kayla (20) and Kara (16) have written over half of Levels A and Pre-A respectively. All six of us write, travel, and speak, and we have

over fifty speaking topics and workshops. It has been an incredible blessing to see our children reiterate the teachings that they have received at home in ministering to others.

We found while traveling that there are moms out there who love the CQLA writing approach (a directed writing approach in which the student's writing is laid out for him paragraph by paragraph, and often sentence by sentence) but were not interested in all of the other language arts areas contained in CQLA. So we took portions of CQLA and put them into a composition-only book. Since the essay topics are the same or similar to CQLA (based on character and biblical principles), we call it Meaningful Composition. It is, essentially, all of the composition of CQLA from pre-writing, outlining, rough draft writing, to revising with the Checklist Challenge, and final copy.

TOS: Mrs. Reish, it has been a delight to get to know you. I'm sure many of our readers are going to be as excited about CQLA as I am. Truly, it is the most comprehensive and cohesive language arts program I have ever seen. Our readers can learn more by logging on to www.trainingfortriumphhomeschool.com, emailing trainingfortriumph@mchsi.com, calling 260-597-7415, or writing to Training for Triumph, 6456 E US 224, Craigville, IN 46731.





www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **63**

Lamplighter **Publishing**

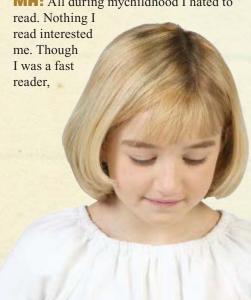
A Conversation with Mark Hamby

By Kate Kessler

would like to personally welcome Mark Hamby to our Show and Tell, Too, section. The newly founded HSB Literary Club on HomeschoolBlogger recently began its literary excursions with Ishmael, a Lamplighter title, so we wanted to find out who was behind this remarkable book.

TOS: Thank you for taking the time to share the vision and heart behind Lamplighter Publishing with us. We are pretty excited about the literature choices you offer. How and why did Lamplighter come to be?

MH: All during mychildhood I hated to



my comprehension scores were low but my imagination was very high. I lacked direction and purpose—I switched my major in college more times than I can remember. The change began when I experienced the incredible love and forgiveness of God at 22 years of age. But there was something else that ignited a love for reading—the development of my character. When character development is delayed, the level of fear increases and level of reasoning decreases—thus the reason for my poor comprehension scores. As my character began to develop, I became more confident and took more initiative as a passion for life grew stronger each day. How did my character develop? I will never forget the next two years after receiving Jesus as my Lord and Savior-I read the Scriptures from cover to cover! I couldn't get enough. I believe the promise found in Psalm 1 is what made the difference—"But his delight is in the Word of the Lord;

and in his Word he mediates day and night ... and whatsoever he does shall prosper."

The second event that occurred that propelled me to become a passionate reader was my en-

counter with a man named Mr. Charles T. Jones. He "happened" to choose me out of a crowd of 3,000 and asked me what great Christian literature I had been reading. Up to that point, the only

> book I had ever really read was the Bible. After an embarrassing three minutes, Mr. Jones had left his imprint on my life. Three days later I received a special delivery box that contained a dozen biographies. The first I picked out was D. L. Moody,

the Greatest Evangelist of the Nineteenth Century. I couldn't put it down. Then I read George Mueller and was inspired how he fed countless orphans, and about Gladys Aylward, Amy Carmichael, Hudson Taylor, and Abraham Lincoln. Within a

few days a new love had been birthed in my life! Why? Role models who were passionate about life and their relationship with their God and I wanted to be like them.

In founding Lamplighter Publishing, I was determined to provide this same inspirational influence for students, and even more importantly, for their parents. We have carefully selected gripping, powerful literature that teaches life-changing

TOS: What is the process by which a book makes it into your catalog? In other words, what makes a Lamplighter? What sets them apart?

MH: All Lamplighter books are chosen based on my personal experience with the book. If a story reaches my heart, changes me in some way, inspires me to love my Lord more, enlightens me about weakness in my character, causes me

A person's character

is to a large extent

developed by the

books he reads.

to repent, motivates me to serve the Lord and others, ignites creativity, promotes excellence in work ethic, and is able to weave the wisdom of the Word of God throughout a story, then I will publish it.

Once we find a book like this, the editing process is significant—we do not just scan and reprint a book. It is important to me that each book we publish is wholesome and reflects the character of God. It is our commitment to make sure our books do not contain any erroneous theology (many old books contained a "good works" salvation), unnecessary immoral content, racial slurs (except where historically necessary to reflect the human heart), and most important to me, vain uses of God's name. Once these edits are made, a Lamplighter book is then prepared with the finest cover materials and the most creative graphic designs. We believe that a book can be judged by its cover! It is our desire for children and parents to experience excellence both with the story and with the design of the book cover.

TOS: Do you accept book submissions of old books or new manuscripts for publication?

SCHOOLHOUSE STORE

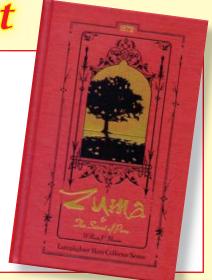
Top Selling—Hot Product

Lamplighter Books

Building Character... ONE BOOK AT A TIME

Each Lamplighter book instills moral values through role models that either demonstrate exemplary behavior or suffer the consequences of making wrong choices.

In this wonderful collection of short stories, you will see humanity in its great diversity. From the depths of injustice and tyranny rises a heroine, Zuma, whose dauntless courage knows no bounds. Three additional stories exemplify reserving honor for the poor and needy, showing generosity toward the simple-minded and the consequences of sin and the hope hope of forgiveness.



www.TheOldSchoolhouseStore.com Always FREE Shipping

MH: With ten staff members, we have not been able to keep up with the books we are finding; therefore we are unable to accept new manuscripts. As Lamplighter continues to grow, we do hope that this door will open in the near future. We do accept recommendations of books that were published prior to 1923—books that someone has read and believes that the story is life-changing and Lamplighter quality.

TOS: You know about our HSB book club and that we have begun with some of the Lamplighter selections. We are already discussing the issues faced by the characters in the books and the deeper applications for our own lives. We have really been blessed by this club! What books would you suggest for our readers if you had to choose your favorites? What authors have affected your life the most? How important is reading quality books for a person's life?

WH: First, there haven't been just one or two authors that have affected my life the most. Each biography and each Lamplighter book has in a large degree made

me who I am today. The Lamplighter Rare Collector Series is inspiring, captivating, character-building literature, with a plot that was developed by a seasoned and skilled writer who possessed a highly polished imagination. Though the stories thicken with their breathtaking mysteries, dramas, and adventures, the themes remain consistent within the framework of character development and the inspiration of excellence. The dominant theme is hope—a hope that does not disappoint, because nothing is impossible with God.

Here is a list of some of my favorites: Teddy's Button, Hedge of Thorns, Basket of Flowers, Ishmael, Buried in the Snow, Boys of Grit Who Became Men of Honor, The Giant Killer, and The Hidden Hand. Each of these recommendations reflects a different quality of character development. We now have 90 books to choose from.

You asked, "How important is reading quality books for a person's life?" I believe we become what we read. Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. Books are minds alive on the shelves. By

taking up one of these books and opening it, we can hear the voices of people far away in time and space. By reading we can hear great people of long ago speaking to us, mind to mind, heart to heart.

A man is known by the company he keeps. It is also true that a person's character is to a large extent developed by the books he reads. A man is known by the company his mind keeps. A book is good company. Inferior books are to be rejected in an age and time when we are courted by whole libraries. No man's life is long enough to read even those which are good and great and famous. Why then should one waste one's time with lesser works when some of the greatest are available?

TOS: Why indeed! I have really enjoyed this time, Mr. Hamby. Thank you so much for sharing your heart here with *The Old Schoolhouse Magazine* readers. The HSB Literary Club can be found online at www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/hsbliteraryclub. Come join us!



www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 65





ow quickly can you find Poland on a world map? You know that it is located in Europe. Did you know that Poland is located right in the very center of Europe and is the ninth largest European nation? If you were looking down on this territory from the air, you would see that the Carpathian Mountains form Poland's southern boundary. To the north, the Polish coast meets the chilly waters of the Baltic Sea. Its borders are shared by seven land neighbors and two maritime neighbors, and in this way Poland ties with Germany for most neighboring countries. Neighbors often mean trouble, and this is perhaps why Poland has had such a tumultuous history and has experienced multiple divisions, collapses, and redrawn borders. Poland has even disappeared entirely off the

map a couple of times during its long and dramatic history.

Poland is a land of 39 million residents, over 97% of Polish descent. The remaining 3% are Ukrainian, German, and Belorussian. Most of the population of Poland lives in the cities of Warsaw (the capital), Krakow, Lodz, and Wroclaw. A huge majority of Poles—95%—are Roman Catholic; the other 5% divide themselves equally between Russian Orthodox and

Many notable and accomplished Poles have made their mark on the world at large; Nikolas Copernicus (astronomer/mathematician, 1473-1543), Frederic Chopin (pianist/composer, 1810-1849), and Marie Curie (chemist/physicist, 1867-1934) are just a few.

Protestant.

Poland's vibrant history dates back over one thousand years to when its first recorded leader, Duke Mieszko I, converted to Christianity after marrying Dabrowka of Bohemia in AD 966. This event is recognized as the birth of the Polish nation. It was at this time that Mieszko allied himself with the German Emperor Otto I and placed his land under the protection

of the Pope. By embracing Christianity, Poland became an influential participant in Western culture. Interestingly, the borders of Poland at that time in history were very similar to today's boundaries.

Over the course of time, Poland has been divided, raided, plundered, and reestablished many times over. The Golden Years of Polish history are considered to be the time of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, between 1382 and 1790. This alliance with Lithuania dramatically expanded Poland's boundaries and lasted for over 400 years. During the 1700s, three of Poland's most powerful neighbors, Russia, Prussia, and Austria, each wanted to own Poland. In an effort to avoid war, these three giants settled their dispute by agreeing to divide Poland into three pieces. Thus the Golden Years came to an abrupt end, and Poland was essentially wiped off the face of the map for the next 123 years.

Poland regained its independence in 1918 after the conclusion of World War I but lost it to Germany and the Soviet Union at the beginning of World War II. The nation of Poland emerged again at the end of the war as a Communist country within the Eastern Bloc controlled by the former Soviet Union. When Communist rule was overthrown in 1989, Poland became what is unofficially known as the Third Polish Republic. Officially, the country is more simply named the Republic of Poland, and today it is the sixth most populated member of the European Union, which it joined in 2004.

Over the course of Poland's turbulent history, its boundaries have moved like squiggly lines on a child's drawing pad, and so have its people. Tragically, during



the time of the Holocaust, nearly 3 million of Poland's Jewish citizens were exterminated in Nazi concentration camps. Then, at the conclusion of World War II, Poland's borders were shifted westward. This decision by a handful of world leaders forced millions of residents to migrate. The people of Poland have experienced tragedy, difficulty, and despair, but they have arisen stronger and more resilient as a result.

When Poland's territory was gobbled up by its German and Soviet neighbors in 1939, the government school system shut down. Education, highly valued by the Poles, began to be conducted underground. The home became the secret location of learning for more than one million young Polish students. Throughout World War II, most schools and universities in Poland were destroyed, and thousands of teachers were executed or sent to concentration camps. Children studied secretly in dark rooms when possible. Educational materials were scarce because the Nazis had burned most of Poland's books. Schooling would have ceased altogether had it not been for the dedication of parents and students who understood that education was the key to freedom. They had to work diligently to keep their lessons secret since they risked imprisonment on a daily basis if their clandestine school operations were discovered.

Today, the school system is intact once again. Poland has a compulsory attendance law for students age 7 through 18. Once a student has finished his primary and secondary schooling, he will choose to attend university, technical school, or a basic vocational school, depending on what occupation he wants to pursue. This

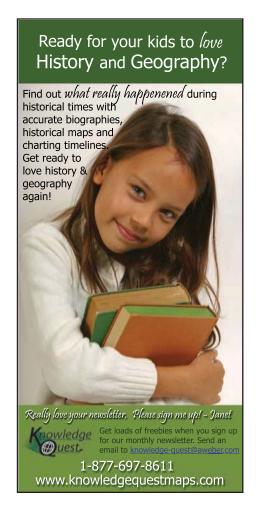
is a serious and permanent decision for a student and his parents as it will have long-term ramifications for his life.

Homeschooling is a legal choice in Poland. However, a parent must request permission to homeschool from the local school principal. This school authority has the right to grant or decline the request as he or she chooses. The principal may also impose requirements on students he has allowed to be schooled at home. In other words, homeschooling is legal but at the mercy of the local school authorities' whims. And these decisions by the principal are absolute and indisputable.

"There are regions in Poland where no parents can homeschool their kids—every such application is refused," says Marek Budajczak, head of the Home School Organization in Poland. "Fortunately there are also such rare places where parents are welcome [to teach their children at home] and school officials are really helpful."

When Communism fell in 1989, the political environment seemed to be one that would be conducive to home-based education. Since that time, the Ministry of National Education has introduced changes and limitations to the "much too liberal" homeschooling laws. Now, government authorities and school principals may make any demands they wish on parents and students before granting them the right to school at home. Also, every homeschooled student is required to pass an annual exam that regular school students are not required to take.

The homeschool movement in Poland is small but growing. Budajczak writes humorously that the homeschool climate in Poland is much like a Polish winter: "freezing, but slowly heading towards



springtime." As of this writing, approximately 40 Polish families are teaching their children at home. Many Polish homeschooling families speak English and have read various books on homebased education that have been published in the English language.

Homeschooling in America is largely successful because of the materials available and the support that can be gained

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **67**

through co-ops and support groups. Understandably, these are the resources that the homeschooling families in Poland actively seek as they begin to put into place the structure of a Home School Organization (Stowarzyszenie Edukacji Domowej) that will encourage and equip parents to teach their children confidently at home.

Pray for the homeschooling families in Poland. Many of them are participating in your online support groups. Include them and encourage them as they seek a method of schooling that is very exceptional and uncommon in their country. If you would like to learn more about the amazing country of Poland through an online unit

study loaded with hands-on activities and delicious Polish recipes, visit our website at **www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com** and click on "How to Homeschool," then "Study Hall Unit Studies," and then "Geography"

ography." A



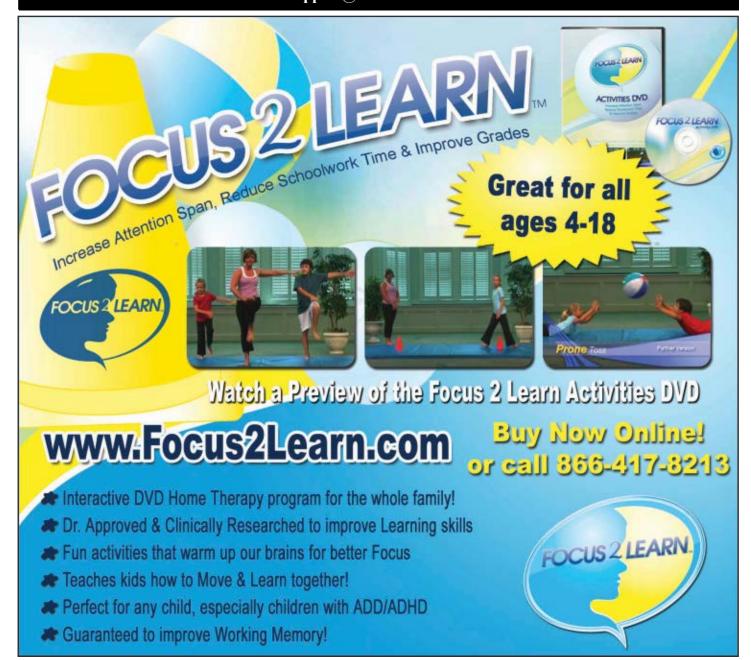
Homeschool **Z==** Tracker™

The solution for all your homeschool record keeping needs

Featuring:

Attendance: Auto-Attendance, Track Days/Hours Lesson Plans: Customizable, Reusable, Shareable Courses; Weighted Grading options; Goals Field Trips; Reading Lists; Journals; Transcripts; Reports And much, much more!

Visit us at www.homeschooltracker.com Email: support@homeschooltracker.com





for yourself...

The only weekly newsmagazine written from a christian worldview.



Weekly News | Christian Views

for your children...

A network of newspaper, online materials, posters, activities, teacher helps and more.



News, Knowledge, and Wisdom

SPECIAL OFFER

available online only at **GWNews.com/TOS**

Fly, Wendy, Fly

By Jane Bullivant

coaring over the rooftops of London with Peter Pan was my favorite way to spend an evening. After lights out, I would creep past my brother and sister to the window and gaze at the cobbled streets swathed in moonlight. As the nearby church bells chimed I would imagine a warm wind bringing a flurry of fairy dust. I closed my eyes tight and thought happy thoughts. I even had a little sewing kit in a drawer, just in case Peter needed me to sew his shadow back on. Then one day we moved away from the city of cobbled streets and clanging church bells, and my special sewing kit got put away. The years passed and other things caught my imagination. Recently, however, the story of Peter Pan has pulled at my heart once more as we have explored fairy stories as our read-alouds. There's no doubt, one of the best treats a homeschooling mom can give her family is a daily soar through the clouds of classic literature that billow a child's imagination.

As my children snuggle up with me on the sofa and we open the pages of *Peter Pan*, 1 my daughter's eyes grow wide as if she's expecting fairy dust to come sparkling off the pages. We lose ourselves in swashbuckling adventures and moonlit exploits. My favorite character has to be Wendy. She has an innocence and beauty that comes from within. She is resourceful, compassionate, and brave. The character of Wendy also has a number of parallels to the thrills and spills of life as a homeschool parent.

Abandoning Myself to the Supplies **Cupboard**

Homeschool parents the world over are renowned for thriftiness and making use of the strangest things in homeschool projects. Just as Wendy made medicine out of rainwater from a dripping leaf, we are resourceful and imaginative. My homeschooling friend can make a masterpiece from almost anything. Even an old bit of string on a winter's day gets transformed into an ice-and-leaf mobile. All sorts of things have their uses in a modern homeschool; however, there is a danger for an overzealous mom to line herself up with the "items to be put to use to benefit homeschooling." Self-sacrifice can become so encompassing that a homeschool mom can lose a sense of her inner beauty and individuality. Rather than soaring the skies like Wendy, she becomes a steel-reinforced plane chugging through the sky. As well as raising her children to live a life worth living, she also needs to rediscover her own gifts and and live her life to the full as a daughter of the King. As she renews her joy in the Lord her heart will soar with wings like eagles.



"Do you know," Peter asked, "why swallows build in the eaves of houses? It is to listen to the stories."

This Peter Pan quote reminds me of one of my personal goals for our family homeschool. I want it to be a place so rich in truth and inspiration that it challenges,

teristics to harbor in a Christian home. Beneath the busyness of life, we need an undercurrent of graciousness. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind" (Colossians 3:12). As the Lost Boys were drawn to Wendy's gentlerough-and-tumble of everyday life surely makes for an adventurous childhood. It's a real-world childhood, where the preparation for adulthood is woven into everyday life and the benefits of strong character and responsibility are clear to see. In Peter Pan's world, innocence and purity belong only to children. The adult world is to be dreaded and avoided at all costs. What a thrill that the reality is that childhood innocence can blossom into purity and a rich adulthood full of hope and direction.

One of the privileges of being a homeschool parent is the joy of watching childhood innocence blossom into maturity.

inspires, and leads others. We want to see lives touched by God and families stirred by the calling of Christian homeschooling. It saddens me greatly to see brothers and sisters in the Lord allowing their children to be raised outside a Christian setting. The book of Proverbs reminds us that an honest answer is like a kiss on the lips (Proverbs 24:26). So I have learned not to shy away from sharing the biblical requirement of Christian education with my brothers and sisters in the Lord. I have also learned that self-righteousness and condemnation of others are not characness, so it is our compassion that will move mountains in our communities.

The key theme of the story of Peter Pan is the wonder and innocence of childhood. One of the privileges of being a homeschool parent is the joy of watching childhood innocence blossom into maturity. We need not fear our children stumbling around in the sludge of peer pressure, where popularity is prized above all else. Our journey is a family affair, growing in knowledge, wisdom, and experience together. The opportunity to watch and learn from known adults "in action" in the

Give a Thimble of Grace

When Peter first meets Wendy, they exchange thimbles as gestures of kindness. It is the thimble around Wendy's neck that later saves her from arrows shot from Neverland. Thanks to a Christian upbringing, I was taught always to be kind, because "it's the right thing to do." I can tolerate annoying people or situations and remain grumble-free. However, lured by the satisfied recipients of my "grace," I sometimes overlook the fact that tolerating people is not actually operating in true grace. Tolerance is performed

REFRESHING SUMMER READS FOR HOMESCHOOL MOMS

This charming book for Christian moms-to-be provides a lighthearted perspective and practical advice on motherhood. Jane Bullivant, with wit and wisdom, guides readers in coping with mood

swings, overcoming frustrations and fears, praying for your unborn child, and avoiding tension in your growing home.

"Jane Bullivant brings a touch of heaven to earth in this immensely practical, easy-to-read, funny book for every new mom."

—JONATHAN BOOTH Director, Care for the Family



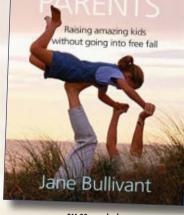
\$11.99 paperback

"I love life. I want our family life to be rich, vibrant, alive, full of adventure. But what happens when your children haven't read the same manual?" Author Jane Bullivant intermingles anecdotes and observations with practical tips and reflections "from one parent to another" in this warmhearted and practical book on parenting.

"Will have you laughing right from the introduction! Join in the fun as Jane reminds us what matters most."

-GENA SUAREZ

Publisher, The Old Schoolhouse Magazine



\$11.99 paperback

Available at local or online booksellers or directly from Kregel at 800-733-2607.

Kregel

Summer 2007 **71** www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

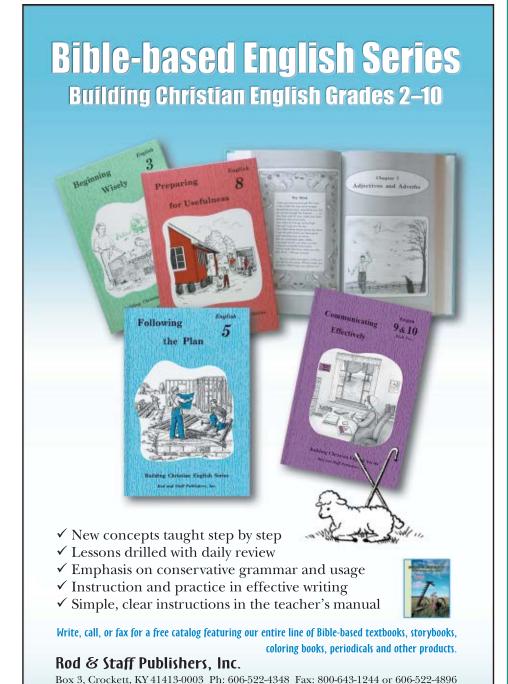
with a touch of duty and a smattering of self-satisfaction. Tolerance chuckles at Sarah's limp corndogs at the homeschool barbecue, while grace tucks into a plateful with her. Tolerance lays out the chairs for the science fair but refuses to pick up the candy wrappers dropped by the teens. Grace buys them a big bag of gummi bears. Tolerance, in homeschool groups, checks all the right boxes. Yet it's grace on the cheap. The glory never goes heavenward. If the heart-thumping pursuit of the grace of God is lost in the oh-so-noble efforts of a homeschooling co-op, heaven hears nothing more than the scrape of plastic chairs. Real kindness and genuine care is like sparkling fairy dust in a homeschool group. Just as the Lost Boys built a house to keep Wendy warm and safe, so we can build kindness and encouragement into the walls of our homeschool communities.

The Croc with the Ticking Clock!

Of course, Christian homeschooling is no sticking plaster or guarantee of a life of roses. Sometimes life can take an unexpected turn, and simply "thinking happy thoughts" is not enough to fix things. The online community that is Homeschool **Blogger.com** is a lively place where many of us share our trials and triumphs of everyday life. Some homeschool families have been touched recently by tragedy, and many of us carry them in prayer. As precious as it is to share each other's burdens, sometimes a lingering fear can remain. Fear of what the future could hold can freeze us to the spot just as Captain Hook froze in fear at the sound of a ticking clock. Grappling with fear is like grappling with a croc—it leaves you worn out, weary, and bruised. Maybe I can find peace from the croc by realigning my priorities so that I want God's glory and His will more than I want life to turn out the way I want it to. Father God is not careless with His children; we are safe in His pocket. When our work on earth is done, we too will run into His arms and join all the Christians who have gone before us. For now, let's scoop up our kids and run the race of our lives. We can urge our children on in the words of Peter Pan: "I'll teach you to jump on the wind's back, and away we go!" 🚠

Jane Bullivant

Jane Bullivant and her husband homeschool their three turbo-charged children in Midlands, England. Jane is the author of Dear Lord, I Feel Like a Whale: Knowing God's Touch During Pregnancy and Beyond (Kregel) and Skydiving for Parents: Raising Amazing Kids Without Going into Freefall (Kregel), commended by Gena Suarez. She is a freelance writer and conference speaker. Come say hi to Jane at www.Homeschool Blogger.com/skydivingforparents.



1 By James M. Barrie, 1860-1937



Count us in.

Our commitment to you: homeschooling any way you want it.

- •DVDs, textbooks, or satellite
- •Easy ordering from our helpful customer service reps
- •Homeschool consultants to answer all your questions
- •The Homeschool Helper newsletter free of charge
- •E-mail updates about special offers and new releases
- •Testing services to help you track your child's progress
- •Continually updated methods and tools for your homeschool
- •Transcripts for college admission through the Academy of Home Education
- •Our JourneyForth line with trustworthy books for your kids

We're committed to helping homeschoolers. *And that means you!*



And now, if you buy a Complete Grade Kit from BJU Press, you'll get a free one-year subscription to *The Old Schoolhouse* Magazine. Each issue is packed with dozens of informative and inspiring articles from experts as well as fellow homeschoolers. You'll be refreshed and encouraged all year long. Visit our website for details. Offer valid 1.1.07 - 1.31.08.



1.800.845.5731 | www.bjupress.com



a magazine of classical Christ-centered teaching for today's Christian

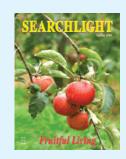


- Primary church history resources for teenage readers
- Devotional literature for parents
- Sermon resources for pastors
- Current missionary reports from around the world

Request a free sample of SEARCHLIGHT! info@searchlight-missions.org



Annual subscription \$12.00 (4 issues) Now you can subscribe online! www.searchlight-missions.org



Writing Strands The Perfect Tool to Develop Successful Writing Skills

Since 1987 homeschool families have loved this unique language arts program because it's fun and engaging. The guided exercises in Writing Strands progress incrementally and allow students to work independently, yet provide the guidance students need to sharpen their ability to inform, persuade and entertain in writing.



AWARD WINNING: Named "Best Composition Program" three times by Practical Homeschooling Magazine readers.



624 West University, Suite 248 • Denton, Texas 76201-1889 CATALOG REQUEST: 1-888-644-8686 • CUSTOMER SERVICE AND ORDERS: 1-800-688-5375

For faster information and ordering: www.writingstrands.com

Montessori Math at Home

Your Multi-Year Math Kit Solution

You can't beat ShillerMath for learning math.

- Zero lesson preparation time: everything the parent needs to say is in quotes
- Multi-sensorial activities using Montessori-based manipulatives address all 4 learning styles
- Comprehensive diagnostic testing pinpoints and fills holes in your child's math foundation
- For ages 4-12

ShillerMath

PH: 888-556-MATH (6284) FAX: 888-556-6285 Email: sales@shillermath.com http://www.shillermath.com

"It is perfect for the home school family!"

-The Old Schoolhouse™

Over 70,000 copies sold!

THE BLUE BOOK OF GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

- A concise and easy-to-use text, reference guide, and workbook
- A welcome resource for home school parents
- Quantity discounts
- New edition with more explanations and exercises

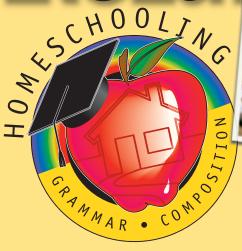
Thousands of home schooling families have chosen this book.

To preview the contents or to order the book, go to:

www.grammarbook.com



SHURLEY ENGLISH



Many homeschool students and educators have already realized the exciting results of using Shurley English. You can too!

Proud Parents

Join the perceptive group of home educators who have chosen Shurley English to meet the academic needs of their children.

Shurley English is truly "English Made Easy!"

Shurley English reaches all the learning styles of students while using repetition, fun, and student-teacher interaction to help them learn difficult English skills.

Online Ordering Available Levels 1-7

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-566-2966
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.shurlev.com

SHURLEY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, INC. • 366 SIM DRIVE • CABOT, AR 72023

Creation

Deluxe, Priority and Co-op Lab Kits of Apologia Science

Astronomy Botany Zoology 1 Zoology 2 General Science
Physical Science

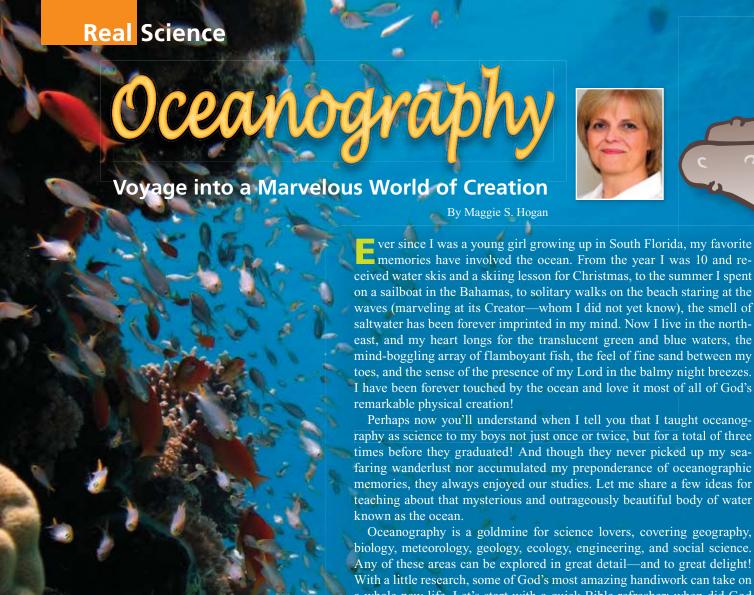
coming Zoology 3

What a time saver for us!!! Dawn B.

www.CreationSensation.com

501-776-3147

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **75**





ver since I was a young girl growing up in South Florida, my favorite memories have involved the ocean. From the year I was 10 and received water skis and a skiing lesson for Christmas, to the summer I spent on a sailboat in the Bahamas, to solitary walks on the beach staring at the waves (marveling at its Creator—whom I did not yet know), the smell of saltwater has been forever imprinted in my mind. Now I live in the northeast, and my heart longs for the translucent green and blue waters, the mind-boggling array of flamboyant fish, the feel of fine sand between my

Perhaps now you'll understand when I tell you that I taught oceanography as science to my boys not just once or twice, but for a total of three times before they graduated! And though they never picked up my seafaring wanderlust nor accumulated my preponderance of oceanographic memories, they always enjoyed our studies. Let me share a few ideas for teaching about that mysterious and outrageously beautiful body of water

Oceanography is a goldmine for science lovers, covering geography, biology, meteorology, geology, ecology, engineering, and social science. Any of these areas can be explored in great detail—and to great delight! With a little research, some of God's most amazing handiwork can take on a whole new life. Let's start with a quick Bible refresher: when did God create the oceans? How about the fish and the mammals in the seas? You might enjoy reading some Scripture aloud before beginning your study of oceanography. (Try Genesis 1:20-23 and Psalm 148:7-14.)

The Biggest of Them All

Where to start with such a big subject to cover? One year we started with the biggest of all mammals: the blue whale. At the time, our youngest son, Tyler, was intrigued by whales and dolphins. We learned that blue whales are the loudest animals on Earth. Their low-frequency calls reach levels up to 188 decibels and can be heard for hundreds of miles. This makes the blue whale louder than a jet engine, which reaches only 140 decibels. Amazingly, a human shout is only about 70 decibels.

At an average length of 80-90 feet, the blue whale is the largest animal that ever lived on Earth. According to www.HowStuffWorks.com, "A blue whale's head is so wide that an entire professional football team about 50 people—could stand on its tongue. Its heart is as big as a small car, and its arteries are wide enough that you could climb through them."

Here are two great science demonstrations to use in your study of blue whales:

From Head to Tail Trying to find a way to make such enormous dimensions more concrete, I took my small science co-on to our church parking lot. There with string

Trying to find a way to make such enormous dimensions more concrete, I took my small science co-op to our church parking lot. There, with string and the longest measuring tape I could find, we "measured" a blue whale. I pre-made 8.5 × 11" cardstock posters labeled *head, blow hole, flukes, dorsal fin, eyes, ears,* and *flippers.* I stationed children at the appropriate spots holding the cards. The more people available, the more cards you can make. (For example, two children can hold a string 20 feet long to represent a single flipper.) Everyone will quickly grasp the colossal size of a blue whale!

Materials

100' string

Measuring tape

Cardstock posters—one per participant

Directions

- 1. Have one child hold the end of the string. This will be the head of the whale.
- Walk about 25' and station a child there to be the end of the jaw and the beginning of the area where the eyes, ears, and blowholes are located. (You could also station two eyes, a blowhole, and two ears in this area.)
- 3. Walk another 15' and station your flipper holders. Each flipper is about twenty feet long.
- 4. Walk another 25' to locate the dorsal fin.
- 5. Finally, walk along the tail, 20-25'.
- 6. The remaining 10-15' are the two tail flukes, which extend about ten feet on both sides.

Whale Blubber

As we read more, we began to wonder how these mammals stay warm in arctic seas. We talked about insulation and then did this, one of our most memorable science demonstrations.

Materials

Ice water in a sink

Vegetable shortening

Disposable gloves

Timer

Directions

Have the student put disposable gloves on both hands. Slather shortening over one hand, getting it good and thick. Plunge both hands into ice water. Time how long the student can keep each hand in the ice water.

Compare the insulation effectiveness of the "blubber" (shortening) hand with the "non-blubber" hand.

Bits of Blubber Everywhere

Speaking of blubber, after this demonstration you absolutely must visit www.theexplodingwhale.com and read the true story of a 45-foot, eight-ton dead whale that washed up on an Oregon beach. A half-ton of dynamite had to be used to "remove" it. Not to be missed! (Of course, we strongly recommend supervising your children when visiting any website. Some content or ads may be inappropriate.)

Make this the year your family studies....

Astronomy

Signs & Seasons is a Bible-oriented homeschool astronomy curriculum based on observing the Sun, Moon and stars. You'll rediscover "Classical Astronomy," traditional visual astronomy as it had been practiced for centuries and learn to observe the sky and discover the Biblical purpose for which the Sun, Moon and stars were created...

"for signs and seasons, and days and years."
—Genesis 1:14

Lavishly illustrated with over 400 illustrations that present the visible appearances in the sky.

Signs & Seasons

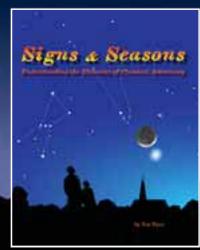
by Jay Ryan

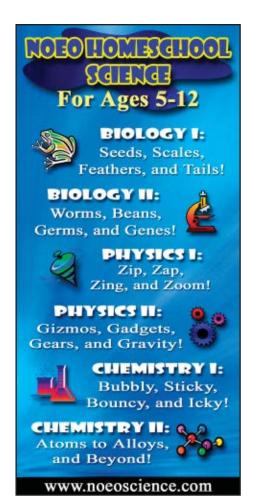
Ideal for Classical and Charlotte Mason approaches!

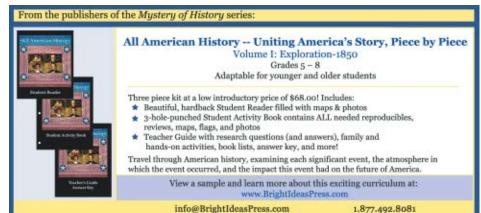
280 pages



ORDER Online: www.TheOldSchoolhouseStore.com









- Worried about how to do real science labs in your home?
- Want labs that are more than baking soda and vinegar?
- Need real labs to fulfill college entrance requirements?

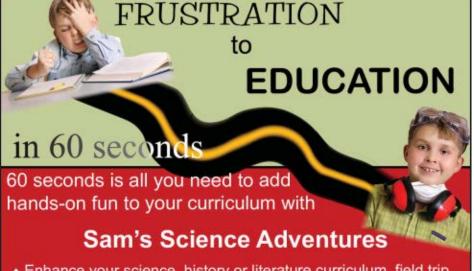


Quality Science Labs, LLC

Toll-free: 866,700.1884 www.qualitysciencelabs.com

Real science labs for high school and middle school.





- Enhance your science, history or literature curriculum, field trip or family vacation.
- Includes all supplies, lesson plans, living book, teacher's guide and student booklet.
- Ready to use science unit studies, integrating history, art and literature.
- Perfect for multi-age homeschools and co-ops. Sam's Science Adventures TreasureBoxPress.com





Your library card is your passport and your Bible is your guide for this multi-volume unit study. A World of Adventure and A New World of Adventure each include daily lesson plans that cover all subjects (except math), and they are filled with hands on activities. Each volume is a one year study (180 days) using library books and the Bible for grades 4-8, with optional student pages. Volume one, A World of Adventure, takes you on a journey through Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, The Middle Ages, The Renaissance and

Reformation, and the Age of Exploration. (790 pages) Your journey continues with volume two, A New World of Adventure. which focuses on early American history through the Revolutionary War and a study of the US Constitution (1,613 pages)

VOTED BEST

Learning Adventures • 1146 Kensington Ct. Seymour, IN 47274 • Phone (812)523-0999 Email: Dorian@Learning-Adventures.org

www.Learning-Adventures.org

Leave your textbooks behind and embark on the ultimate Learning Adventure!

Summer 2007 **79** www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com







Geography

Geography is key to any marine study. Say you're investigating the annual migration of salmon (a fascinating study, by the way). Where do they spawn? What natural obstacles do they face on their return journey (predators, currents, waterfalls, etc.)? Look up other creatures' movements. Especially interesting is the "march of the lobsters" (which one of my brothers witnessed firsthand while scuba diving off the Singer Island, Florida, beach) and whale migration.

Biology

One of my favorite arms of oceanography is marine biology. The sheer number of species that live in the ocean is astounding. What are the differences between squid and octopuses? Try dissecting one of each to see the differences up close. Find out about birds that swim and fish that fly. What kinds of fish glow in the dark and why? Pick a creature and find out everything you can about it, including what it eats (and what eats it!), where and how deep it lives, its defense mechanisms, and other fun facts.

Meteorology

The weather is an easily overlooked aspect of oceanography, and yet it's a force that has tremendous impact on our lives. How does water temperature affect air temperature and pressure? Describe the difference between a hurricane, a nor'easter, a waterspout, a tsunami, and a typhoon. What makes tides and what causes floods? Learn about El Niño and La Niña.

Geology

No earth science is complete without a look at geology. Geology shapes the ocean and gives it structure. What kinds of rocks and shells do you find at the beach? What are tectonic plates, and how do they influence the shape of the ocean floor? Where and what is the Marianna Trench? Read about mysterious deep sea vents. Explain what happens when an underwater volcano erupts. Map the "Ring of Fire."

Ecology

Ecology takes on a whole new shape under the sea. Habitats underwater or on the seashore are beautifully intricate and complex. What kinds of creatures live by the coast? Make a food-chain chart showing what eats what. Compare and contrast tide pools, coral reefs, and deep-sea habitats. How do oil spills affect the environment?

Social Science

So far we've mainly looked at the ocean apart from human influence. Why does the ocean matter to us? What natural resources do we derive from the sea in terms of food, fuel, or other raw materials? What part does the fishing industry play in the Gross National Product of the U.S. and other nations? Tuna, salmon, crabs, shrimp, clams, and many other types of seafood are all fairly normal dishes for Americans, but what do other cultures eat? Take a field trip to a seafood restaurant and try something new.

Engineering

Seafaring has been one of man's most important engineering projects. How are boats built? Why do they float? Look at different purposes for ships, from fishing to leisure, from war to ice-breaking, from research to transport, and consider how their shape and design aids their purpose. Research submersibles. What is SONAR and how does it work? Tour a ship, bridge, or submarine.

Naval Science

The sea has played a huge role in history. Look at the fifteenth-and sixteenth-century explorers and trace their travels. How have different bodies of water played into important parts of history: ancient Greece and Rome? the Children of Israel? World War II? How has seafaring changed over the centuries? Read about the *Merrimack* and the *Monitor* and other historical ships.

Job Opportunities

There are lots of job opportunities in the field of oceanography. Many traditional job fields have a marine counterpart that specializes in coastal or underwater applications of that job. For example, a marine engineer uses his knowledge of construction and the ocean to aid in hurricane relief and preparedness and in the construction of various coastal and underwater projects





80 Real Science www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com



such as pipelines. Sciences such as biology, botany, and meteorology can also focus on marine and coastal life. A marine biologist (or botanist or meteorologist) can find work in museums, in research labs, at national parks or refuges, or even working on an underwater research station! Other less technically demanding fields that allow one to work around the ocean and learn more about oceanography can include lifeguarding at the beach, working in an aquarium, or in various support positions on a ship.

Conclusion

Long after your homeschooling days have ended I hope that you, as I do, will occasionally sit back and recall your oceanography study with the knowledge that you shared God's wonders with your kids, explored science in a meaningful way, and created pleasant, even humorous memories! God bless your studies.

Mayoret SHoga

Maggie and Bob Hogan live in a (formerly) Amish farmhouse in Dover, Delaware, where they began homeschooling their two (now grown) sons in 1991. Maggie is a regular contributor to homeschooling Internet sites and magazines. She's a nationally known speaker and coauthor of The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide, Gifted Children at Home, Hands-on Geography, and other resource books. Involved in local, state, and national homeschooling issues, Maggie and Bob both serve on boards of home education organizations in Delaware. They're also owners of Bright Ideas Press, publishers of the award-winning The Mystery of History series, Christian Kids Explore series, and All American History series. When not reading or writing, Maggie can be found drooling over travel magazines and scrapbook supplies.



Recommended Curriculum

- Christian Kids Explore Biology by Stephanie Redmond, grades 3-6
- Scientist's Apprentice by Hilary Welliver, grades K-4
- Apologia's Exploring Creation with Marine Biology by Sherri Seligson, high school

Recommended Literature

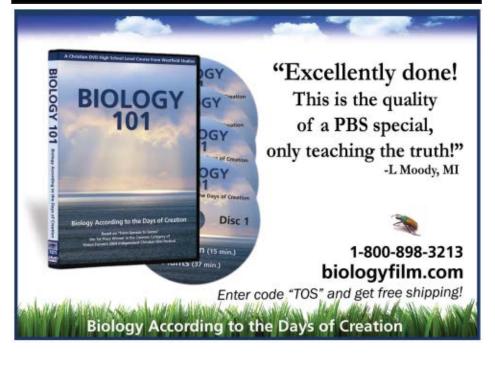
- Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell. 1961
 Newbery Medal winner. Inspired by the real-life story of a 12-year-old American Indian girl living on an island off the coast of California. When the Russians invade Karana's island, she is inadvertently left behind. She fends for herself for 18 years, foraging on land and in the ocean, clothing herself, securing shelter, and taming a wild dog.
- The Cay by Theodore Taylor. One of my very favorite books ever, with powerful themes of sacrifice, prejudice, love, and survival. On the Dutch island of Curacao in 1942, 11-year-old Phillip Enright lives with his parents. But as war draws near, he is put on a ship to Virginia. When his boat is attacked, Phillip is blinded and finds himself adrift on a life raft with an old black man and a cat. Phillip must come to terms with racism, survival, and his own handicap. Grades 4 and up.
- Carry On, Mr. Bowditch by Jean Lee Latham. True story of an eighteenth-century nautical wonder and mathematical wizard. Nat's determination to master sea navigation and his long hours of study lead to his famous work The American Practical Navigator, which hugely benefited the sailing community. Grades 5 and up.
- Stowaway by Karen Hesse. Newbery Medal-winning story based on actual Endeavour stowaway Nicholas Young, about whom little is known. Hesse used the real 1768 diaries of Captain Cook and shipboard naturalist Joseph Banks to research this book. Grades 4 and up.
- Kon-Tiki: Across the Pacific by Raft by Thor Heyerdahl. Record of the astonishing 1947 journey of 4,300 nautical miles from Peru to the South Sea Islands by six men on a balsa log raft. High school.
- The Dark Frigate by Charles Boardman Hawes.
 Awarded the Newbery Medal in 1923, this is a rousing, well-researched tale of seventeenth-century English life at sea. Grades 6 and up.
- The Voyager's Stone by Robert Kraske. A young boy tosses a bottle holding a letter into the Caribbean Sea, and readers follow its journey across oceans and around continents until finally a girl in Australia plucks it out of the water. Includes fascinating tidbits about forces of nature and sea creatures as well as simple, informative black-and-white illustrations and maps. Reminiscent of Paddle-to-the-Sea by Holling C. Holling. Grades 3 and up.

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **81**









Apologia and your child, a combination for success.



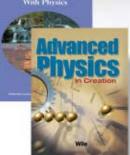
Award-Winning Curriculum!

Designed for your child to do at home.

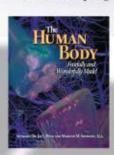
First Place - Exploring Creation with Physical Science in the Middle School Science category

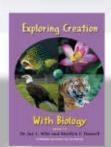
First Place - Apologia's science courses in Creation Science category

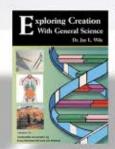
First Place - Apologia's science courses in the High School Science category

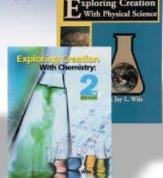


exploring









Try a FREE curriculum sample at www.apologia.com.

Apologia Educational Ministries, Inc.

Award-winning, Bible-based science curriculum by Answers in Genesis®

Gød's Design





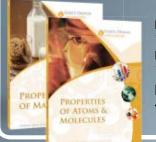
by Debbie and Richard Lawrence

Finally, here's a science curriculum for grade-schoolers that's easy to teach, loads of fun to learn, and full of lessons that instill a solid, creation-based worldview. FULLY GUARANTEED!

Buy the Complete Set **SAVE nearly \$70**



Chemistry series



Properties of Matter 10-1-235......\$22.99
Properties of Atoms & Molecules 10-1-236.....\$22.99

Both only **\$39.99 (SAVE \$6)** 40-1-202

Physical World



Heat & Energy 10-1-238 \$24.99 Machines & Motion

10-1-239......\$24.99 Inventions & Technology 10-1-237.....\$24.99

All 3 only \$59.99 (SAVE \$15) 40-1-203

FREE Bonus!

(when you purchase the complete curriculum set)

This unique science curriculum was developed by homeschooling parents Debbie and Richard Lawrence. Chosen by Answers in Genesis and strongly endorsed by Ken Ham and others for its Bible-affirming creation (not evolution!) content!



Order at www.GodsDesignScience.com or Call 1-800-778-3390 Offer Expires 07/31/07 • Simply enter preferred coupon code during checkout.



Life series



The World of Plants 10-1-243.....\$22.99

The Animal Kingdom 10-1-244.....\$22.99

The Human Body\$22.99 10-1-245.....

All 3 only \$54.99 (SAVE \$14) 40-1-205

Heaven and Earth series



Our Planet Earth 10-1-240.....\$22.99

Our Weather & Water 10-1-241.....\$22.99

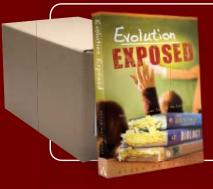
Our Universe

10-1-242.....\$22.99

All 3 only \$54.99 (SAVE \$14) 40-1-204

Get a **FREE** issue of Answers magazine and Kids Answers (\$7.00 value)

Coupon code: 07SPTOSA



a **FREE** copy of Evolution Exposed. (\$15.99 value)

Buy a case of 30 for \$119.70 90-7-323

Coupon code: 07SPTOSE

Download a FREE curriculum sample at www.GodsDesignScience.com



Ship, Tide, Anchor POEMS WITH SEA IMAGERY

By Jubilee Barker

Do you have an irresistible fancy for the sea? Many celebrated American and English poets did. Exemplary sea poetry abounds, reflecting a gamut of emotions and experiences revolving around tide and tempest, saltwater and ship. Consider John Greenleaf Whittier, who extolled the healing benefits of a day on the seashore in "Hampton Beach." Oliver Wendell Holmes composed the legendary "Old Ironsides," a poem that saved an American war vessel from being scrapped. Poets John Masefield ("Sea Fever") and Edna St. Vincent Millay ("Exiled") expressed their indomitable longing for whitecaps and windy sails, while William Whiting ("Eternal Father, Strong to Save") lifted up a plea for divine protection for mariners on the deeps. Still other poets produced legends and ballads concerning intrepid sailors and infamous sea battles. The sea has certainly provoked the endless fascination of writers.

Are you familiar with the classic sea poems mentioned below? I encourage you to read and study these poems in their entirety (mostly snippets are replicated here) and revel in the author's imagery, description, and message.

Break, Break, Break

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

Break, break, break
On thy cold gray stones, O Sea!
And I would that my tongue could utter
The thoughts that arise in me.

O, well for the fisherman's boy, That he shouts with his sister at play! O, well for the sailor lad, That he sings in his boat on the bay

And the stately ships go on
To their haven under the hill;
But O for the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still!

Break, break, break,
At the foot of thy crags, O Sea!
But the tender grace of a day that is dead
Will never come back to me.

Tennyson's brooding poem reflects his deep anguish for Arthur Hallam, his beloved friend who died unexpectedly in 1833. Hallam's death affected Tennyson so profoundly that the poet all but ceased publishing his works for nearly ten years.

Where is this poem written?

How does Tennyson masterfully portray his sorrow by showing rather than telling?

What is significant about Tennyson's images? In the second stanza, he employs the image of a happy fisherman's boy, followed by the image of a sailor lad. The third stanza contains "stately ships" returning home. This sequence (little boy, sailor lad, ships going home) gives the impression of passing time and of youth, prime, and death. Tennyson appropriates these images to reveal the fact that he cannot harness Time from marching onward, and he misses a friend whose company he will never enjoy again.

How is "tender grace of a day ..." an effective description of his loss?

Why does Tennyson use "cold gray stones" in the first stanza and then "crags" in the last stanza?

Sea Fever

John Masefield (1878-1967)

I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,

And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by;

And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,

And a gray mist on the sea's face, and a gray dawn breaking.

"Sea Fever" addresses an entirely different mood: the sheer need to be out on the sea. The "call of the running tide" is a clarion call that must be heeded. What abundant, tumultuous imagery Masefield supplies in the following stanzas: he asks for a "windy day with the white clouds flying," for "flung spray and the blown spume" and the cry of sea gulls. The wind is likened to a "whetted knife." Masefield's masterpiece is similar in tone to Edna St. Vincent Millay's "Exiled."

Exiled

Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950)

... Wanting the sticky, salty sweetness

Of the strong wind and shattered spray;

Wanting the loud sound and the soft sound

Of the big surf that breaks all day.

Masefield longs to sail by starlight, whereas Millay wishes to hear and touch the things that remind her of a summer haunt on the Maine seacoast: weedy mussels, rotting hulls (the frame or body of a vessel without the rigging and mast), the fog bell, and the groaning piers. Millay begins her poem by contemplating the reasons for her depression ("searching my heart for its true sorrow") and discovers it is homesickness for the water.

Dampton Beach

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

... Good by to pain and care! I take Mine ease to-day:

Here where these sunny waters break, And ripples this keen breeze, I shake All burdens from the heart, all weary thoughts away.

I draw a freer breath—I seem

Like all I see—

Waves in the sun—the white-winged gleam

Of sea-birds in the slanting beam—
And far-off sails which flit before the south-wind free.

Another poet spurning the "dusty town" for a promenade along the beach, Whittier filled this marvelous poem with words and phrases that plainly resonate serenity: fresh breeze, clean and free, new life, healing, cool spray, ease, serene, mild, pleasant, passive, and quietude. He comes to the sea seeking rejuvenation, for the sea is a sanctuary providing freedom and ease for tired brains; it is not the source of mysterious sorrow that it is for other poets. Whittier then compares the restfulness of his soul in such settings to the restfulness we should experience when "Time's veil

shall fall asunder." How does he successfully make this comparison?

Meeting at Night Robert Browning (1812-1889)

... Then a mile of warm sea-scented beach;

Three fields to cross till a farm appears;

A tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch

And blue spurt of a lighted match,

And a voice less loud, through its joys and fears,

Than the two hearts beating each to each!

"Meeting at Night" is usually printed along with Browning's other short selections "Parting at Morning," "Home Thoughts, from Abroad," and "Home-Thoughts, from the Sea." Browning discloses no longings for capricious winds and tide here. In "Meeting at Night," the sea is simply a channel a friend must traverse to meet another dear friend. There is a feeling of needing to get to a desired destination, which is achieved by quick, incomplete sentences. How do the descriptions contribute to that feeling? How does Browning reveal to us that the meeting is desirable and anticipated?

Dover Beach

Matthew Arnold (1822-1888)

The sea is calm to-night.

The tide is full, the moon lies fair Upon the straits; — on the French coast the light

Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand,

Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay.

The speaker, looking out on the English Channel, begins his poem in a contemplative tone, eliciting conversation with his loved one. The scene appears peaceful (calm, tranquil, light, fair, and sweet are adjectives emphasized in the first stanza), but the speaker is far from tranquil. The second stanza reveals this shift in tone.

Only, from the long line of spray Where the sea meets the moonblanched land,

Listen! You hear the grating roar Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling,

At their return, up the high strand, Begin, and cease, and then again begin,

With tremulous cadence slow, and bring

The eternal note of sadness in.

Finally, the speaker endeavors to directly state his point:

The sea of Faith

Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore

Lay like the fold of a bright girdle furl'd.

This Victorian poet did not envision his age as being an era of faith, but as vague with many conflicting scientific and philosophical speculations. "Dover Beach" definitely partakes of that questioning, despondent spirit. Arnold's ultimatum is to derive consolation and certainty only from human love:

Ah, love, let us be true

To one another! For the world, which seems

To lie before us like a land of dreams,

So various, so beautiful, so new, Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,

Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;

And we are here as on a darkling plain ...

Sonnet CXV1

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Let me not to the marriage of true minds

Admit impediments. Love is not love Which alters when it alteration finds, Or bends with the remover to remove:

O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark,

That looks on tempests and is never shaken;

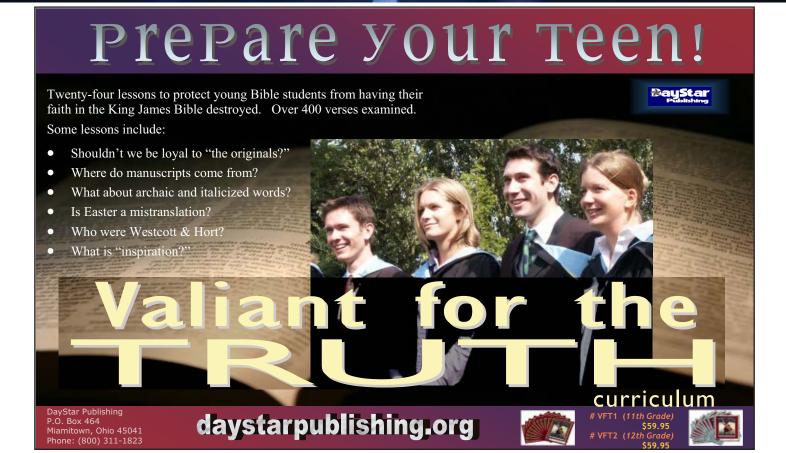
It is the star to every wandering bark ...

In this marvelous, immortal sonnet, Shakespeare declares that true love never ceases. He likens the tenacity of love to an immovable landmark in the midst of storms, and to a star that guides a lost frigate.

Whether they chronicled the fate of the *Titanic* or compared everlasting love to a sea-tossed anchor, poets like these give us a unique twist, adroit descriptions, and colorful imagery in efforts to capture the mystery and beauty of the sea.

Jubilee Barker

Jubilee Barker is a homeschool graduate and piano teacher. She enjoys Jane Austen and the Brontës, Chopin and hymns, and raising a multitude of box turtles. She resides in Sacramento, California, with her family.





Not just an education.

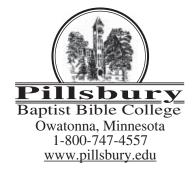
An experience.



A genuine, life-shaping experience.

- Accredited, fundamental education taught by experienced faculty that are also deeply student-devoted
- · Major & Minor fields of study taught with a Biblical World View
- · Warm family atmosphere results in life-long friendships
- All in the safe setting of a beautiful campus located in Owatonna, Minnesota
- Financial Aid and bountiful job opportunities available

To receive an informational DVD: www.pillsbury.edu/dvd.html



www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

A Heavenly Combination

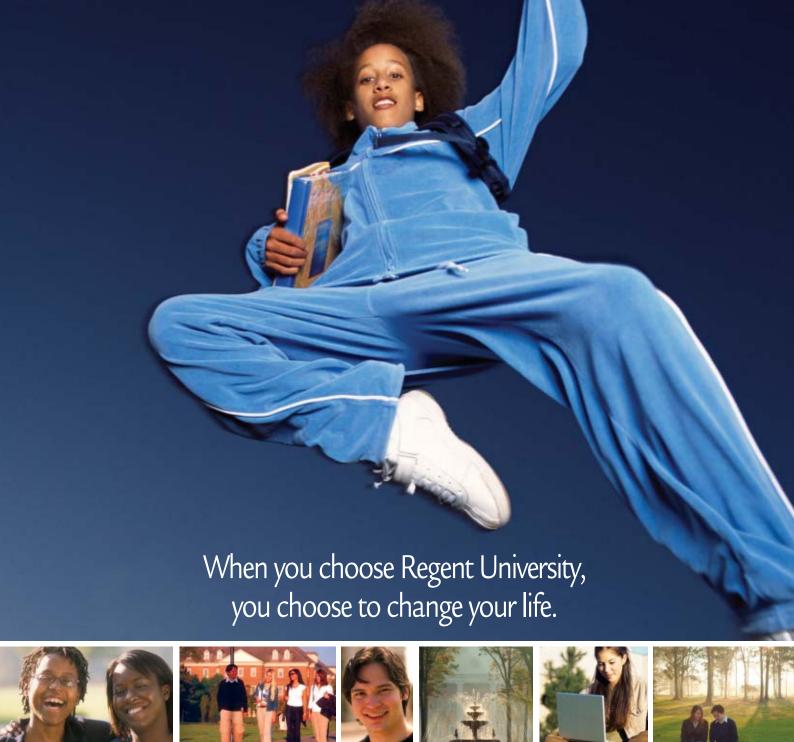


A Flexible Online Curriculum Option

Combine one or more of Sevenstar's 6th - 12th grade online biblically integrated courses, including AP, dual credits, specialty sciences and foreign languages, with your home school. Enjoy the freedom from traditional school calendars and the option to utilize Sevenstar's Christian teachers in subject areas outside of your comfort zone.

Visit www.sevenstaracademy.org or call (707) 276-3472 today to find how Sevenstar's affordable curriculum can combine with your family's education vision to make a heavenly combination.

















Regent University, one of the most prestigious Christian institutions in the nation, offers bachelor's degrees online or on campus. We've designed our majors with the perfect combination of academic excellence and affordability, individualized study and group interaction, foundational learning and cutting-edge technology. All within the context of a biblical worldview and with a community of Christian students.

Choose to attend classes online, or on our campus in Virginia Beach. Study where you want, when you want. These flexible learning options allow you to take college credit classes while still in high school in our early college program. Plus, home school and transfer students enjoy friendly admissions policies.

For more information about our programs, or to apply, call Regent at 800.695.4361 or visit our website at Regent.edu/undergrad. Choose Regent to change your future.

Christian leadership to change the world. 800.695.4361 Regent.edu/undergrad

Harmonious Homeschool Ways We Have De-stressed Our Home

any things can cause disharmony in our homeschools. I've come up with a few ideas that might be able to lower your "stress meter."



Mornings

- Prayer: "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6). How could we even start a day without giving thanks to God for giving us this day and asking Him to guide us through it?
- First subject: Recess! I know that our children don't want to get up in the morning and get right down to the business of schoolwork. We let them sleep until they are rested, but we make sure they are up at a decent time and that they will have at least one hour before we start lessons. That also gives me at least an hour to read the blogs!
- Laundry/dishes: I start the laundry early, before we begin any schoolwork. I do the dishes and all of the house straightening the night before so that the house is ready for the day when I get up in the morning.
- **Meals:** I decide what I am going to prepare for all the meals each morning. I thaw out food or start the crock-pot or bake the bread. I find that if I know what meals I am to prepare, I am less stressed when I look at the clock and realize that I have only 15 minutes until suppertime!

Paily Schedule

- Working: We try to spend two hours in the morning with work, have a lunch break/recess for about two hours, then finish up with two hours in the afternoon.
- Flexibility: It's the children we are doing this for, so enjoy them while they are here. Be flexible. Be spontaneous. Aren't these some of the reasons we do all this?

Lesson Plans

• Numerically: I write my lesson plans as "Day 1, Day 2" etc. I found that if I had my plans listed as "Monday, Tuesday," etc, and we took a day off, I had to scribble all over my plans to rearrange everything. Too stressful! If you number them 1-to-whatever, then when you

teaching the things your children forgot over the long summer break!

Curriculum

- **Buy used:** If you didn't spend a lot of money buying it, you don't feel stressed if you didn't use it.
- Don't do all the activities: Do what works for your family. Don't stress out because you haven't done everything listed to do. Those teacher's editions were made for a classroom teacher to find activities to keep 30 children under control for an eight-hour day.
- Free: There are many sites where you can learn for free on the Internet. The library also contains many things available for your use.

Motivation

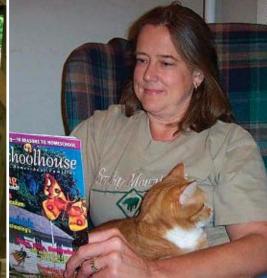
Be flexible. Be spontaneous. Aren't these some of the reasons we do all this?

take a day off, your schedule is still fine. You just begin the next time you get together for school with the next numbered day.

- Year-round school: Teaching yearround and taking short breaks when you need them is less stressful than trying to get everything done according to the public school calendar. You can take more days off when you want them, and not all during those hot summer months. It is less stressful because you don't have to spend so many weeks re-
- Tickets: We use a system in which I calculate the overall grade for the week. I average all their written work and come up with a percentage. That percentage corresponds to a number of "tickets" on my chart. Our chart has a 6-ticket maximum. Each ticket is good for playing an hour of video games or choosing a video to watch. We call it "electronic time." That's it for the week. When the tickets are gone, then no more video games or

Homeschooling 101 www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com





movies. Besides motivation, it's also great for limiting the amount of time your children spend sitting at the TV or computer! We use these tickets for motivation to get schoolwork done properly. They are not a punishment for not being a "smart" child, just motivation for them to do "their best" work—not necessarily to be the best.

Academics

• Grade levels: Grade levels are something the public school devised to give the public classroom a focus. If your children are doing the work and learning, they are at grade level. No college or future employer is going to ask your child, "Did you learn to read by the time you were 6?" or, "Did you learn your multiplication tables in third grade?" Your children will know these skills by then, and that's all that is important.

Testing: If you want to see how your children are doing "according to the norm" (whatever that is), then you may purchase easy-to-use test booklets at a school supply store or online.

One on one: Teaching your child yourself is like having a private tutor for him or her. You know that's the best way to learn anyway.

Do not compare! As 2 Corinthians 10:12 tells us, "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but they measuring themselves by them-

selves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

Siblings

- Manipulatives: When our children were younger, we had shelves of Montessori items they could choose for themselves to do. The younger ones would pick and choose (and make a mess of) all those neat learning items, while we worked one on one with the older ones.
- Morning/afternoon: Right now our children are at a very independent learning age. I will work with the younger one in the morning while the older one does his independent things. Then in the afternoon we switch "mama time" around.
- Multi-age activities: We do science, geography, reading, and other "all together" time learning. Sometimes we have the older child read to or work with the younger one.

Frequent breaks: Do take time from work to hug and play with the baby. This helps the older ones learn patience and waiting their turn. Younger ones learn waiting when their needs are not immediately met.

Socialization

You know the questions people ask about socialization, but are they saying that the public school children have the best social skills of all the children in the world? I certainly hope they don't believe that.

Facing page: A relaxing time for the boys is fishing at the pond in our front acreage. Above left: Skyler and Briscoe cooling off. Above: Betsy's favorite way to de-stress, complete with Dolly.

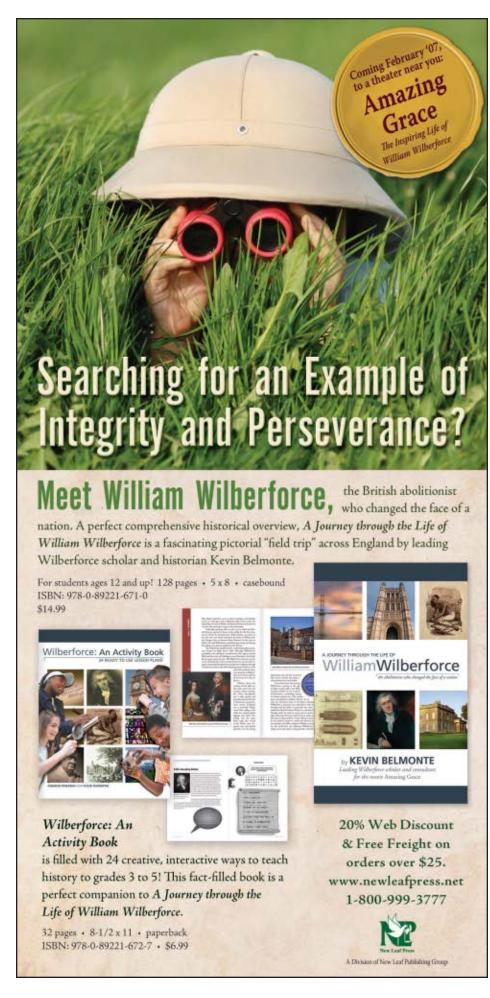
These questions stem from the misconception that we learn our social skills in classrooms full of peers, run by government institutions. But do the public school children have time during class to socialize? Or is that after school and during after-school activities? Since we, as homeschoolers, spend less time in actual class, then we have 4 or 5 more hours in a day for social activities than those in the traditional classroom!

Home Life

• TV: By limiting or eliminating your TV time, your home life finds more stress-free hours in the day. Because your child is not subject to ads (which exist solely to tell you that you are not content with what you have), you have less-stress shopping. Your children are also more receptive of others' gifts to them. As Urie Bronfenbrenner, a professor at Cornell University puts it:

The primary danger of the television screen lies not so much in the behavior it produces as the behavior it prevents. ... Turning on the television set can turn off the process that transforms children into adults.

• Meal Prep: I have an "available meals" list on the refrigerator. It lists all the meals I am able to make with the ingredients on hand. I just glance at this list each morning and



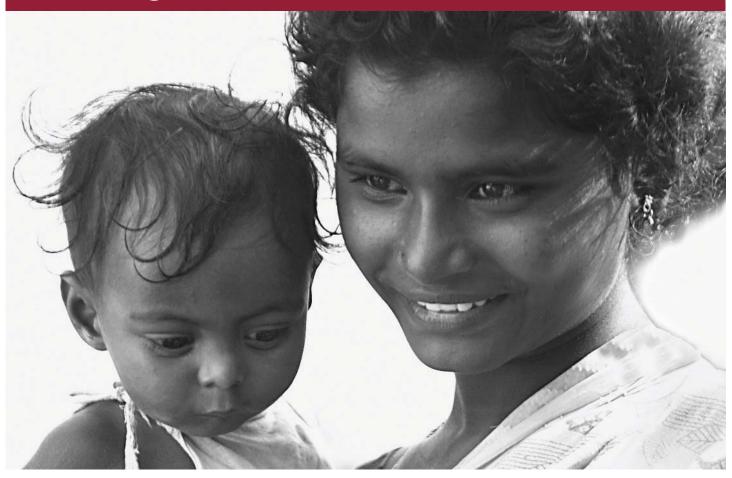
- choose what I will prepare that day. When I've made that meal, I cross it off the list of available meals and write the ingredients on the grocery list that hangs beside it.
- Menu list: Use a menu list the same way as the "available meals" list, except that it is more specific.
- **Grocery shopping:** Of course, the meal list makes the grocery list less stressful too, as I have listed all the things I need to make good meals the next week on the grocery list as I used them.
- Bulk items: I cook and chop up chicken breasts, then freeze them in small bags to be ready in an instant for casseroles or stews. Chop and freeze those vegetables from the clearance produce rack. Also, make double meals so that you can freeze half for a quick meal later.
- Housecleaning: I use a list like "Monday, vacuum; Tuesday, dust;" etc. This makes you do a little something each day, and you don't have to spend several hours at once to get your house in shape.
- Chores: Don't forget to make a chore chart for the children to help with daily chores too. They can be a big help even in the smallest task.

I hope you have found something here that will make your homeschool less stressful. Remember, God loves your children even more than you do. You may have days when you feel like you cannot keep up with the task of homeschooling, but there is never a second when God isn't up to it.

Betsy Chastain

Betsy and her husband, Tyson, have been blessed with the task of raising three gentlemen for the army of the Lord: Drew (23), Skyler (13), and Briscoe (9). They and the two young men still at home live at Johnson Bible College in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains and have been homeschooling since 1995. Visit Betsy's personal blog at www.Homeschool Blogger.com/SweetHomeTennessee. She is also the Tennessee state coordinator for Homeschool Nations at www.Home schoolBlogger.com/Tennessee.

Change A Life For As Little As \$3.50



Word and Deed has been serving communities in India and Africa for over 25 years. The work being done by Word and Deed is helping people to help themselves through programs that will change their lives forever.

Word and Deed programs are designed to meet the specific needs of the communities it serves. Medical attention and care are an integral component of all programs which include; The Milk Supply program in India where mothers receive milk and medical attention for their infant children, Quarry Kids

in India, taking children away from manual labor jobs and placing them in school and Kiuma, providing young students with the tools, training and certification to get trade jobs in the Tundura region of Tanzania.

100% of your generous donation will be used to support these and other programs. Send your donation today to:

Word & Deed c/o 8310 Technology Drive

Charlotte, NC 28262



Word and Deed is sponsored by RACK ROOM SHOES and the DEICHMANN Group www.wordanddeed.us

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ 95

Whatever you desire, Accelerated Christian Education has the homeschooling answer for you!

1 Build an individualized curriculum.

You, as a home educator, may wish to make your **own selection** from the extensive array of Accelerated Christian Education materials and manage your own homeschool administration.

Visit www.aceministries.com, or call 800-925-1111.

7 Join Lighthouse Christian Academy.

Retain the freedom of homeschooling while receiving the full service of a school administration office complete with fully accredited diplomas and qualified academic advisors.

Visit www.lcaed.com to download an application, or call 866-746-6534.

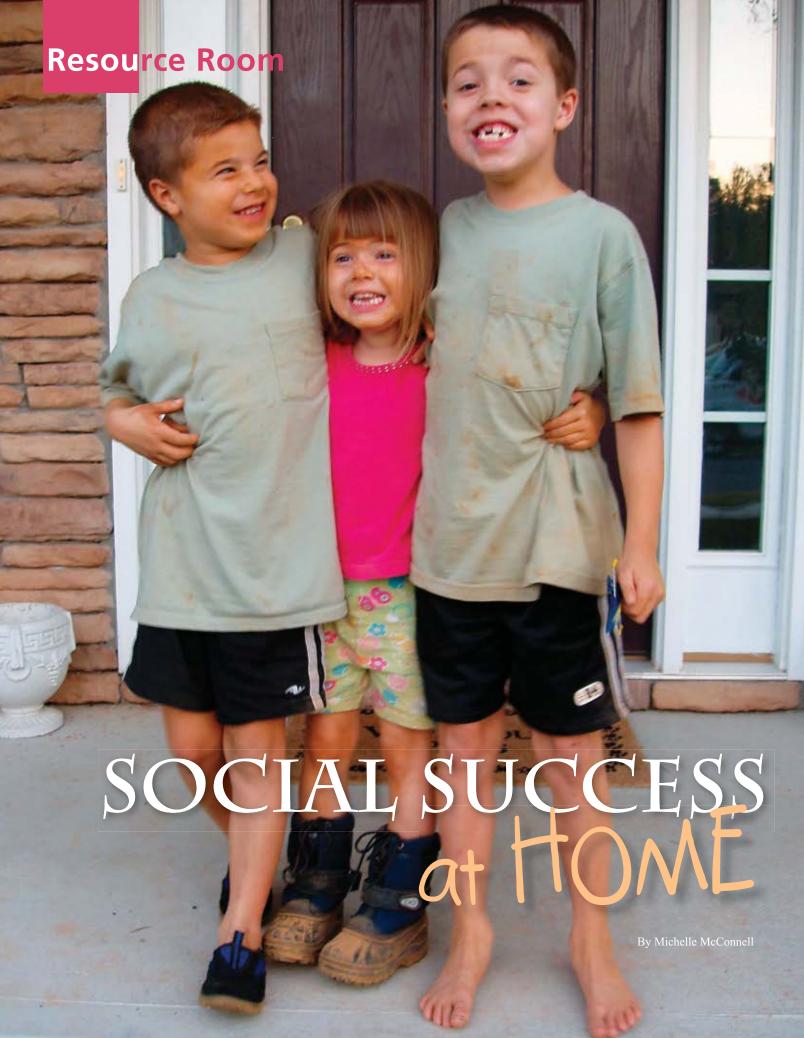
3 Work with a local church school.

Accelerated Christian Education methods are being used in thousands of church schools around the world. Many have a homeschool outreach program. Perhaps there is one in your neighborhood!

Call 800-470-8991 for information on a school in your area.

Experience the A.C.E. Advantage M





ur son Luke is 8 years old today. He's pretty happy with his new Lego sets, but the truth is, I'm the one enjoying the presents! His party was a huge success, he's happy,



he's calm, he's loving and kind to others—what more could a mother ask for?

Birthdays, by their very nature, compel us to reminisce over years past. I remember the joy he brought as our firstborn and how much fun it was enjoying him as a baby. Then I remember the toddler years, when it gradually became clear that he was not exactly like other children. Luke was diagnosed at age 2 with a severe speech delay (tested to the equivalent language development of a 6-9 month old baby) and then at age 3 with PDD (pervasive development disorder, which is a fancy way of saying that he falls somewhere along the spectrum of autism).

At that point, we began the long process of weighing and balancing. Treating autism is a daunting task, and every expert has his or her share of opinions. My husband and I were committed to my staying home full-time with Luke, his brother (20 months younger), and the little sister on the way. But considering his diagnosis, we agreed to send him to preschool, feeling he needed that interaction. Though encouraged and even sometimes pushed to seek full-time placements, including 40-hour-a-week programs, we refused. He spent a few mornings a week in a typical preschool setting where various therapists and experts came in to work with him on language, social, and sensory issues. Over the years, he made good progress and even worked up to five mornings a week, but we stuck to our commitment that he would come home by lunchtime each day and that no therapy would take place in the afternoon hours. Some would say that we took a great risk, but my instincts, that "gut nature" the Lord gives mothers, told me that, first and foremost, he needed to be a child. A few hours each morning was plenty.

This worked fairly well for a few years, but then came kindergarten. By this point, Luke's formal diagnosis was Asperger's

Facing page, L-R: Aaron, Sarah, and Luke, all gleefully filthy following an afternoon of outdoor play. Luke calls his brother and sister his "best friends" syndrome (considered by some to be a high-functioning form of autism, while others consider it to be a separate entity). I truly agonized over Luke's kindergarten placement. It had always been our intention to send the children to Christian school and that I would teach there once the youngest had reached kindergarten age. But that vision was stripped away as we discovered that the Christian schools were not open to a child with exceptional needs such as Luke's. So, with great trepidation, we gave the public schools a try. I researched every placement option in our district and we prayed fervently that the Lord would guide us to what was best for Luke.

You can imagine our dismay when it proved to be disastrous. Only two months into kindergarten, I kept Luke home from school and refused to send him back until they provided what the law refers to as a "free and appropriate" (emphasis on appropriate) educational placement according to the stipulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. His current classroom setting was self-contained and nowhere near appropriate for him-a point with which the placement team had no choice but to concur. The other option was mainstreaming, but they offered him no in-class support, and I refused to set him up for another failure. After visiting the teacher, I argued that their philosophy of kindergarten made no sense for the most typical child, much less one with exceptional needs! We seemed to be running out of options.

It was not as though I'd never heard of homeschooling. I'd just never considered it for our family. I did not feel that I was like the homeschool mothers I'd known (whatever that means). I also felt that, given Luke's delays (mainly socializing, communicating, and basically fitting into this world he was not exactly "wired for"), homeschooling would isolate him even more. However, our experience has proved that not to be true.

One day while still in the midst of the school placement crisis, I was grocery shopping with Luke. The younger siblings had not come along this time; it was just the two of us. That was when the Lord spoke clearly to me about what it was we needed to do. You see, grocery shopping used to be a nightmare. Taking Luke out at all would sometimes be a nightmare! We'd had more than our share of painful and embarrassing experiences. Luke's

progress over the years had been so gradual that I often failed to appreciate how far he'd come, but this day was different. I watched him, enjoyed him, and took it all in. He was calm. He was cooperative. He followed directions. He was helpful. He spoke politely to the cashier. He walked alongside me, not running ahead or falling behind. Here he was, exhibiting the exact opposite of everything they were telling me about his behavior at school. Had a teacher or professional therapist worked to accomplish these goals? No. We'd simply lived life together, day after day, through understanding, consistent discipline, and training-and here we were, with far to go, but quite a long way from where we'd started. That was when I got it. I knew what I was meant to do. The Lord had indeed heard and answered our prayers, by showing so clearly the path He intended for us to take.

The Lord had indeed heard and answered our prayers, by showing so clearly the path He intended for us to take.

Our family life completely changed after we pulled Luke from school. My stress level dropped through the floor. No longer did I have to rush to prepare special lunches each morning (Luke is on a restricted diet). No longer did I have to



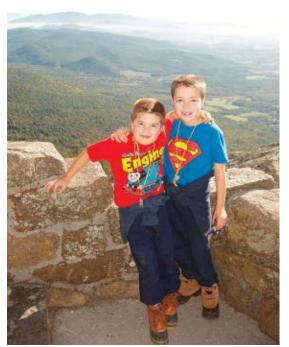
The entire family enjoyed a field trip to Grandfather Mountain, part of God's wondrous creation.

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ 99

coerce sleepy children to get dressed in a hurry. No longer did I have to pray our way through insane morning rush hour traffic because I refused to put him on a school bus. No longer did I have to write nasty emails to teachers and aides who were ignoring Individualized Education Program requirements. And as an added bonus, the children went through that entire winter without getting sick even once! The calm in our home was so thick we simply breathed it in deep while playing "learning games" (as the kids called them) on the couch in our pajamas. Basically, we just took a few months to recuperate. Luke started playing with his siblings again, and he began enjoying "school" again (I did not use a curriculum, just covered the three Rs and pursued his interests through unit studies on bugs and critters and such). He'd always loved learning, and it was good to see that glint back in his eyes. True, I was overwhelmed at times about the years ahead and how this would all play out in the long run (sometimes I still am!). But in truth I was so relieved after what we'd been through that no amount of worrying could convince me that "school" was better than HOME. That point was settled.

Well, back to the present. Luke is 8 years old today. He is a thriving second grader doing grade-level work, despite the obstacles. His specific challenges involve various "symptoms" of Asperger's syndrome: verbal and auditory processing delays, struggles with working memory, attention challenges, general "busy-ness" (sometimes negatively referred to as hyperactivity), literal-mindedness, dependence on routine, and social "naivety."

We have several methods for helping him deal with these challenges; I'll share just a few. Luke's mind requires associative learning—I must find some way to connect new information to a "file" already stored in his mind. Without associations I might as well be Charlie Brown's teacher, harping, "Wah wah wah wah." This process looks different for every lesson but often involves having him do something related to the lesson (experience) or using a piece of media (a DVD or computer game) before presenting the "formal" material. One



Aaron and Luke successfully hiked to the top of Sharp Top Mountain in Bedford, Virginia, during a family camping trip.

Homeschooling is not only a viable option for these children, but I will dare to say that it is the ideal option.



Luke shows off another backyard discovery: a caterpillar crawls up his arm as Aaron and Sarah look on.

recommendation I will offer is a website called **time4learning.com.** Their service does have a monthly fee, but I have found it well worth the investment. Luke enjoys the interactive lessons, and after he completes them on the computer he is better able to attend to and make sense of my lesson on the same topic.

The verbal processing and working memory challenges are huge obstacles for him. We actually had an educational psychologist confirm this through vigorous testing. On a visualspatial test, which required no verbal processing, he scored in the superior range. However, on verbal processing and working memory tests, he scored as low as "borderline retardation." Now, the psychologist was quick to point out that nothing about this boy is "retarded," but these results show the great discrepancy between his intellectual potential and what he is often able to produce. To help him with this, we use study methods such as acronyms or songs to help him retain information (he learned our phone number to the tune of "Fur Elise" by Beethoven). We turn Bible verses into "charades" by giving physical actions to the key words. I have a visual aid for every single concept of our school day, no matter how minute. It is amazing to see how differently he responds when I provide these supports, as opposed to assuming that he "got it" simply because I said it.

As for assessing him, I have a dual process there. First of all, I like to know what he truly learned, so I bypass the processing challenges by allowing him to "free flow" through narration. This is a Charlotte Mason technique that allows the child to simply tell the teacher what he or she has learned. I type as he narrates, and he'll "edit" me; he has become quite good at this and often comes up with details I myself had forgotten. On the other hand, I also want to teach him how to answer formal questions, so I create quizzes based on what we've learned each week. It is fascinating to watch him recount the information in great detail through narration, only to completely fail a simple quiz on the same subject matter because he has not understood the questions. We are working on picking out the key words of a question, reading over all the multiple choice options before answering,

100 ■ Resource Room www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

WHAT IS

Asperger's Syndrome?

By Christine Field

Asperger's syndrome is a neurological disorder and is one of five PDDs (pervasive developmental disorders), or disorders on the spectrum of autistic disorders.

Children with this syndrome have normal intelligence and language development but experience difficulties with social and communication skills. The diagnosis Asperger's disorder was added to the American Psychiatric Association's categories of mental disorders (DSM-IV) in 1994 as a disorder separate from autism. It specifies that the individual must have "severe and sustained impairment in social interaction, and the development of restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests and activities" that must "cause clinically significant impairment in social, occupational or other important areas of

These children frequently have good language and cognitive skills and want to fit in and function with other children, but they may be socially awkward and not understand social rules. Some have unusual speech patterns, lacking inflection rhythm, or may be too loud or too high pitched. They sometimes have intense interests in certain areas, such as memorizing categories of information, football statistics, or other rote skills

The disorder is named for an Austrian physician, Hans Asperger, who first noted the syndrome in 1944. For more information about Asperger's, check out www.aspergers.com.

and using cues (e.g., songs, acronyms) to aid in recall. Sometimes he does well with this, sometimes not, but there is progress, and that is the big picture. One thing I can attest with complete certainty: had we left him in that public school setting, he would not be doing anything near gradelevel work.

Above all this, though, I'm thrilled to report that his greatest improvements have been social! The idea that a child with social delays and challenges is well served by immersing him in the jungle that is public school, where the law is "survival of the fittest," is ludicrous. Children with autism or Asperger's or similar conditions

will never be "the fittest," and they often pay terrible consequences for their inability to navigate that social world. Homeschooling is not only a viable option for these children, but I will dare to say that it is the ideal option. We've seen it, for sure, but others in our life also look at Luke and repeatedly exclaim, "He is not the same child!"

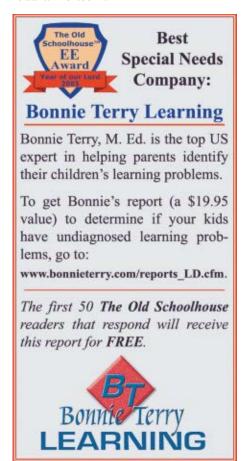
What's made the difference? First and foremost, he is at peace. He spends his days with people who love him. He knows what to expect, and his anxiety level is down to a baseline. That alone sets him up for success! Additionally, he has his siblings to practice social skills with all day. Therapy? Yes, 24/7 and completely free! Conflict resolution, conversational turn taking, compromise, imaginary play, initiating, leading, following-all take place under this very roof, even as I sit here typing these words! I hang back to let them "work it out," but I also intervene and guide when needed. This provides perfect opportunities to teach and train, in ways that are meaningful and can be applied to social situations in the future. He is getting it, and the progress has been amazing!

But beyond that, he has friends now, outside our immediate family. This was never true before. I have hand-picked a few activities to ensure that each child has opportunities to pursue his or her interests. Seeing the same faces each week in calm, safe environments has allowed Luke to feel comfortable with a network of other children, and they honestly consider each other to be friends. It takes work and guidance, but it is happening. He invited several of them to his birthday party earlier this week. He engaged with them, enjoyed them, and thanked each one personally. In fact, he appeared so at ease and so "typical" that his father and I marveled at the fact that an outsider looking in, at that moment, would never guess he was so challenged. He even caught the eye of a pretty little girl who could not get enough of him! Indeed, it is far too early for that, but to see little glimpses of what may be one day brought much encouragement my way. Our boy is a good friend to others, and he has friends!

We are completely sold on homeschooling now. Luke is a case in point that a child with challenges and delays is at risk of totally sinking in a public school classroom. I can say with certainty that he would not be performing anywhere near this level, academically, had we not brought him home. But what I want to drive home is the point that the real success has been social! Culture would have us believe that homeschooling is an antisocial choice, but this little boy is proof otherwise. True socialization takes place in the presence of loving adults, respectful peers, and within the parameters of guidance and protection. "Survival of the fittest" breeds bullies and victims, manipulators and braggarts, haves and have-nots. In utter contrast, Luke is kind to everyone he meets, regardless of their status or situation. He can hold a conversation with an adult or a 1-year-old and does so, more often than not, with little help from me. This has been the true success of homeschooling Luke, and I'm so thankful and blessed to get to be a part

Michelle McConnell

Michelle McConnell and her husband, Eric, homeschool their three children in Cornelius, North Carolina. Michelle enjoys writing, hiking, karate, and vanilla lattes. She welcomes questions and comments directed to teachermommy@roadrunner.com.



www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **101**

Attention PLEASE!

By Suzanne Brannam

t's Monday morning and you're actually ready for the school day for a change. Why, you're ready for the whole week. You spent hours yesterday paging through textbooks, meticulously writing



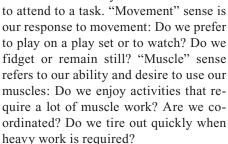
out your lesson plans, photocopying all the necessary papers, even organizing the children's books for them. This morning you woke up early, had your morning coffee, threw in a load of laundry, and were still able to sneak in a few moments of morning quiet time. Yes, you are ready for the day. With a smile on your face and all the children sitting at the table, you begin your thoroughly planned-out day. You're less than 30 minutes into the first lesson when suddenly you hear it! Your own voice! Not uttering the daily devotional or facts about the Civil War. No, more like snapping commands and trying not to blow your top. "Jimmy, get back in your seat! That's the third time you've been up! Suzie, stop chewing on your hair! Steven, please pick your head up off the table! Can't you all just pay attention for five minutes?!" You slowly lower your head into your hands and ask, "What is going on here? I was so prepared!" The real question should be, how prepared were your children?

With a smile on your face and all the children sitting at the table, you begin your thoroughly planned-out day.

Problems with attention seem to be making headlines everywhere. The terms ADD and ADHD are commonplace. Children are being medicated left and right in an effort to "capture" their attention. Even without the formal labels or medi-

cation, parents may notice that gaining sustained, focused attention is elusive or fleeting at best. What if capturing our children's attention were as easy as understanding their sensory needs?

Attention, as defined by Webster's, is "The act or state of attending, especially through applying the mind to an object of sense or thought." In thinking about that definition let us focus on the word sense. Sense is a specialized function or mechanism (as sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch) basically involving a stimulus and a sense organ. To these five basic senses we should add movement and muscle. These "hidden" senses can greatly influence our ability



Through our senses we gather information about the world. Sometimes our ability to interpret or respond to the information gathered in our environment is hindered by distractions such as noise, temperature, lighting, smells, and so forth. When we are distracted, our focus or attention is interrupted. Each person has her own level at which a petty distraction becomes a true distraction that interferes with the ability to concentrate. Individuals also have their own needs and desires for creating the optimal learning environment. Some people crave movement, while others do not. Some people enjoy background noise, while others need silence. The first



Playing with the box of fidget toys.

step to helping anyone improve attention is to identify his or her needs.

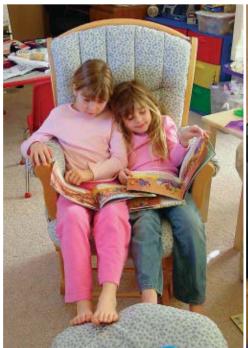
Identifying and Meeting Sensory Needs

Analyzing your behavior on a typical day can help in understanding the types of sensory needs you have.

Keeping all seven sensory areas in mind (sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell, movement, and muscle), consider the following questions (first for yourself and then for your child):

- What do I do when I need to wake up or make myself more alert?
- What type of environment do I prefer for studying or concentration?
- How do I relieve frustration?
- What type of furniture or position do I prefer for studying or reading?
- How best do I memorize facts?
- What is my bedtime routine?

102 Resource Room www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com





Reading together while rocking in a chair.

Playtime activity over the ball before a handwriting lesson.

• How would I create my perfect teaching environment?

Understanding your own sensory needs and how you respond to the environment is important for helping your child to identify his or her needs as well.

Another question to consider is, What are my "pet peeves"? Are there things that stop you from functioning effectively? For example, I like things to be neat and organized; therefore I have difficulty teaching in a disorganized room. The solution to this is easy—tidy up the room and then teach. However, sometimes we are unaware of exactly what is hindering us. We are edgy and easily agitated, and we are not sure why.

This is where assessing our sensory needs comes in. We must first identify the type of environment we prefer for optimal teaching and learning. Then we can better understand where the edginess and agitation are coming from. Remember, your "perfect" teaching environment must contain your children. If you imagined yourself in a room filled with classical music and scented candles aglow but no children, you probably got sidetracked and began to create your perfect environment. Classical music and scented candles are great; just make sure your children do not have sensory issues involving dislike of strong scents!

Here are a few examples of some typical concerns I have encountered in each sensory area:

Moving

hello

Danny is a "movement seeker" and has difficulty getting settled in the morning because of his need for movement. Have him start his day on a minitrampoline or small exercise ball. Have him do his written work while seated on the ball in order to give him the sensation of movement. Between subjects, give him frequent movement breaks, such as hopping or bouncing on a ball, body games (Simon Says), exercise (jumping jacks, push-ups, sit-ups), and movement toys (bungee jumper, pogo stick, jump rope, sit-n-spin).

Tastina

Susan is constantly chewing on her pencil, clothing, toys, and fingernails. Try starting her morning with a thick smoothie and having her drink it from a straw. Allow her to chew gum during



For over 25 years, Mayer-Johnson's Picture Communication Symbols® (PCS®) have been helping children and adults to better communicate.

Developed by a speech and language pathologist,

PCS® are simple drawing icons that represent objects, activities and emotions. These visual supports are used in a Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS),

> on communication boards and sentence strips. As more children are becoming visual processors,

PCS® are finding increasing applications. For the first time,

over 400 PCS® symbols – representing high frequency words and commonly used phrases – are available as convenient, reusable magnets. PCS® Learning Magnets® can also be used with Barker Creek's top-selling Kidwords[®] family of magnets!

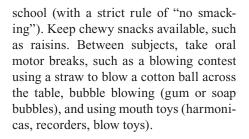
See our full line of award-winning products at www.barkercreek.com or call 1-800-692-5833 to request a free catalog!

Picture Communication Symbols®, PCS®, and Boardmaker® © Mayer-Johnson LLC 1981-2007 Learning Magnets® and Kidwords® © Barker Creek Publishing, Inc. 1993-2007

Summer 2007 **103** www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com







Touching

John complains that his socks are tight, the tag on his shirt "hurts," and his sister "punched" him (merely touched). He tends to want to touch a lot of objects but does not like being touched. First, acknowledge and respect that his "feelings" are real. Next, allow him to find clothing that he feels is comfortable. Try playing games that involve deep pressure, such as Hot Dog (roll him up in a comforter with his head exposed and push on him with pillows to "put on ketchup and mustard," pull the comforter, and let him roll out). Use firm pressure to touch him, such as resting your hand on his shoulder rather than softly touching his hair or body. Help him to create a fidget box filled with small toys of varying textures (squish toys, silky toys, crackly toys, etc.). Make up games with these toys to expose his body to different sensations, such as Guess the Toy (allow him to pick a toy or object to rub on your arm, hand, or leg for you to guess what it is; then do the same to him). This may sound simple and silly, but you are giving him control and help-



Fun with spelling in shaving cream.

ing him to encounter new sensations in a safe environment.

Seeing

Jan has difficulty finding a pen in a drawer filled with other objects. She is easily visually distracted and can become overwhelmed when presented with too much visual stimulation (workbooks with a lot of pictures and colors). Simplify the environment. Allow her to take part in choosing workbooks. Help her "organize" her environment to make it visually pleasing. When reading, use a note card with a highlighted edge to help minimize distraction. Behaviors such as cupping a hand over one eye, tilting the head while reading, holding materials close to the face while reading, or complaining about headaches after reading may warrant an eye exam.

Smelling

Bob is very sensitive to smells. He complains of a headache when he smells perfume. Use scent-free products. Avoid using cleaners in his presence. Allow him to assist with finding pleasing scents (lavender, vanilla, banana).

Muscle

Steven appears to have a very low energy level. He does not like sports and prefers to lie around and read. He often leans on his elbow and slumps on the table while performing written work. Encourage him to play prior to seated work. Games such as

wheelbarrow walking, bouncing on a ball to music, and tug-of-war games are very beneficial to help activate the muscles. Help him make up creative games that involve a lot of muscle work (pulling a rope connected to a basket of books or toys, pulling sibling around on a sheet). Allow him to work seated on a ball for short periods of time to further engage his muscles.

A Strategy for Success

As you begin to gain an understanding of your sensory needs and those of your children, you may be wondering how to meet the requirements of a houseful of children who seem to differ so widely across all seven sensory areas. Try the 4-C strategy (Christ, Creativity, Compromise, and Control).

1. Christ

Begin your day in prayer. Ask God to guide you and give you wisdom for your day. This is the most important part of the plan. Without it, your best efforts are just that, yours.

2. Creativity

Having multiple children with multiple needs can be challenging to say the least. Make a list of the major problem areas interfering with learning. Think about the duration of your studies and when problems begin. Incorporating frequent movement breaks (5 minutes every 30-45 minutes) will automatically increase attention. Try

to have break time activities pre-planned and organized to maintain your school time schedule. Think of ways to meet your teaching and learning goals while having a break. Bible memory verses with music are wonderful for movement breaks. Memory and movement go very well together. Involve the children in creating games and activities to make learning fun.

3. Compromise

Discuss the needs each child has openly. Help the children learn to understand and respect each other's differences. Encourage the children to help create an environment that is conducive to learning for everyone.

4. Control

The ultimate goal is for your children to first learn how to recognize and communicate their needs and then manipulate their environment to meet those needs. You want your children to identify when they are losing attention and when their attention is focused. You also want them to independently develop strategies for maintaining focused attention.

Quite often adapting the environment to meet the sensory needs of your children will result in obvious positive changes in attention. However, for some children, unmet needs continue to interfere with their ability to function. In these cases an evaluation by a licensed pediatric occupational therapist specializing in sensory integration would be warranted.

On a typical day in our home you will see our children engaged in many of these fun and easy activities between and during our studies. We call them "sensory breaks," and they make a world of difference in gaining and maintaining attention throughout our day.

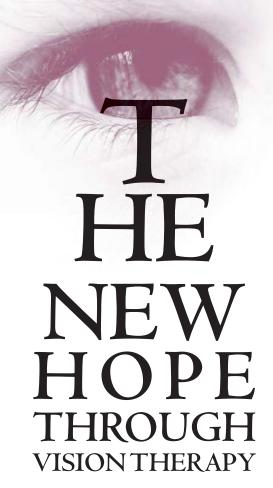
Suzanne Brannam

Suzanne Brannam, a licensed occupational therapist (OTR/L), received her BA in occupational therapy from Florida International University. She worked in a private pediatric clinic for seven years before beginning to homeschool her children. She lives in Atlanta with her husband, Larry, and their three girls, Jessica, Jenna, and Jordan. She enjoys ice skating and spending time outside relaxing in God's creation. For information regarding this article, e-mail her at suebrannam@bellsouth.net.





www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ 1



By Suzanne Brooks

ast night my daughter Mickey, age 8, had an amazing breakthrough. She actually read me some facts from the children's encyclopedia! This is so fantastic because up until the past



year any mention of her reading was met with a mad dash from the room. Every time I saw her run from the room crying, my heart would break. Why couldn't Mickey read? I knew in my heart that she wasn't "stupid." She is excellent in math and currently a grade level ahead. She can follow a junior high school level book on tape, understand it, and make predictions. She just couldn't read.

Something was definitely wrong, so I went through years of trying to figure out why Mickey couldn't read. I read every book, magazine, and article I could get my hands on and went to every website I thought could offer hope that someday she would read. I looked into light sensitivity and dyslexia since my husband has been diagnosed as dyslexic. I hired a special reading teacher to work with her for a

whole school year. I tried special computer programs, flashcards, waiting until she was older, pushing her, and even hanging word signs on every piece of furniture in the house. We tried at least three different phonics programs. At one point I even started thinking that it was me—that I just couldn't teach her to read. Nothing seemed to work.

At this point in our journey there were lots of tears of frustration from both Mickey and me. My husband passed her difficulties off as dyslexia and told me to back off. I knew in my heart that, even if it was dyslexia, I needed to continue to search for ways to help Mickey learn how to learn despite her difficulties.

Finally on one of my message boards I read about someone else's experience with vision therapy for her elementary school child. I decided it couldn't hurt to take a look at the website, so I went to www.vision-therapy.com and www.childrensvision.com. (Two other good websites are www.covd.org and www.pavevison.org.) I really think it was God who showed us where to look to help Mickey.

Children with vision-based learning problems may exhibit the following difficulties (checklist from www.childrens vision.com):

- Read below grade level
- · Have trouble comprehending
- Avoid reading or other close-up tasks
- Omit, turn around, or confuse words when reading
- Lose their place or use their finger to follow a line of print
- Become easily distracted, finding it difficult to remain on task
- Have a short attention span
- Need many breaks during homework
- Tire quickly when they read
- Suffer from eye strain
- Have red or watery eyes when reading
- Complain of blurred, double, or moving print
- Squint, frown, or rub their eyes while reading
- Have difficulty taking tests
- Tilt their heads at an angle or hold books too close when reading

- Cover an eye to read
- Have difficulty copying from the board
- Reverse letters and numbers past the first grade
- Fail to complete assignments on time
- Take too long time to do homework
- Appear to be unmotivated or lazy at school
- Seem frustrated with school
- Suffer from poor self-esteem
- Complain of headaches
- Struggle with eye-hand coordination
- Have poor handwriting
- Sometimes appear awkward or clumsy
- Have difficulty catching or hitting a ball
- Show symptoms of attention deficit disorder

After looking at the checklist I started really observing Mickey when she tried to read and do her schoolwork. I was able to observe some of the symptoms on the checklist. Mickey was reversing letters, numbers, and words. Her handwriting was hard to follow. She would cover one eye while reading and she would move the book instead of her eyes when following a line on the page. Have you ever tried to read a book that way? It isn't easy.

With what I had observed with Mickey, I realized it was time to consult a behavioral optometrist, Dr. Wylie, in Spokane, Washington. One of the great things about Dr. Wylie is that he is a Christian and also a homeschooler. In June 2005 I took Mickey in for her first eye exam at Dr. Wylie's office. Behavioral optometrists look beyond 20/20 vision and also look at how a person's eyes work together.

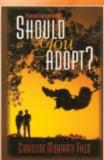
After the standard 20/20 exams, Dr. Wylie tested how Mickey's eyes worked independently and together. Even sitting there in the office I could see that often one eye would dart off in a different direction rather than track with the other eye. I was stunned! How could she possibly learn to read if her eyes wouldn't stay on the words? Dr. Wylie also tested her peripheral vision and her midline and used special goggles to test her eye movements while reading. When all the tests

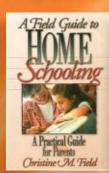
Give Your Family

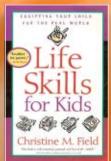
The Home Field Advantage

with authors and speakers Christine and Mark Field













Watch for our newest title: Homeschooling 101: The Essential Guide

Visit www.HomeFieldAdvantage.org

Hope and Help for the Harried Home

were completed, Dr. Wylie presented his diagnosis. It was determined that Mickey had low peripheral vision, her midline was off center, and her eyes moved in the "wrong" direction while reading (over 70 times during one small reading passage!). With relief I knew that finally we had the answer to my daughter's reading problems. Mickey needed vision therapy.

Vision therapy is a controversial topic among those who diagnose and provide treatment to children with reading difficulties. As I researched further to help make my decision to proceed or not proceed with the therapy, it didn't sound promising. All the dyslexia sites and books I read said that vision therapy wouldn't help Mickey at all. I also reviewed all the information Dr. Wylie had for me—a video, a book full of success stories, and a copy of When Your Child Struggles: The Myths of 20/20 Vision; What Every Parent Needs to Know by David Cook.

I explained vision therapy to my husband this way: Mickey's brain is wired differently, and the therapies help wire new pathways and build on the existing ones much like therapy helps a stroke victim after a stroke. After much prayer and research, we agreed to go forward with

the therapy. Thus we started our journey into vision therapy.

Vision therapy is not a quick fix, nor is it inexpensive; \$3,000 and 30+ weekly visits was our initial estimate. Since our family lives in a rural area, we had some additional hurdles. Each Thursday, I hurried the children through our morning routine, picked a book on tape, loaded all four of my children into the van, and drove to Mickey's appointment. During the drive, I kept the kids occupied with schoolwork or listening to a work of fiction on tape. While Mickey was at vision therapy, the other children and I hung out at a local library during story hour. By the time we arrived home we were all exhausted. After a few months, I asked for help from my in-laws. They would either take Mickey to her appointment or have the two middle children at their house for the day. Their help was invaluable as it made things a bit easier on all of us.

Over the course of the eventual 32 visits we made, Mickey worked with Dr. Wylie's vision therapists. They were very kind and very professional. They put Mickey through a series of exercises to work on her peripheral vision, her midline, and her eye tracking and teaming. They taught her techniques to use at

home and gave her vision homework. The first homework assignment was the hardest for Mickey and the family. She needed to look at a colored light in a dark place for 20 minutes a day until her field of vision opened up. Our house is very open and light, so the only place we could find that was dark enough for the treatment was a closet. She hated it, and I hated that she had to go in there. We had books on tape for her to listen to and would sit outside the door to keep her company, but most days we had tears and tantrums when it was time for light therapy. Just in time Grandpa, my dad, came to the rescue. He promised her 50 cents for every day that she did her light therapy, and it worked. After 40 days a \$20 bill arrived in the mail, and another \$20 arrived a few months later. The excitement of receiving \$20 in a card made all the time spent in a dark closet worthwhile to her.

Then we had to do exercises in which she would follow a pencil eraser with her eyes—first one, then the other, then both together. Mickey wore an eye patch during the exercise, and knowing that her sisters coveted that patch made her work a little more bearable. I did the exercises with the younger children a few times so they could participate too.

WHO NEEDS Vision Therapy?

By Christine Field

A child may have passed an eye screening with 20/20 vision and still have vision problems. The typical eye screening addresses visual acuity, or sharpness of vision, as measured with the familiar eye chart. That screening cannot address other visual issues that may make schoolwork and life challenging.

Other visual difficulties experienced by a child might be (1) inability to coordinate (or team) his eye movements so that each eye aims at the same point in space, (2) inability to follow a line of print without losing his place (or tracking), and (3) inability to maintain clear focus as he reads

and makes quick focusing changes, such as from near to far.

Eye problems of this nature may appear to be a learning disability or dyslexia. The child's behavior in response to his frustration may appear to be attention deficit disorder. A developmental optometrist can diagnose difficulties and correct them through vision therapy, a set of special exercises and treatments.

To locate an optometrist trained to provide vision therapy, contact the College of Optometrists in Vision Development at 888-268-3779, or log on to www.covd.org.

After Mickey finished the hands-on homework assignments, we were given a series of computer programs. Her first program was called Home Therapy System (HTS). She was required to wear blue/red glasses during the work. When the computer showed a blue arrow her right eye was forced to work, and when it showed a red arrow her left eye had to work. The program had other "games" that made both eyes work together. I tried each of the "games" myself, and they were hard. It was often much like having to do "Magic Eye" pictures.

Mickey's second program was called Temporal Visual Processing Program (TVPP). The program worked entirely on her visual memory. This meant she would be shown a letter or word and have to type it after it was gone, find letters in a sequence, or search for matching groups amid a myriad of look-alikes. After seeing this program my husband was finally completely on board with the program. As he put it, "This isn't a program for vision; this is a program for dyslexics." He had finally begun to understand that vision therapy wasn't about "seeing"; it was about the wiring of the pathways from the eyes to the brain and how the brain interpreted what was being seen. He now is a big advocate of vision therapy, telling other people whose children have reading problems about it.

Mickey's last program is Vision Builder. We still use this program today for maintaining the progress that she has made. It has components from the other two programs, a few fun games like Tennis (think Pong), and an area for increasing the fluency of her reading by measuring her reading speed and having her read as a window moves along at a set number of words per minute. Already she is up to almost 100 words per minute at only one grade level below where she "should" be. Best of all are the smiles when she sees how well she reads each passage. This is a great program and can be used by the other children in the home. I have my first grader reading first grade passages and playing the other games to strengthen her eyes and brain pathways.

I can't say that Mickey was overjoyed at doing all of the work required of her. Often I had to force her onto the computer to do the programs. After about three days each new program's fun would totally wear off and it would become work. More than a few times I had to deal with tantrums and refusal to cooperate, but I stood firm knowing how important vision therapy was for Mickey's future. The programs did provide a level of independence since she was able to do them without me standing over her. As she completed a game at goal level, it "disappeared" from her menu of "to do" games. She could see

her progress as she had less and less work to do each week.

Through the entire time of vision therapy, we continued with our homeschool program. Mickey worked through her **Explode the Code** workbooks, practiced reading aloud to me, and completed phonics lessons on **The Language Tune-Up Kit** CD program. She also continued to complete her math, science, social studies, and other electives.

It was about three months into vision therapy that I began to see the results. It started with small things. Mickey could read a sentence out of a paragraph without using her finger to track or a piece of paper to cover the rest of the page. She no longer covered one eye to read. She didn't move her book instead of her eyes. She didn't bring words up from another sentence. She no longer ran away when it was time to read. She wasn't thrilled, but she plodded through each story. She completed an entire 250-page first grade reader. Her reading level has gone from below kindergarten to second grade level in just six months. Her reading speed went from slow and halting to almost 100 words per minute.

And best of all, Mickey smiles while she reads instead of crying. She willingly picks up books and reads them. On her last recheck, her eyes moved "wrong" only seven times during a reading passage, her peripheral vision field is wide open, and, best of all, her eyes now work TOGETHER.

This journey through vision therapy was long and tedious. We racked up another 3,000 miles on the car and over 200 hours driving back and forth, but the reward was worth every sacrifice. I thank God every day that we were able to overcome this obstacle, and I pray that it will help Mickey to overcome other obstacles in the future.

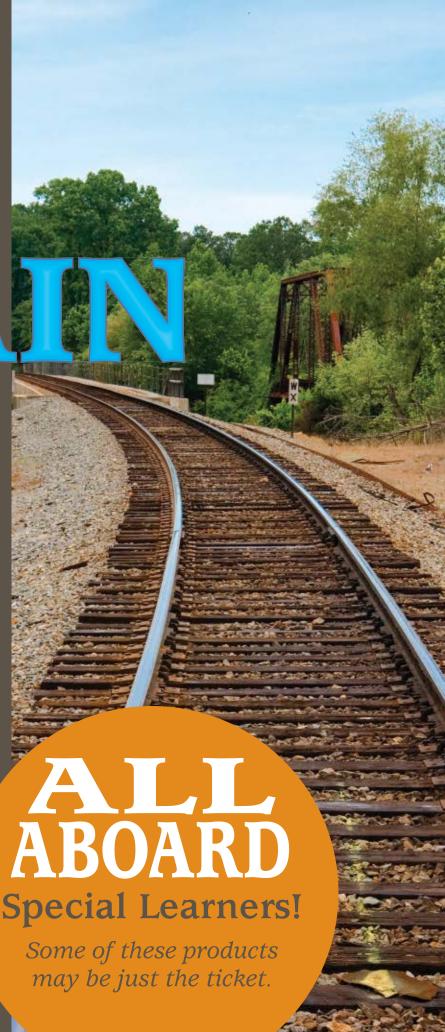
SBBrooks

Suzanne Brooks is a 36-year-old homeschooling mother of four children, ages 9, 7, 5, and 2. She enjoys helping other parents with their homeschooling journey. Suzanne also loves crafting, reading, and her church activities.

108 Resource Room www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

Special Needs TRA

Special needs homeschooling. It's a lot more common than you might think. And more and more resources are made available all the time for these special learners. In the next few pages, please take note of some of the caring companies who are dedicated to special needs homeschoolers.





A FREE gift is waiting for you at

Software

Build & Read READING LEVEL: 1-2 INTEREST LEVEL: 1-9

Lead students to create words using familiar patterns with this interactive software. Focuses on building words using onsets and rimes.

PCI2315MBM - Build & Read Software \$ 59.95



Say It, Rhyme It, Spell It

READING LEVEL: 1-2 INTEREST LEVEL: K-5

Invite beginning readers to master saying, rhyming and spelling short-vowel c-v-c words with this interactive software. Teaches using pictures and basic words.

Theme Park Math

READING LEVEL: 2-4 INTEREST LEVEL: 2-12

Capture students' attention as they practice basic addition and subtraction skills with the fun games and activities in this interactive software.



PCI2107MBM - Theme Park Math Software..... \$69.95

Electronics



READING LEVEL: Nonreaders • INTEREST LEVEL: 2-12

Make coin counting simple and teach children the value of different coins with this engaging teaching tool. Features coin buttons and a dollar bill button instead of standard numbers.

PCI700MBM - Coin-u-lator......\$24.95



READING LEVEL: Nonreaders • INTEREST LEVEL: 2-12

Help students master counting various combinations of coins and dollar bills with this fun electronic teaching manipulative. Students see coin values while counting. Two games teach coin counting and challenge users to reach the target amount shown on the LCD screen. With fun sounds and voice prompts.

and concepts.

66

I have recently

started using

Language Arts

of our morning

Warm-Ups as part

routine. The reading

level makes it easy

language arts skills

for my students to

understand key

Stephanie Jones Kentucky

TouchMoney has enabled my students to grasp the concept of counting by 1's and 5's and to more quickly understand the concept of counting groups of multiple coins.

Students really like working with the money manipulatives.

Mary B. Ricci Wisconsin



You want the best for your child.
Let us support you. For over 15 years
PCI has provided solutions that help
students with special needs
and learning differences
attain success.

PCI ®

PCI Education

Your partner in homeschooling

1.800.594.4263

www.pcieducation.com/oldschoolhouse

Reproducible Binders

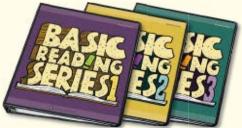


Basic Paragraph Practice Series

READING LEVEL: 2-4 • INTEREST LEVEL: 4-12

Give students a foolproof strategy for writing paragraphs with this step-by-step program. The reproducible binders offer high-interest prompts, graphic organizers and lots of daily practice.

PCI2115MBM – Basic Paragraph Practice \$ 44.95 PCI2307MBM – More Basic Paragraph Practice . . . \$ 44.95



Basic Reading Series

READING LEVEL: 2-4 • INTEREST LEVEL: 2-10

Introduce and reinforce essential basic reading comprehension skills with this leveled program. Each reproducible binder contains fiction and nonfiction passages and more than 100 activity sheets.

PCI1607MBM — Basic Reading Series—Binder 1....\$52.95 PCI1700MBM — Basic Reading Series—Binder 2....\$52.95 PCI1853MBM — Basic Reading Series—Binder 3....\$52.95

Educational Games



PCI Life Skills Programs

READING LEVEL: Nonreaders • INTEREST LEVEL: 3-12

Encourage positive behavior and prepare students to be successful in the subject of life. Proven effective for students with special learning and behavioral needs, the games help students learn how to act at home and in the community.



TouchMoney Game

READING LEVEL: Nonreaders • INTEREST LEVEL: 1-12

Capture children's attention with this multisensory approach to counting coins. The game gives hands-on practice in finding the total value of various groups of realistic coins using the TouchPoint method.

PCI1722MBM - TouchMoney Game. \$ 54.95

Warm-Ups



Language Warm-Ups 1, 2, 3

READING LEVEL: 1-3 • INTEREST LEVEL: 1-5

Make proofreading as easy as 1-2-3 with this leveled series. Covers basic language arts principles and how to avoid common grammatical and writing errors.

PCI2012MBM – Language Warm-Ups-Level 1. . . . \$ 19.95 PCI2102MBM – Language Warm-Ups-Level 2. . . . \$ 19.95 PCI2103MBM – Language Warm-Ups-Level 3. . . . \$ 19.95



Language Arts Warm-Ups

READING LEVEL: 3-5 • INTEREST LEVEL: 4-12

Provide daily opportunities to develop and practice key language arts skills and concepts with these books. Each book has 180 reproducible activities and an answer key.

PCI2137MBM – Proofreading	\$ 19.95
PCI2138MBM – Grammar and Spelling	\$ 19.95
PCI2139MBM – Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots	\$ 19.95
PCI2140MBM - Commonly Confused Words	\$ 19.95

Visit the Special Learners Section of

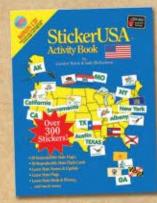
SCHOOLHOUSE STORE













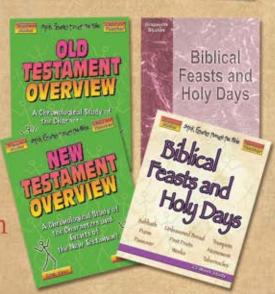


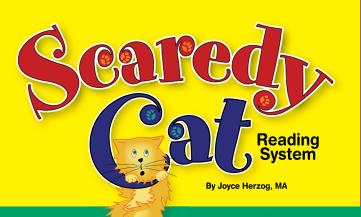




www.TheOldSchoolhouseStore.com

1.888.718.HOME





The Scardy Cat Reading System is a creative, unique approach that has worked for thousands of parents with success!

FREE DEMO

Rule #1:

When a vowel is surrounded by consonants, or when it comes first in a word or syllable, it is and will not say its name. It makes its sound, instead!

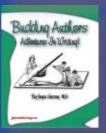
can at get hid•den ox•en but • ton

Finally! Phonics That Make Sense!

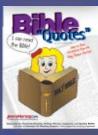




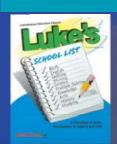


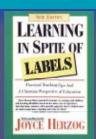












Additional resources for Special Needs!

1709.Com Teaching Every Child to Read and Spell with Confidence!

"The wealth of ideas reflect her [Joyce Herzog's] years of practical experience, and also make it easier for us to adapt the program to suit the needs of different learners." - Cathy Duffy

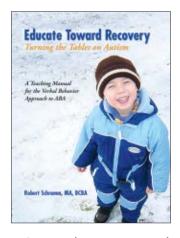
Call Today For Your FREE DEMO 1-800-745-8212 or visit us on the web at www.JoyceHerzog.com

AUTISM?!? NOW WHAT?!?

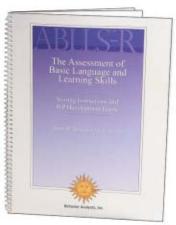
Yes, the diagnosis was hard, but now is the time to stand in the gap for the future of your child. This neurodevelopmental disorder is for life, but faithful effort on your part will make a huge difference in the outcome. Professionals can point you in the right direction, but it is the homeschooling family who will see the biggest victories in this battle for normalcy.

For the past 2 years Timberdoodle has jumped into the world of autism with both feet. Nearly half of our employees have received specialized training for working with autistic children. Seminars, classes, distance learning and even video evaluations have given us familiarity with autism. The clincher? We have had a child with severe autism living with us for over a year. That, more than anything else, has let us see first hand what is beneficial and what is baloney.

After 20+ years of meeting the needs of home educators, Timberdoodle is expanding its ministry to equip families with some of the best tools available for confronting autism. Because, while there is yet to be a cure, there is much that can be done now.



A comprehensive, must-read book that helps parents answer the question "What approach is best for my autistic child, and how do I get started *today?*" Topics include functional speech, errorless learning, toilet training and so much more.



Before you can set goals for your child with autism, you need a precise way to test for current proficiencies. This 2-book assessment will provide you with a record both of where you started and the progress you are making.









Research has shown that the use of TeachTown's comprehensive computer-assisted treatment program for autistic children has resulted in positive changes in behavior, language, and social interaction.



Whether you use Floortime, RDI, ABA, VBA or an eclectic therapy combination of your own, you know imaginative play is a vital component in helping your autistic child adapt to the real world. When you are looking for realism, variety and durability, consider our exceptional selection.



www.TimberdoodleAutismCenter.com



Sam is based on a real boy named Sam Mayer.

Even though he has Down Syndrome he was able to read at age 3.

He also learned his alphabet, his colors and could count to 10.

He's proof that anything is possible as long as you try.

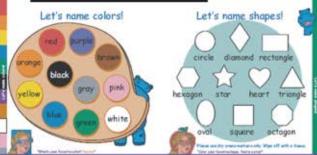
My son Sam is a wonderful little 6 year old boy who just happens to have Down Syndrome. He has been on a program through the National Association of Childhood Development (www.nacd.org) since he was 18 months old. When I chose to homeschool Sam I wanted a guide of what Kindergarten children were learning that I could use along with Sam's NACD program. Cedar Valley's Let's Get Ready Books were perfect!

-Sue Mayer, Director of Wisconsin Chapter of NACD

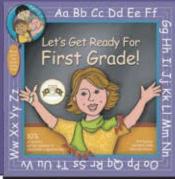
Find the hippo inside!







Where's Yodie?









www.BonnieTerryLearning.com

Learning Difficulties affect one in three; Learning Disabilities or Dyslexia affect one in five, and...

Most Learning Problems are never even identified.

The good news is that with correct knowledge a parent will often be able to help their kids become confident and successful readers, spellers, and writers.



Special Needs Company of the Year

Many of you have decided to homeschool your kids because one or more of your kids has had a hard time in school. You know they are smart. You may not understand why they are having diffi culties with learning. You just know that it isn't working for them. You may feel that the school hasn't really addressed your kid's individual needs.

You realize that your kids all learn differently, at different paces, and in different ways. Often one of your kids is having a harder time learning than you think they should. You have explained the concept or process that you are working on several times and your son or daughter still doesn't get it. Either you or they may get frustrated and just want to give up.

Do any of your kids:

- . Take too long to do their work?
- · Reverse letters and/or words?
- · Have difficulty sounding out words?
- · Avoid writing assignments?

What if you could help your kids:

- · Read fluently and confidently?
- · Sound out words with ease?
- · Sound out words with ease?
- Have great reading comprehension?

- · Consistently misspell words?
- · Skip, repeat, or omit words when reading aloud?
- · Have poor reading comprehension?
- · Have trouble understanding directions?
- Become confident spellers?
- · Write letters to their grandparents on their own?
- · Take notes and write paragraphs with effortlessly?
- · Read textbooks and understand them?

As a learning disabilities specialist, an educational therapist, and a parent, I developed the Bonnie Terry Learning Pack, Game Pack, and Reference Pack to give parents and teachers the ability to empower their kids with the skills they need to be successful with reading, writing, spelling, English, and math.

Our lives changed dramatically when we found your system. It was just what we needed. It was a 100% turnaround! I noticed the improvement immediately, but it became more dramatic as time went on.

~Margie Conen, Cool, CA

Learning doesn't have to be HARD anymore!









To learn more about the Bonnie Terry Learning Pack, Game Pack, and Reference Pack, go to www.bonnieterrylearning.com

As a service to the readers of *The Old Schoolhouse*, Bonnie Terry, M. Ed., is offering an in depth report that will help you determine if your child has learning disabilities or learning difficulties. This report normally sells for \$19.95. The first 50 *The Old Schoolhouse* readers that respond will receive this report for free. To get the report go to www.bonnieterry.com/reports_LD.cfm Be sure to mention *The Old Schoolhouse* in your request.

The Content of THEIR CHARACTERS

Challenges in Gifted Children

By Helene Barker Kiser

The following observation will not surprise you, although most of us rarely acknowledge the fact directly: homeschooling is—gasp—hard! Let's face it—who among us has never



been overwhelmed, or frustrated, or full of doubt or fear, or desperate to quit or "just give up"?

The homeschool journey is exponentially harder with a gifted child, because no matter what form the giftedness takes, gifted children are categorically different from each other, a fact that naturally leads to a certain amount of isolation. Two children, both gifted, are not going to be gifted in the same way or at the same level or with the same behaviors and interests. Strategies or curriculums that work for one of my gifted children have not necessarily worked for the other. Likewise, what works for our family will not necessarily work for yours. The whole terrain is so unlike that of others on the journey that finding traveling companions, for ourselves and for our children, towers as one of the toughest obstacles we face.

Do you have a gifted child, or more than one? Although general checklists from reputable sources exist to help you in determining whether your child is truly gifted—I referenced one in an article for TOS (Summer 2005)—the checklists are not as simple to navigate as they at first appear.

Many children possess some of the same characteristics defined on "gifted identification" checklists; the items are not necessarily exclusive to gifted individuals. Giftedness itself is a quality, like hair color or a need for braces. The word "gifted" is often used synonymously (and incorrectly) with "smart" or "special" or "talented," but children cannot be "made" gifted by exposure to certain activities, and gifted children will always be gifted,

whatever opportunities they do or do not receive.

Rather, clinical giftedness is defined not so much by the presence of a particular characteristic or group of characteristics but by the degree of intensity with which the characteristic is demonstrated. While a child may be quite interested in planes, for example, and spend time thinking about and discussing planes, a gifted individual with an interest in planes might become obsessed with the subject, exhibiting intense curiosity and single-mindedness to the exclusion of other activities.

Along with their particular areas of giftedness, whether in math or music or sports or reading, gifted children come pre-wired with certain characteristics that make them unlike most of the world around them. Such characteristics fall into categories of personality more than abilities, because they are consequences of giftedness rather than the area of giftedness itself. Many are less than positive, such as difficulty making friends or struggles with perfectionism. How we as parents recognize these characteristics and guide our children can make the difference between a gifted child who

accepts himself and feels "normal" and a child who hates herself or feels like a "weirdo."

Not all gifted children excel in academic subjects, for example, and even those who do may have astonishing skills or abilities, but they are still children of a particular age. My gifted son taught himself to read before the age of 2 and by kindergarten was reading at a junior high level. Little written to his ability and interest level was suitable to his emotional level (in fact, hardly any of it was) and, consequently, finding quality reading material was an extreme challenge for us.

On the other hand, my gifted daughter struggled with memorizing the addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts, although she always understood difficult math concepts quickly and easily. For years, in addition to loathing math, she thought that she was just stupid and could not learn anything, a feeling so far from the truth that it would have been laughable if it had not been so gut-wrenchingly painful.

We tried flashcards, games, computer software, audiotapes, videos, worksheets, oral drill, placemats, three different battery-operated math doo-hickeys, cartoon



www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **117**

books, storybooks, expensive specialty curriculum, and cheap plastic toys. Eventually, we simply opted to give her daily practice in addition to her regular math assignments but otherwise let it drop. She herself learned to cope with the issue and now counts math as one of her favorite subjects.

All gifted children have areas in which they need to learn how to cope.

In fact, all gifted children have areas in which they need to learn how to cope. What might be somewhat stressful for even the most easygoing personality—a phrase that would never describe any gifted children I have known!-could be a total disaster for gifted individuals. In social situations, for example, gifted children might need to be taught such basic skills as making light conversation or maintaining eye contact in the same way they are taught to brush their teeth or balance a checkbook. Without specific and direct instruction, gifted children run the risk of appearing rude, strange, snotty, immature, or worse.

Friendships are usually hard to come by, because the gifted child's natural quirks and differences present unusual or unfair first impressions. When my children were younger, we used to give them "canned" lines to say in certain situations. While it is no longer necessary to go to such lengths, we do routinely role-play certain situations and scenarios that either have already happened or may come up for them in the future with age-peers.

When she is in a group situation, my daughter is nearly always in the company of the youngest children in the room or on the playground or at church fellowship. Hypersensitive to body language and tone of voice, she feels and understands every emotion, both her own and those of others, much more dramatically and intensely than most people do. Being with and caring for little ones gives her opportunity to truly shine and be comfortable in her own skin, confidence that carries her through other social situations.

Truly, gifted children may simply have very little in common with kids their own age. Learning to fit in without conforming is a daily struggle, particularly in the face of the ever-present self-doubt and tendency toward perfectionism and obsessive behaviors. We encourage our children to develop interests that can help bridge the gap, such as learning popular games and understanding different sports.

In fact, self-doubt is one of the major causes of perfectionism, whether for gifted children or for anyone else. Because characteristics in gifted children are due to degree, we must continually guard against the extreme perfectionism that can render a gifted child unable to function normally. Of course, we should help our children develop good habits and a solid work ethic. If left unchecked, however, a gifted child's perfectionism becomes an obsessive attention to self-imposed precision in an art project, an arrangement of the space for schoolwork, or a basketball game in the driveway.

The help parents offer can take the form of simply accepting and encouraging the child's interest, even—or perhaps especially—when the interest is one that we do not share with our child. Our family is more of a "liberal arts" type, and our son's interest in the sciences and technology does not stem from us. He has always been interested in the mechanics of "things," so when he joined a group of diverse homeschoolers last fall in a FIRST Lego League robotics competition, a worthwhile endeavor for learning principles of engineering and research and teamwork, we were thrilled. How wonderful that he would have the opportunity to be immersed in an experience he would never get at home!

Immersion is a good word for the experience. In fact, it was a near drowning! The team began planning three- or four-hour meetings two or three evenings a week, which quickly blossomed into four or five evenings a week, and then week-ends, and then overnights. My son tried valiantly to keep up with the demands and the pressure, but his stress level was through the roof, and he was beginning to develop some nervous habits and have trouble sleeping. Feeling obligated to the team, he did not want to quit, but he finally asked us if he could step down.

The desire to live up to expectations is a worthy characteristic to encourage, but the situation was a bad model. The time pressure alone fed the destructive variety of nonproductive stress, as well as the perfectionistic tendencies and attitudes doomed to failure from the start. Only one goal in the world should demand our total, complete, and utter devotion, and no academic subject or extracurricular activity fits that bill.

Where does this obsessive desire to be perfect come from? Is it to please others due to pride? Or is it to be conformed more and more to the only true standard of perfection? A chasm exists between these two desires! Yes, we should put our good effort into everything we do, but we must be sure our effort is for the right reasons and with the right goal in mind—not what do we want our child to do, but what kind of person do we want our child to be?

Some parents push their gifted children too hard or push them into the wrong mold, creating depressed overachievers who learn only to become a bundle of ever-increasing skill sets. A dilemma in raising gifted children is that we recognize the unusual abilities and see the vast potential in our children, and we naturally expect that the children will continually excel and retain the same level of interest in and commitment to the activity as they "should."

We must be sure our effort is for the right reasons and with the right goal in mind.

Instead, it is far better to teach our gifted children how to cope with inevitable failure. None of us does our best at every moment; we all fall short. Gifted individuals are accustomed to success, often effortlessly gained, and when success does not come easily or at all, they are devastated, far beyond what another child might feel in the face of disappointment or struggle. Remember the degree of intensity that characterizes a gifted child! Because we know our children better than anyone else on Earth, we parents need to help our children put it all in the proper perspective.

An old joke applies here:

Question: What do you call the person who finished last in the medical school class?

Answer: Doctor.

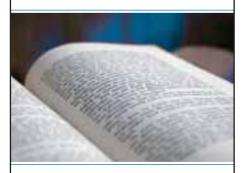
The point is not that we should teach our children to do the least they can do, of course, but rather that they should strive to develop and use their giftedness for something worthier and more lasting than their own glorification and pride, lest they become like Sisyphus vainly rolling his stone up the hill. We must take care to praise appropriately, focusing on the effort and not on the result. After all, it is the "good and faithful servant" who enters into the joy of his Lord, and not the one who is "good and successful." 🚠

Helene Barker Kiser lives and learns with her husband, children, and assorted animals in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Her writing has appeared in dozens of journals, books, and online sources. She welcomes your thoughts and comments on this article or on any aspect of educating gifted children at home. Email her at hbkiser@verizon.net.

Fact:

A child who is not a fluent reader by 4th grade is likely to struggle with reading into adulthood.

- Facts on Early Literacy, www.asha.org (2006)



Reading success is within reach, and the first step is a strong skill foundation in fundamentals and comprehension. Passport Learning's Academy of Reading is a self-adapting program that creates a customized path for every student, growing in complexity to ensure cumulative development.

With the Academy of Reading® program, you don't just get software, you get

- A reading program built just for you,
- ► An average improvement of two grade levels in ten weeks and
- ► Twenty years of reading success stories.

To get started on the path to reading success today, call 866.727.7576 or e-mail passport@passportlearning.com to request your free DVD and informative packet or check out our programs at www.passportlearning.com.



"Learning to juggle Crystal Stix increased my concentration which helped me in my school work."

CRYSTAL STIX We Make Learning Fun!

Why do kids love Crystal Stix?

It's easier than juggling balls, improves hand eye coordination, releases stress, and is lots of fun! Age 6 and up.

A great activity for Phy Ed!

See video demonstrations at www.geodeo.com





HELP! For Struggling Learners



EVERY CHILD CAN SUCCEED IN LEARNING **Essential Learning Institute Offers**

- Test Kit to Identify Problem Areas
- Individualized Learning Therapy Program
- Complete Homeschooling Packages

REQUEST FREE INFOPACK CALL 1-800-285-9089

HELPING STUDENTS... SOLVE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AT HOME!



SPECIALISTS Over 30 Programs Available for Special Needs Students Special needs students CAN learn computer skills with our specialized programs! Dyslexic One Hand Learning Disabled Physically Handicapped - Deaf Visually Limited • Bilingual www.SpecialEducationSoft.com Phone: 954-235-7940 • Fax: 866-843-0765

COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND **Your Gifted** Child

By JoJo Tabares

t was a lovely spring day when my 6-yearold daughter spotted her royal subject there at the park. Kelsey was used to being the leader in almost any situation, and most children would simply



follow. I was awestruck at how it usually worked. However, this child wasn't so willingly led.

"Okay, now you say this and then I say that and then you walk over here and then I do this ..."

The girl listened silently for a time as my daughter barked out orders and then turned to leave. I watched, thinking that it might be a good life lesson for my daughter to learn that not everyone is willing to be bossed around. Kelsey pursued her to try to establish control a few times, and each time the girl walked away. Finally, my sweet little princess picked this girl up and put her where she wanted her!

Gifted children face unique challenges, and one of those is communication. Both of my children are gifted, and each one has different communication issues. Each child of God is unique, and so is each gifted child. A child can be gifted in many different ways and can face many differ-



"Can't I do Quantum Physics AFTER lunch?"

ent communication issues. I will discuss a few of the most common here.

Gifted Children Have a **Hard Time Relating to Others**

Gifted children often have a difficult time making and maintaining friendships because they find it hard to relate to their peers. Gifted children may alienate themselves from other children for several reasons. They tend not to be interested in small talk and therefore find it hard to start conversations. They are fascinated by topics deemed boring or too complex by their peers. Consequently, their friends are just as uninterested in the mating patterns of the fruit fly as they are about the latest fashion trend. Their vocabulary tends to intimidate other children, alienating them even further. Gifted children are generally out of step with other children.

Many gifted children have a difficult time expressing the knowledge they possess. My children have formed the "Conversation Correction Patrol," and I know many other gifted kids are card-carrying members! They notice details that many others miss and feel compelled to point out each and every one of them. They are usually unaware that this is annoying, frustrating, and usually unnecessary.

Because their heads are full of information, they may think they know more than, well, anyone else! This leads them to the mistaken impression that they are or should be in charge. If left to their own devices, they charge ahead, bossing children and parents alike.

Another problem that leads to a difficulty in making and maintaining friendships is that they often don't understand when it is appropriate to ask a question or make a comment. They are always thinking and extrapolating on ideas. They will interrupt the conversation or silence and ask a question that is either "out of left field" or embarrassing. This perpetuates the feeling that they are "weird," not only for their peers but also of themselves.

Finally, after years of feeling alienated from other children, they may begin to withdraw or even rebel. Some gifted children become depressed, shying away from social situations. Others become angry that they are not accepted for who they are and are tired of trying to conform in order to make friends.

Gifted children need to understand how precious they are and how being unique is really a blessing and not a curse. What helped my daughter was to tell her how God created each of us for a unique purpose. We weren't meant to be cookie cutter people and we shouldn't try to be. However, we do need to learn how to get along with others, and just a few communication tips can help gifted children make and maintain their friendships.

Many of these issues have to be directly pointed out to gifted children because they honestly don't know how they come across. With loving correction and care, we need to teach our gifted children that the Lord made them unique and that they have a purpose—but it isn't to boss everyone else around! Bringing these issues to light will help them understand what they can do to communicate more effectively in order to make and maintain friendships. Doing so with humor usually helps to diffuse the anger or cut through their shyness. Humor can help the gifted child to see the correction as information that can help her as opposed to an admonition of her behavior.

Gifted Children Are **Highly Emotional**

Many gifted children are very sensitive about their own feelings as well as those of others. They often experience moral outrage over injustice and can expect perfection in themselves. They may also have fears that seem beyond their years.

Gifted children may find it difficult to express themselves because they are very emotional. They feel things so intensely that they cannot verbalize or even sort out how they feel about things. They may lash out for what seems a trivial matter to their peers. This causes more difficulty in maintaining friendships.

My daughter used to cry whenever I sang "Happy Birthday" to her. It began when she was a year old and continued for many years. I never did find out why. She would become upset whenever I sang anything melodic. The only thing she could articulate was that they were "pretty songs." Now that she is 16 she says that these songs would fill her with sadness, but she still doesn't know why.

Gently prompting the gifted child to express himself a little bit at a time will help him become able to sort out his feelings and express them in an appropriate way. Humor can help calm the emotions. Laughter is always a welcome replacement to fear and frustration.

Gifted Children May Have Sensory Integration Issues

Sensory integration issues generally affect boys more than girls, but some gifted girls can also experience sensory integration dysfunction, an inability to focus or filter out sensory input. Too much sensory input can make it difficult for a child to "pay attention." It can frustrate him or even cause him to feel fear or anger. This behavior can seem odd and perhaps even frightening to others, causing the child to be alienated or ridiculed. Many children with sensory integration dysfunction may not be able to play like other kids in a noisy environment like a restaurant or a playground. Therefore, they may miss opportunities to encounter new friends or to get to know acquaintances better.

Some noises may irritate a child with sensory integration dysfunction enough to make it difficult for her to remain in a situation where she can make or maintain friendships. My daughter couldn't stand the sound of chewing, even with the mouth closed. For many years it was a big issue for her. This made it difficult for her at birthday parties. Not only didn't she like the experience, but she became frustrated and even vocal about her discontent.

Gifted children require stability around them and generally love routine. I have found that pointing out these issues to them and discussing them in a loving way can help them see that they are hindering their social life. We have found great results with our own son by slowly and methodically introducing situations to him that he didn't like. After a while, he began to become more comfortable in those situations or learned to filter out some of the sensory input in order to focus more efficiently on what was important at the time. We found that using humor made a big difference here too. Making silly noises or faces would allow him to laugh at what was bothering him, making him better able to communicate about the situation.

Gifted Children Are Curious and Creative

Another mark of gifted children is endless curiosity and unusual creativity. A

wonderfully vivid imagination combined with an innate need to ponder the meaning of the universe leads them to question authority and rules. This may seem frustrating or disrespectful to their elders.

The gifted child sees inconsistencies, feels the need to address them, is often unsatisfied with "I don't know" or "Because I said so!" and is relentless in driving his point home. Sit down with a gifted child and compliment her on her insights, but explain that there is a time and a place for questioning the validity of things. For example, they may be right in questioning the validity to the claim that biting the tag off a new shirt will damage your teeth. However, when your mother is trying to cook dinner, feed the baby, and keep the dishwasher from leaking all over the floor, it is probably not a good time to debate the matter!

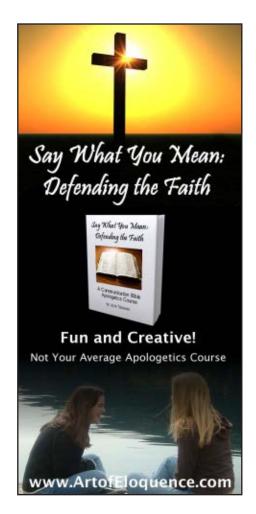
Gifted Children May Have Learning Disabilities

Not only do gifted children have trouble expressing themselves to others, but they may also have problems understanding communication from others.

The gifted child may have a very short attention span; he may bore easily, and his mind may wander. This can lead to difficulty in following directions. Telling this child to pick up his toy, go upstairs, put it in his toy box, and bring down his book for you may only result in the child taking his toy upstairs and playing for an hour.

This child has little patience and gets frustrated easily. One failure may make him give up on an activity. He has boundless energy but loses interest quickly. Lastly, he doesn't appreciate learning by rote memorization. This child prefers to learn by doing.

The gifted child with focusing issues needs to learn in 20-minute bursts using hands-on activities or engaging, humorous stories. He follows directions best with only one or two directions at a time, prefers structure, and likes to be told ahead of time how long he will be required to sit through a subject. This gives him an idea of how long before he can relax. Communicate with your gifted child ahead of time and explain how you expect the day to go. Keep your routine and use humor as much as possible, and you will notice a big change in your child's schooling.



Gifted children are a unique blessing but can have many challenges with communication. Teaching communication skills to your gifted child will help her socially and internally as she copes with being different.

Jo Jo Takares

JoJo Tabares holds a degree in speech communication. Her Christian and humorous approach to communication skills has made her a sought-after speaker. She is the author of the Say What You Mean communication curricula and has had articles published in various homeschool magazines and websites. Her newest study, Say What You Mean: Defending the Faith, is now available. JoJo and her husband live in Southern California, where she homeschools their two children. For more information, please visit www.ArtofEloquence.com.

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **121**

Living and Lifelong Learning

with Karen Andreola

By Kate Kessler

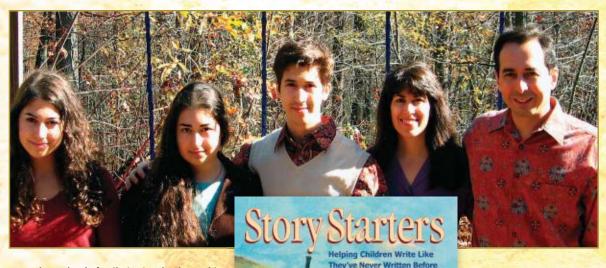
approached homeschooling veteran Andreola Karen several months ago with the hope that I could probe her experienced mind for further information on the homeschooling method known as "Charlotte Mason." This method is characterized by oral and written narration, nature study, and the use of living books. I wanted something deeper, though—to understand more thor-

oughly. I wanted to know if it was something that could be used lifelong—not just when our children are little. I was encouraged by Karen's answers and surprised to learn that there is much more to this homeschooling philosophy than I previously thought!

TOS: I know a lot of families who use the Charlotte Mason philosophy in the early years but switch gears in later grades. Is it possible to use this methodology throughout the middle and high school life of the homeschooling student? How does one continue in this lifestyle of learning? How does it work out in the day-to-day homeschool?

KAREN: Perhaps many mothers switch gears as they approach junior high and high school because they have not considered the "why" as well as the "how" of narration and living books. Behind her methodology is Charlotte Mason's philosophy of self-education.

By it a teacher teaches less and a student learns more. For this very reason it works beautifully with the mature student in high school, when more of the student's work is done independently. Without an



The Andreola family (L-R): Yolanda, Sophia, Nigel, Karen, and Dean.

understanding philosophy, a mother is too uncomfortable be a renegade. Hence. her student starts doing "school" entirely by the conventional. streamlined, textbook/test

method, the way most children normally do it, thinking this will better ensure that he [can] more easily re-enter the system and go to college.

Yet the older student can profit from the same method by which he gained knowledge in his younger years. The strength of learning how to read all kinds of books, and to gain knowledge-making it personal by way of "telling" it in his own words—is a wonderful ability and confidence that can be capitalized in high school. Living books and narration are not baby stuff or child's play just because they may be more enjoyable in the early years. On the contrary, living books and narration are the satisfying work of the self-educated. Having made prog-

ress in so intrinsic a lifelong skill, let us not trade in our freedom to be slave to the tyranny of the textbook/test grind. The occasional text that highlights an overview of history or an overview of biology can be referred to in high school without overshadowing reading.

The Charlotte Mason method is very doable

in high school. The student does more independent reading, and much of his narration is written. That is the main difference. To widen the world of my children, and because all people, especially teens, have a desire for society, I held once-a-week group classes in our living room nearly every semester during their high school years. This gave my children the opportunity to read a part in a Shakespeare play, share their creative writing, give a speech, discuss topics of worldview, and do worthwhile needlework and cooking with friends.

Andreola

Just today I had a telephone conversation with a homeschool mother. I was encouraged to hear her testimony and also hear her speak of a close friend of hers whom she visits monthly. At these visits she receives such lovely encouragement. She is blessed, she said, to have a friend who is not anxious about using living books and narration for high school. This friend has a good brood of children whom she draws forward in their learning by Charlotte Mason's self-education method. She is refreshingly calm and confident. She faithfully paces herself day to day doing the "next thing." With the reading of many kinds of books, her older children narrate by writing. The oldest ones are now attending college or have graduated college. None thus far have taken the SAT. Rather they have entered college by way of an essay. One locally attends Cornell University.

Be concerned but anxious for nothing. Trust in a philosophy that most appeals to you and faithfully plod ahead doing the "next thing." Don't worry about pace—who is ahead of your child—nor gain relief at who is behind him. There is a wonderful array of books to choose from that will enlighten many a topic that is to be learned in high school, be it history, science, or literature. We read, we narrate, and then we know. This is simplicity itself. Isn't it sometimes the simplest things in life that get overlooked?

TOS: There is always, in the back of almost every homeschool mom's mind, the lurking fear that we are "missing something" in the homeschool. What would you say to families who are struggling with this fear or concerned that they are not capable of meeting the challenge of homeschooling?

KAREN: To cease feeling overwhelmed at the vastness of educating, I have reminded myself of the Three Areas of Knowledge. Our hearts can beat slower and we can breathe a sigh of relief when we consider giving our children opportunities for gaining knowledge in just three areas: knowledge of God (Bible), knowledge of man (history, biography, novel), and knowledge of the universe (the sciences). These include skills to learn by (three *Rs*) and morals to live by.

Order your syllabus thus and you will do well. Keep finding out things that you don't already know in these three areas, and over the years you will find that you have taught your children much. That is my utilitarian answer. Now I'd like to chat more personally, because I also car-

Narration in Homeschooling

By Ruth Beechick

The narration idea spread widely among homeschoolers because of good modern writers, mainly Karen Andreola, who picked up this idea from Charlotte Mason and promoted it for today. This helped a lot of families, but some fearful homeschoolers try to make it more formal and schoolish than necessary.

An example is the mother who had long talked about books with her son. Then she heard of narration and struggled to do it like formal school assignments. That spoiled the good conversation and thinking times they had been experiencing. Eventually her common sense took over and she realized that the natural life talk was narrating. It had all the advantages such as reinforcing knowledge of the book information and vocabulary and encouraging focused attention during the reading.

Today's family homeschools differ from the audience that Mason wrote for, which was mostly schoolteachers. She did suggest that parents could elicit from preschoolers a "telling back" of information from short one-paragraph passages. And she did suggest that parents read books and take nature walks with their children after school hours. But her main concern with narrating was school curriculum. At home children might read frivolous books, but in school they had to read "good books" and learn what was in them.

In our freer environment we can expand the narration idea and use it in many ways, from a full book report down to talking about one idea from a book—for instance, the evening singing schools they had in Little House on the Prairie times. One homeschool family did not just "tell back" what Laura did, but they expanded to discussing whether they would like an evening singing school. Why or why not? This conversation certainly reinforced information in the story, but it also moved beyond that. It involved comparing their life with Laura's life. Did they need the social gathering as the pioneers did? Did they want more music teaching and practice? Was their church choir practice like the singing

Debbie Strayer's family read *The Swiss Family Robinson* aloud and then watched the movie twice, thus violating Mason's rule of reading or listening to the book only once. This rule seems designed to help force good attention

the first time and to build a habit of attention. But the two Straver children were enjoying living with the Robinsons in their imagination. They liked the repetition. They discussed why some characters decided at the end of the book to leave the island and some decided to stay. This involved important ideas such as close family ties, freedom, and helping others in the world. Then the discussion turned to whether they themselves would choose to leave or stay, and they chose a third possibility. They would stay but keep open the possibility of leaving later if they should want to. They made this decision under influence of the mood of living in the story. What might they say now, years later?

Families who bond through books find that they often refer to them or converse about them anytime later in life. This results from book talk being a natural part of life from childhood on. So the mother who gave up the school approach and returned to her natural approach was on a good track.

All tracks are available to homeschoolers. A strict schoolish assignment would be to read something once and tell back the information orally or in writing. A freer family approach would be to read it together and talk about ideas in the book or beyond the book. The first method emphasizes concentration to remember facts. The second can lead to higher-than-fact thinking. The first, of course, could lead to higher thinking also. That is, after children learn certain facts or writers' ideas, then they have the knowledge needed to discuss those ideas later in the curriculum.

Narration has come to embrace many methods and many purposes. This provides a wide range of uses. An important one is using oral narration as preparation for writing. It avoids seating a child in front of an empty paper with an empty head and telling him to write. The original "tell back the information" prepares a child to write a report on the information. The freer "beyond the book" conversation prepares a child to write an essay. In essays, children compare and evaluate ideas and add their own opinions, or in other ways take their thinking beyond the book facts.

With such broad flexibility, all homeschoolers can, and probably do, fit some kind of narration into their program. It greatly enriches the language teaching.

© 2007 by Ruth Beechick

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **123**

ried along the concern of "missing something" in my early years of teaching. This concern faded like an old photograph the more I equipped myself with reading snatched at odd moments. As I shared more books and learning experiences with my children, the more this concern faded, too.

The earliest weeks of the birth of my first baby were recalled when a homeschooling mother asked me, "How do I know my children are learning enough?"

It all came back to me. In my anticipation and apprehension, I read what I could on babyhood. "I'm going to nurse my baby," I decided. When I was five months along, my husband, Dean, started a new job that required we move out of state again. In our new location I had not yet made any new friends who were young mothers, so reading was my comfort. It answered my questions. It told me what I might expect. (The Internet was nonexistent in 1982.) The week Sophia was born, our pink bundle screamed and cried. I became anxious. I went back to my books but was haunted by the question of those who visited me. "How do you know your baby is getting enough?" they asked with wrinkled brows. They had bottle-fed. Their feedings were timed and measured. They had visible evidence of amounts consumed. "Maybe my milk isn't nourishing enough," I worried.

It is a bigger mistake not to do something worth doing because of the fear of making mistakes.

With my second baby, Yolanda, I was more confident. I knew she was getting enough. I just knew. She stopped when she was full, smiling up at me with a milky smile, and even laughed. She slept soundly and she started to feel heavier in my arms. And in the mornings I felt the refill sometimes quite sorely. But I still had no close friend nearby to share the intimate details of babyhood and motherhood. I had to read them out of books and then, by faith, step forward to do what was in my heart to do. I had to experience it myself.

This is just what a mother does when she homeschools. She first equips herself

by reading. Then, uncertain how it will all turn out, she steps forward by faith to do what she has in her heart to do. She purposes to do the best she can and keeps learning anew along the way. It is a bigger mistake not to do something worth doing because of the fear of making mistakes. We all make them. Humbly we must live by the motto "I Need Thee Every Hour." We put our trust in God's gift of curiosity—part of the very nature of a child.

Homeschooling reminds me of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. A boy willingly gave. He gave his lunch. Our Lord Jesus accepted it, blessed it, and multiplied it. Was it enough? No, but Jesus made it more than enough for the thousands of hungry people who came to hear His wonderful sayings. Over the years I willingly gave. A homeschool mother has to have a servant's heart. She plods and perseveres. She gives to her children hour-by-hour, day-by-day, as she is able. She reaches her bed very tired. Some things we didn't get to in a day or even in a week and some things I didn't provide at all, such as Greek, Latin, and a regularity of "hands-on" science experiments. But in my prayers I asked God to bless what I was able to give and multiply it.

Joy is the lovely, beautiful, hopeful thing that is sadly missing in the education of countless children who "go off to school." It is the remarkable thing I didn't want my children to miss. When a child finds joy in his educational life the little holes (that are inevitable) become insignificant. The rewards of such an educational life are immeasurable—so why be forever measuring?

TOS: These are such reassuring words—especially since you have finished homeschooling your own children. As they are now grown, you can see the results of your labors. It is so encouraging!

You recently released a new and exciting writing book, *Story Starters: Helping Children Write Like They've Never Written Before.* Please tell us why you put this amazing volume together, who it is geared for, and what you hope it accomplishes for the homeschooler. How does this kind of writing fit with Miss Mason's ideas?

KAREN: Narrating is composition, according to Charlotte Mason. In their young years my children were narrating orally (telling back in their own words)

what we had read together in history or literature. I would take dictation. Each week I would choose a particularly good narration and, in my own handwriting, make a neat model for them to copy. I agree with Miss Mason that narration gives children far more to tell (write) than the conventional composition exercise.

Exercises such as "What I Did on My Summer Vacation," "My Pet," "A Visit to Grandma's," and "A Trip to the Zoo" all have their place, but I wanted to give my children a new writing experience that would draw forth more of the kind of descriptive writing that I found in their narrations. When I read an article in Charlotte Mason's magazine, Parents' Review, about using story starters, I was convinced that this was something I wanted to try. A story starter places characters in a setting that is sometimes intense, sometimes funny, sometimes sweetly domestic, but always poses a challenge because the child is suspended in the middle of a predicament. He is then faced with the question, "What happens next?" This is his cue to expand and embellish the story however he wants.

I was amazed at the results. They wrote more vividly than they had ever written before.

I began making up story starters for my children. I was amazed at the results. They wrote more vividly than they had ever written before. This form of writing I call "creative narration." Years later I began making up more story starters to share with homeschooling families. The antique pictures I had been collecting became an important part of the story starters. If such large, detailed pictures helped me write the starter, they would indeed help children write (tell) the rest of the story. Many of my story starters and pictures are meant to appeal to boys because boys tend to be reluctant writers more than girls. My son wrote best when I gave him something exciting to write about.

The exercises in *Story Starters* give children the opportunity to rescue those in danger, comfort the sick, cheer the lonely, laugh with the ridiculous, tame the wild, and do battle for good. It is a big

book because I wanted to provide a large selection to satisfy the varied interests of both boys and girls. "Thumb through the pages to choose whatever story catches your fancy," I told my co-op class some weeks after they had done several that I assigned to them. It wasn't long before my students were writing freely and fluidly, using vivid verbs, artful adjectives, exclamations, etc.—techniques outlined in the book that would make their writing better. My stories and pictures vary in complexity so that young students as well as high school students can benefit.

TOS: Your books have inspired and encouraged many a homeschooling family. Do you have plans for more?

KAREN: While I was in the thick of homeschooling my children, ideas for books came to light, but these were tucked away in the back of my mind or scribbled into a notebook and shoved into a drawer for a future time. I had my children to teach and meals to cook and a hubby to spend some time with. Most

of my ideas would have to wait. Now that my baby (Nigel) is nearing 18 and graduating, I plan on reviving my ideas. Within this past school year I've helped plan my parents' fiftieth wedding anniversary and both our daughters' weddings. It's been a busy time.

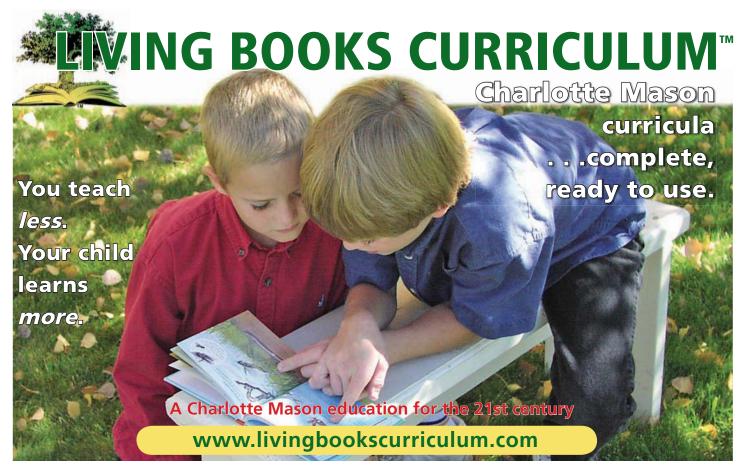
Sometimes when I am knitting or finding time for a little leisure, the characters in *Pocketful of Pinecones* become animated. Mothers share with me that they were ministered to by this book and have asked about a sequel. Therefore, before I go to bed I may jot down what a character is doing or saying in my imagination. Come fall, I hope to be in the full swing of putting it together—and do it properly—on a new laptop computer Dean is planning to purchase for me. *Lessons at Blackberry Inn* will most likely be the title of my next book—the continuation of a story of a mother who homeschools.

TOS: Thank you so very much, Karen, for spending time with us! We will look forward to the release of your next book! You continue to be an inspiration to home-

school moms all over the world, and we are grateful for your wisdom and grace.

Karen Kate Kessler

Karen and her husband, Dean, brought the original writings of nineteenthcentury British educator Miss Charlotte Mason to America. They have endeavored to keep Miss Mason's books in print since 1989. Karen is best known for her book A Charlotte Mason Companion: Personal Reflections of the Gentle Art of Learning. Featured in the homeschool catalog of Christian Book Distributors are the Andreola family's ongoing product reviews. These reviews, and some encouraging articles, also appear on their website: www.homeschoolhighlights. com. Sharing a book aloud, knitting red mittens, and walking in their Pennsylvania woods during sweater weather are some of Karen's favorite pastimes.



www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **125**

Robin Sampson A Heart of Wisdom

By Christine Field

ost of us would be thrilled to have our children strive to number their days aright to gain a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12). Robin Sampson felt this urgency early on in her homeschooling journey. She was doing all the "schoolish" things with her growing family but was experiencing a spiritual weariness. While reading about our old friends Mary and Martha, Robin focused on the "one thing that was needful" (Luke 10:40-42). This took her on an incredible journey—one that leads her to now minister to and encourage other homeschoolers around the world to focus on that heart of wisdom.

TOS: Robin, early in your homeschooling, what was that "needful thing" that troubled you?

ROBIN: Our first homeschool goal is to teach our children to love and serve God. Our second goal is to instill in each child a love of learning. During our first years of homeschool-



ing I was not meeting either goal. In my homeschool journey there were two specific points where I changed directions to meet each of these two goals. I was so wrapped up in the fear of missing something in academics that I forgot the one needful thing.

The one needful thing is found in the story of Mary and Martha. Martha was very busy with preparations as Mary sat at the feet of Christ. When Martha complained about Mary, Jesus answered and said unto her, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:40-42).

The lesson is simple: only one thing is truly necessary. Everything else that does not promote that one thing is extra. A willingness to sit at Jesus' feet and hear His Word is the most important thing

we can ever teach our children. Sensible Martha had many accomplishments, but worry and trouble were her rewards. Mary, on the other hand, was praised for choosing that good thing which was itself her reward and which would not be taken away from her.

Martha's preparation work was not wrong; in fact, it was important. It was Martha's focus that was wrong. It is your focus that makes the difference. Academics-math, language arts, history, and science matter, but only as they sharpen our focus on the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Academic subjects are important tools, but they are only tools, not the goal. The moment academics cloud your view, to whatever degree they slow your pursuit of God's will, they then move from being helpful tools to what Jesus calls "cares of this life" in Luke 21:34: "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with ... cares of this life ..."

TOS: What did you do with this prompting, which was clearly from the Lord?

ROBIN: I purposed to begin each day reading and studying God's Wordbefore any other school subject. We began to spend time sitting at Jesus' feet and feasting at the table of His mercy, forgiveness, and peace. We stopped using Bible workbooks and began studying God's Word—really studying—reading from His Word, and using Bible study tools. We began to learn to know God. We prayed for and began to obtain godly knowledge and true wisdom. True wisdom is available only by spending a significant amount of your homeschool time studying and teaching God's Word. When your focus is on Christ, your striving and anxiety disappear.

TOS: Your curriculum materials honor the work of a few people who came before you, but we want to focus on how Charlotte Mason has influenced your work. How did you first learn about this philosophy? What about it resonated with your heart?

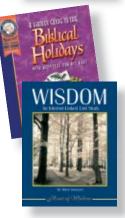
ROBIN: The one needful thing met our first goal. Twenty years ago I found three things that transformed our homeschool to meet our second goal—to instill a love of learning—Charlotte Mason,

Ruth Beechick, and unit studies. At the time our school was little more than a sticky note on the outside of a textbook or workbook telling each child what pages to accomplish for the day. I was very frustrated planning, preparing, and teaching three children each [of] seven subjects. Mason's and Beechick's methods freed me to teach Bible study, history, and science to all of my children at the same time using living books and then work separately with them on math and language arts. Suddenly, my planning and grading time was drastically reduced.

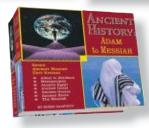
I combined Charlotte Mason's approach with unit studies by focusing our school days on one historical time period or science topic. We used narration and copywork methods and read real "living











A sampling of Robin Sampson's books.

126 Styles www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

Open a Door to the 1800's Pioneer Era on the American Frontier

Based on the "Little House" series by Laura Ingalls Wilder, *The Prairie Primer*, an award-winning literature-based unit study, is a ticket to adventure for third through sixth graders. With this interdisciplinary approach, they make butter, analyze owl pellets, watch muzzle loading guns being fired, study the grizzly and learn about animal classification. As they encounter life on the frontier with the Ingalls family, students are challenged to grow in character and wisdom.

Margie Gray, author of Where the Brook and River Meet, has included user-friendly features that make the task of instruction easier.



"It was easy to put together.

Materials and resources
were easily gathered."

— Lynn Bruce

\$50.00*

NM residents add 6.0625%. The Primer (290 pages)

Order online or call for a FREE catalogue. *FREE shipping when you mention this ad!

www.CadronCreek.com / 505-534-1496





Great Musician Series by Opal Wheeler

Learn about the greatest musical masters of all time with these classic reprints. More than just biographies, these books bring the composers to life, while giving your children a love for good music. Historically-accurate and charmingly written, your children will love these delightful stories. Also available are study guides for each book, and a companion CD to familiarize your children with the music of these great composers.

The Shining Sword – a captivating allegorical tale!

For the King! Such is the battle cry of the royal army as soldiers in the service of the King of kings and Lord of lords set out to wage war against the forces of evil. Lanus, a new recruit, finds he has much to learn about obedience, about failure, about victory — and about the vital importance of putting on the full armor of the King. In this fascinating tale of spiritual warfare, the story of Lanus vividly illustrates the Christian's conflict with Satan. Come along as a new convert trains for conquest by skillfully wielding the ultimate weapon of righteousness, the Sword of the Word of God.



Check out our complete selection of books online:

www.Zeezok.com

Call toll-free: 1-800-749-1681



TOS

FREE 1 Year Subscription



A Parent's #1 Resource for Home Education Products!

The *Christian Home School Connection* is a quarterly publication filled with valuable information you need and the resources you've been looking for!

Call us today toll-free for your FREE subscription

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

888-777-6032

Or cut and mail this coupon today!

Or visit our website: www.usahomeschool.net and click on the free subscription link

YES! Please send a FREE 1 Year
Subscription!

city/state

name

street

zipcode

Send to:

Christian Home School Connection P.O. Box 860014 Shawnee Mission, KS 66286-0014

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **127**

books." We began interacting with each other. We read aloud together and worked on projects together—and they were really learning! We shelved the boring textbooks and began to build a home library with real books. The children were beginning to do well academically, and our school day was much more interesting. The children began to actually enjoy school.

TOS: You took some of Ms. Mason's methods and organized them in a way that speaks to a variety of learning styles. Tell us about that.

ROBIN: I've always been fascinated with how children learn differently. I understood my hands-on learners, but my analytic learners stumped me. This led me to several books on learning styles, which led me to Bernice McCarthy's 4Mat System. McCarthy combined the research from sixteen learning styles experts to develop a method of instruction that teaches to all four learning styles. The steps are

- 1. Make it interesting and relate it to the student.
- 2. Find out the facts.
- 3. Reinforce what was learned by doing something with it.
- 4. Teach it or share it with someone else.

Mason's methods could easily be arranged into the four steps

- Motivating students. Motivate the student by making the lesson interesting on his or her level—not "dumbed down."
- 2. Teaching ideas and facts. Get the facts from living books, reference books, nature walks, humanities, the Internet, etc.
- 3. Experimenting with concepts and skills. Do something with what has been learned. Copywork, dictation, adding to a nature notebook or timeline book or portfolio.
- 4. Integrating new learning into real life. Narration; tell back what has been learned; share with others.

TOS: How are the techniques of Ms. Mason incorporated into your unit studies?

ROBIN: For grades K-3 we recommend reading aloud tons of living books for all history and science topics. For grades 4 and up we recommend unit studies using structured four-step lessons as explained above.

TOS: I want to talk about the materials you have available. First, how in the world do you find time to write with all the demands on your day?

ROBIN: I used to say, "God should give mothers an extra pair of hands with each child." Then one day I realized He did! It is our job to train the hands of each child. We have a full quiver of 11 children. Because we managed our family as a team with everyone helping, there were several years I had teenage girls doing the bulk of the cooking and cleaning and I was able to write the majority of my publications. It is a labor of love to spend time studying and sharing God's Word and encouraging others to focus on the Bible.

I used to say, "God should give mothers an extra pair of hands with each child." Then one day I realized He did!

TOS: Tell us about the unit studies you have available.

ROBIN: Our main focus is not on the unit studies but rather on The Heart of Wisdom Teaching Approach—the philosophy of returning to Bible ways. We have a 4-year plan and recommend several different homeschool unit studies for the four years. Each member of the family studies the same subject at the same time on their own individual level. This four-year rotation course gives each child three distinct exposures to each topic on their own level. Each unit study includes Bible, history, science, research, writing, and literature.

I have written the unit studies for the first year and recommend other materials for the other three years. I have a passion for studying history in the context of the Bible, so I wrote *Ancient History: Adam to Messiah* (800 pages in a 3-ring

binder). It includes seven unit studies, beginning with Adam, and moves chronologically and geographically through Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Israel, Greece, Rome, and the time of Christ with a focus on the Hebrews. I recommend this as a foundation and where to begin, even if you have already studied ancient history, as this includes the Bible focus most studies leave out.

The science unit studies begin with Creation (vs. evolution) and move chronologically through the days of Creation. Creation, Light, and Energy are available.

TOS: An exciting technique, gaining in popularity with homeschoolers, is scrapbooking. There are also some other names, like lapbooking. Tell us what this is and how you recommend incorporating this into our studies.

ROBIN: I am very excited about *Scrapbooking to Learn*. We created a website and store for homeschoolers [who are] into scrapbooking or lapbooking to learn. A picture speaks a thousands words. Visit **Scrapbookingtolearn.com** to see hundreds of student sample pages and lapbooks.

TOS: Reading your website is an education in itself! Tell our readers what they will find there.

ROBIN: You will find a wealth of information, hundreds of articles, my blog, excerpts, and lots of sample lessons. We also have a message board and egroup for users to talk to each other.

TOS: Can you share what ideas you are working on for the future?

ROBIN: I pray daily for God's leading. My main focus is teaching my 5- and 7-year-olds. I'm very busy keeping up with five websites, three stores, and administrative duties.

This week I completed Nurturing the Write Relationship: Developing a Family Writing Lifestyle and Traditions with Mary Ann Froehlich. I have several books in various stages, including Scrapbooking to Learn Idea Book: Creative Ideas for Academic and Bible Projects, The Secret and the Bible: Beyond the New York Times #1 Bestseller, and several unit studies.

TOS: Robin, you are an inspiration to us! We hope you keep writing, but alwayskeepthe first things first. Godbless you!

Robin Sampson

Chustine Field

Robin Sampson is a homeschooling mother of eleven children and author of several acclaimed books, including The Heart of Wisdom Teaching Approach, What Your Child Needs to Know When, Wisdom: An Internet-Linked Unit Study, A Family Guide to the Biblical Holidays, and Ancient History: Adam to Messiah. Robin's husband, Ronnie, is retired from Homeland Secuity. The family resides in northern Virginia.

At Keystone National High School, we're helping students from all walks of life achieve their individual potential.

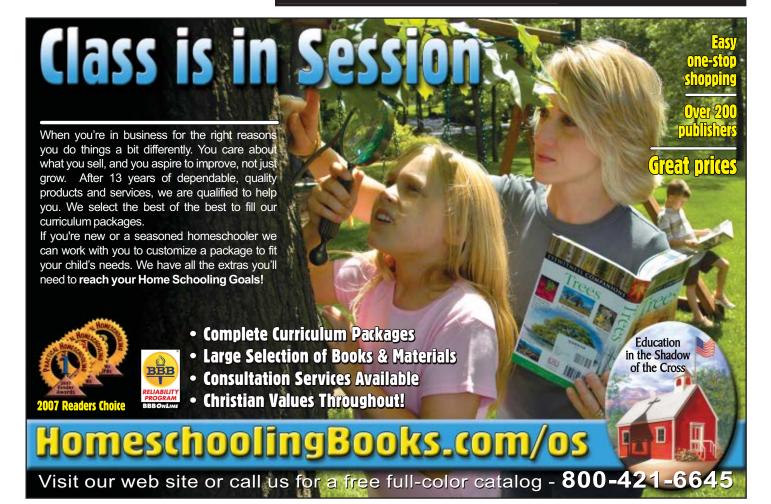


- With Keystone's award-winning distance learning high school, students anywhere in the world can complete their high school studies and earn their diploma—at their own pace—and learn practical life skills in the process.
- More than 60 subjects are available! Our top-quality online and correspondence courses include the most up-to-date content written by educational experts.
- Unlike some programs, Keystone's tuition includes one-on-one support from highly qualified, certified teachers.

Our accredited, independent study high school offers an innovative, flexible, student-focused education built on more than 30 years of experience. Put our experience to work for your family.

Dream. Connect. Achieve.





www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **129**

COPYWORKThe Act of Writing

By Yvonne Mutch

ntroducing children to the skill of writing need not be an ominous task. One must merely keep in mind that young children are also young thinkers who need ex-



posure to the world of ideas before they can be expected to put their thoughts into complete and coherent sentences. Often, young students are required to write from what is within themselves, and therein lies the problem. Young children simply lack the life experience and expertise of their adult counterparts. Therefore, the task of organizing their thoughts (on paper) in a structured manner is overwhelming and too often a recipe for failure. Therefore, what many young learners need is a model for their writing, a kind of visual map to show them, literally, what organized words and sentences 1 o o k

like. This is easily accomplished through the method of copywork, which is merely copying a sentence, a paragraph, or a page from a selected passage of writing.

The practice of copywork has numerous benefits, the first of which is that it gives the emerging writer a safe place to start—a place where he can concentrate on the skill of handwriting, without the added layers of complexity that come with putting one's own thoughts on paper. This is an advanced skill that will come gracefully, time and maturity. In

the meantime, the emerging writer needs clear directions. Consider, for example, the following passage by Robert Louis Stevenson, which is a wonderful passage for a beginning writer to copy:

The world is so full of a number of things, I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings.

The preceding 20 words give a first- or second-grade child a correct way to write, spell, and punctuate a sentence. He is not forced to invent the spelling of a word he does not know how to spell. Everything is correctly modeled. In this respect, copywork can be compared to having a recipe when one is baking. It would be inconceivable for a novice in the kitchen to try to bake chocolate chip cookies without having a recipe to follow. However, after baking dozens of batches, reliance on the original recipe is not as strong, and variations of the recipe can be attempted with confidence. And after further experience, a variety of cookies can be prepared because the basics have been mastered. The same is true with writing. The practice of copywork enables children to make a smooth transition from writing the words of others to writing words of their own.

Another advantage of copywork is the exposure it provides to beautiful and/or profound thoughts. When the printed word is given as a model for handwriting, the ideas represented by

those words are also being modeled for the young mind. In this respect, copywork exercises are similar (in the advantages they provide) to reading aloud to your child. In both instances, the child's developing mind is given increasing exposure to the world of thoughts and ideas. After all, in order to absorb ideas, one must first be exposed to them! Therefore, copywork provides the unique opportunity for great authors and other thinkers to "speak" to your child, while his own thought processes continue to mature.

Some writers speak with grace and eloquence, some use words as if they were magic, and some get right to the point and speak with a simplicity that can always be appreciated by the reader.

Another benefit of children writing out passages from great authors and thinkers is that they are taught to pay attention to detail. In order to write out a passage accurately, the young writer must pay attention to every "jot and tittle," so to speak, copying letters and words exactly as they are written. In this respect,

copywork is a great tool

for teaching accuracy. It is also a great tool for sharpening cognitive thought, especially when the student matures enough so that he can compare his work with the original passage and find any inconsistencies, rather than relying on his parent to do the same. As you can see, copywork teaches so much more than penmanship!

Copywork also introduces students to the beautiful structure and style of the English language, an abundance of literary styles, and vari-



130 Styles

ous models of good grammar. A fourthor fifth-grade student will discover that
some writers speak with grace and eloquence, some use words as if they were
magic, and some get right to the point
and speak with a simplicity that can always be appreciated by the reader. Each
author's thoughts, when selected with
discernment, have something valuable
to teach your young child. Indeed, copywork is the perfect vehicle for soaking
up these lessons on "word choice" and
the rhyme and rhythm of the English
language.

On a less esoteric level, copywork passages can also serve as an alternative to the traditional book report, especially for younger students who are still struggling with correct spelling and grammar usage. Copywork books can also serve as a visual record of your children's handwriting ability and progress, especially if the handwriting passages are dated. And with the passage of a few years' time, most children will enjoy looking back on their handwritten pages, and they will have the added benefit of better understanding and appreciating the passages they wrote in years past. Therefore, whether you use a composition book and select your own passages for your children's copywork or use a prepared program, a completed copywork book provides a solid record of achievement and a memento to treasure in years to come.

Another beneficial aspect of copywork is that it is easy for you as the parent to provide the oversight, which is minimal. As the parent, you can also determine how often your child writes passages, and until your child matures, longer passages can be divided into two or three days' worth of work. However you go about it, each year's completed copywork provides concrete evidence of a student's hard work. And since I cannot say enough in regard to the benefits of copywork, allow me the liberty to share one more example, from Augustus Caesar's World by Genevieve Foster, and recorded by my son when he was in the fourth grade:

"This is what makes the study of history so valuable," he was to say—"the fact that you can behold, as displayed on a monument, every kind of conduct; thence you may select for yourself and your country that which you may imitate; thence not what is shameful in the undertak-

Barchowsky Fluent Handwriting for ALL AGES

Barchowsky Fluent Handwriting is a proven method for legible, rapid, individual handwriting. Beginners learn simple letterforms that later join without retraining fine motor skills. Older students (adults too!) easily fix illegibility, or modify their handwriting.

Call Nan at 410-272-0836, or write her at nibarch@mac.com.

And, please visit www.BFHhandwriting.com.

ing and shameful in the result, which you may avoid ..."

As the above passage illustrates, children who are engaged in copywork are exposed to a multitude of thoughts and ideas. Aside from time spent on the art of handwriting, time spent on copywork allows time for absorption of the ideas behind the words. After this process of "hearing" the thoughts of others, your child is greatly helped in his process of learning to articulate his own thoughts, and he will be better equipped to communicate them on paper. Indeed, the practice of copywork enables a smooth transition from writing the words of others to writing words of one's own. In the meantime, as your child matures he is using increasingly sophisticated passages for his copywork because one of the marvels of the copywork method is that it grows with your child.

Indeed, copywork is a great "launching pad" for beginning writers. After your student has practiced (and practiced and practiced) writing, using the words and thought of others, he will have had time for further cognitive development. He will now have something worthwhile to say. He will be more ready for creative writing, descriptive writing, book reports, essays, journaling and journalism, and whatever other avenues of writing he would like to pursue. He will have gained confidence in the world of words because he is no longer intimidated by words. On the contrary, he will have become familiar and well acquainted with words, and ideally, words are now his friends—and useful friends at that. More importantly, he will be ready for the act of writing, which is merely giving voice to one's thoughts.

Remember, a child who says, "I don't know what to write" is usually saying, "I don't know what to think." But please don't misunderstand. Copywork is not something merely for "slow" students or reluctant writers. Copywork is for everyone. Accomplished writer and inventor Benjamin Franklin taught himself to write using a method of copywork—the details are in his autobiography. But the point is this: the practice of copywork was tremendously advantageous to the students of yesteryear, and those who use this same structure today will be well served. Thanks in part to this old-fashioned method of learning to write, it is possible to produce articulate writers. In fact, it is more than possible; it is highly probable (and achievable). Just allow your child's mind to be filled with great ideas and thoughts before you give him his first writing assignment. Sharpen those pencils and let the writing begin!

Your Mutch

Yvonne Mutch, a homeschool mom for over 16 years, is the editor of the copywork program Something Worthwhile, which includes Handwriting Exercises for the Beginning Student (recommended for second-fourth grade) and Handwriting Exercises for the Intermediate Student (recommended for fifth-eighth grade). Each book contains 130 pages of handwriting exercises consisting of quotes from historical figures, passages of poetry, excerpts from historical speeches, essays and letters, and other famous passages. The program can be viewed at Latintrivium.com.

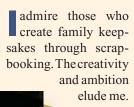
www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **131**



A Family Histon

Take Time Today to Record a Heritage for Tomorrow

By Marla G. Nowak





Marla's grandparents' family home. Painting by Gina Gaines, Marla's sister.

Each time I consider scrapbooking I get no further than the scissors. Even though the finished books are attractive, I can't bear to cut my photographs. As the background details get snipped away, part of the history gets snipped away too. For me, that old Corelle coffee pot or loud, blue-and-purple striped bedspread are part of the provenance of my childhood.

Yesterday, while on a family outing, my youngest daughter discovered an old wooden tele-

phone booth. She was drawn to the fascinating little room with the coinoperated phone—something alien to my children but commonplace to my

Her curiosity stirred me to consider differences in our childhoods. We did not have a dryer, a microwave, or a second car, but we did have a ping-pong table, S&H green stamps, and Kool-Aid poured from a Tupperware pitcher. We never had organic cranberry juice. Now we never have liver and onions, thankfully!

A parent's childhood makes favorite bedtime tales. Even better are the stories

another generation back, like the time a skunk entered Granddaddy's boyhood home when he was a boy. That boy, Jack, carried the scent to school with him. Simple stories connect the generations. Grandmommy Prim, raised by her grandparents Mama and Papa, used scratchy feedbags as towels. Mama was known for her banana pudding. Papa told Primmie Bible stories—and that she only had one little soul to save. Genealogies are interesting, but I much prefer vibrant stories to names and dates on gravestones.

Take the time and opportunity while they exist to record your unique history as a part of your homeschool history studies. Create a priceless keepsake by interviewing grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Use leading questions such as

- What was a typical Sunday or Christmas like?
- Did you have any special prayers?
- What was your favorite book, meal, or memory?
- · What scared you?
- How did you meet Grandma?
- What was your first job?

Children may pose questions or invite relatives to record random thoughts. My Great-Aunt Janet compiled family memories of her girlhood home on Patterson Street. Reflecting on my great-grandparents' stone house, I was amazed by the detail that came to mind—the grape hyacinths growing by the crooked sidewalk, the buffalo skin in the upstairs bedroom,



Seth with the coffeepot his great-granddaddy Gaines used on his railroad job from Philadelphia to St. Louis.



the musty smell, the cracked linoleum, the shiny brown coal stove where my Uncle Jim spit his tobacco juice, the papier-mâché turtle my mother made, and my great-grandmother's sweeping white hair pinned up. Every child could find the candy dish with stale circus peanuts or pink Canada wintergreen mints. No child could resist peeking behind the plush burgundy curtains into the mysterious darkened parlor. Recollections transported me to a world I had not visited in 35 years. Take time now and encourage family members to recall and record simple events. The details may be lost in a generation or two.

My youngest was 3 when he said, "I'm sure glad I was born the day I was or I would have missed my birthday."

With the popularity of recording equipment we chronicle first steps, big snows, and birthday after birthday. While a picture is worth a thousand words, sometimes a thousand and one words are needed. Baby books record weight, height, first words, first tooth, favorite foods, and favorite toys. Our blogs and journals do a good job of recording the day in and day out. However, excess information can be a problem. Can you imagine navigating

through ten or twenty years' worth of mommy's thoughts? Some of us are creating virtual attics that our children may have to sift through one day, line by line. Abundant photos and documents may create an overwhelming archive, so organize



Emily in her great-great-great-grandmother McDorman's dress.

well. Label and date photos, both old and new. We've all sorted through old family photos wondering, who is that baby?

Journals allow us to quickly record special days or amusing comments at our convenience. Jotting a note is not overwhelming, and we get the joy of memories. I want to remember that Christmas



Download instructions and

masters available at:

www.homeschoolinthewoods.com

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ 133

my young firstborn sang, "With jelly toast ["angelic host"] proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem." My youngest was 3 when he said, "I'm sure glad I was born the day I was or I would have missed my birthday." A nature-loving child observed, "Mommy, the wind has good breath." You will cherish words that capture your children and family life. One day, I hope to choose some of my favorite journal entries and compile them for my children. These stories of their history are stories I can best tell, and best tell while they are fresh. They are not flowery accounts laced with detail, but they are recorded. Don't get bogged down in perfection or you may miss things you don't want to forget.

Children can write or dictate journals. Often I will ask leading questions such

- What did you like best when we went to Missouri?
- What is it like to sleep at Grandma's?
- What is your favorite meal Mommy makes?
- Tell me about when your tooth came out.

At the end of one kindergartner's year I asked, "What did you learn this year?" We went from favorite Scripture to learning to ride his bike to George Washington to the pyramids-to four pages. That's a good question to ask yearly. If the response is goofy, so be it. Composition books work well enough for the children's journals, but I wish we had invested in good quality journals for special memories. Although a bit pricier, a good one will last and make a better heirloom. However, you can always choose to compile random entries one day in a special heirloom-quality book.

Another neat thing we do is let the children write or dictate the annual Christmas letter. Year after year I wrote the letter, but after passing the baton to my second daughter, the letter went from fine to interesting. People enjoy reading about family activities from a child's perspective. "Our puppy Langley is very smart and obedient. Mom said she is going to start feeding us Milkbones they work so well." Don't underestimate how well a young child can write a "form" letter. He or she can write or dictate with warmth and honesty that will charm and amuse. Adults can be longwinded in our annual "brag" letters, but our children tell it like it is. Writing the Christmas letter can give the child a chance to express his faith naturally during the season. Quite often a few words from a child are more profound than any clever Hallmark verse. Some years, we record our Christmas Day menu—even better, we copy the recipes too. Letters are kept in a special box we pack away with our Christmas decorations. Yearly Christmas letters will be cherished keepsakes from your family history.

If you are blessed to have a spiritual legacy, request a relative's Bible. Request that a handwritten prayer for the child or future generations be included in the Bible. Copy favorite family recipes to be passed down. Purchase pretty recipe cards, record some favorite recipes, sign and date them, and slip them in plastic. By the time our daughters and granddaughters are in their kitchens, a handwritten recipe card could be a relic. If Daddy or Granddaddy has built a chest or dollhouse, have him write a note about it to be passed with the object. Ask now about family antiques so you have stories to tell later. Not all of us can or want to leave a large monetary inheritance. With planning you can give gifts of great personal value as you share keepsakes and history with loved ones. Fifty years from now that beveled mirror may be cherished by your grandson when he hangs it in his home and remembers you.

It's difficult to find the time to record experiences, let alone organize them. Most of us homeschooling mothers are in the thick of the busy years. There will be scrapbooks to make and memories to compile. That part can wait, but the recording needs to be done. It's easy to forget so many precious things. Writing allows us sweet memories we can linger over. Find resources that inspire you to preserve memories, for example, Jill Novak's The Gift of Family Writing (www .HomeschoolBlogger.com/JillNovak).

Grandma may pass her gold locket to her eldest granddaughter. How much more meaningful to pass it with a note describing when Granddaddy gave her the locket. Granddaddy may pass down the green-onwhite porcelain pitcher set that his mother used to bath her children. Now is the time to tell the stories, while they are happening or while they are in the minds of those involved. This school year as you proceed with history, ancient or modern, remember to include your personal history. Pass your faith to a generation you may never see. Share your memories with an age you cannot imagine. Let joys that your family shared captivate future generations. You can create a book of the greatest bedtime stories ever told. Alexander the Great and the Great Emancipator Abraham Lincoln sometimes cannot compare to Great-Great Aunt Janet. 👬

Marla & Nowak

Marla is delighted to have accomplished her childhood dream of being a wife and mommy. Originally from the Shenandoah Valley, Marla is still a smalltown girl at heart and cherishes her family and faith. Presently in their eleventh year of homeschooling, she is the mother of seven children, four still at home. Pleasures like a good cup of coffee or the first hydrangea blossom are simple things she appreciates. Admittedly a bit of a homebody, Marla delights in her family (most days!).



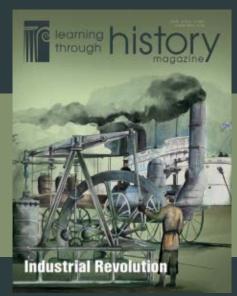
In the July/August 2007 issue of Learning Through History magazine:

Industrial Revolution

- The Mill Girls of Lowell
- Mary Shelley's Monster
- The Luddites: Rage Against the Machine
- The Hunt for Black Gold
- Reading for the Masses
 ... And much more

Tour the magazine, subscribe or order back issues at www.LearningThroughHistory.com or call toll-free at 1-888-852-1751. One year subscription \$33.00. Two year subscription \$62.00.

LearningThroughHistory.com



In this age of historical revisionism, this exciting new multimedia curriculum helps keep the historical record straight in a challenging, compelling and engaging way. Enter DTHA20 when you order and receive 20% Off the Homschool Curriculum Kit. Complete History Curriculum for \$49.99 plus shipping www.DTHAmerica.com 800-444-8828



is a drink of cold water on a very hot day!"

- J. Keleher, CA



"Thank you for such
a wonderful and
inspiring way to
teach history."

– C. Herman, WA





"Thank you for putting on paper what I had in my heart!"

- M. Denny, NC



...BECAUSE IT WORKS!"

- M. Lund, NE



Beautiful Feet Books - History Through Literature

To request a free catalog call: 800.889.1978

Better yet, see all that we offer on the web at: www.bfbooks.com



www.citycreek.com

Times tobles the Fundicy's

Times/Division and Addition/Subtraction Kits

1-800-585-6059

Students learn to associate the fact with a cartoon and story. Memorization is fun and easy! Studies show retention increased 33%.



www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **135**



GREEN.

thegriffon 108.com





WE REED YOU!

...to help us supply, educate and inform our readers with the best resources in the homeschool industry.

or over 30 years we have provided our military network with the best educational opportunities available to them. We have partnered with **TOS Magazine** and other companies to help our growing readership interested in their children's education. Join us and become a primary resource to the Military and their families.



Contact Mike Cullinane X 110 866.761.1247 mike.cullinane@thegriffon108.com

www.americas-future.com





Equip your children with LIFESKILLS FOR PERILOUS TIMES. Build FAMILY TEAMWORK.

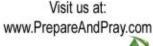
Lay solid academic foundations on PRACTICAL KINGDOM LIVING. HAVE FUN with valuable hands-on activities-NO TIME WASTERS!

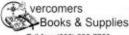
Prepare and Pray! And the sequel, Blessed Assurance! Prepare and Pray II: Literary PRO-ACTIVE PREPAREDNESS UNIT STUDIES were designed by REAL EXPERTS- a veteran horteschooling family of 11, with actual experience in...

Outdoorsmanship- all climates
First Aid-basic and advanced
Basic and Adv. Lifeskills-gardening, livestock, much more...
Fantastic Frugal living, stewardship
Discerning Truth from error
Defending, living, and sharing the faith
Learning history through Godly heroes... MECH MORE!!!

All academic subjects are covered (except muth and phonics) using excellent children's literature, The Swiss Family Robinson and Robinson Crusoe. Designed for all ages-toddler through resident grandma, boys and girls, all budgets, all skill levels. All this for only \$65 each or buy both full year unit studies for \$120 (PPD)

Discern the season in which we live! Equip the Overcoming Generation!





Toll free (866) 526-7753 P.O. 892 Libby, MT 59923 info@prepareandpray.com









Homeschooling on the High

By Bret Smith



September 1 was uneasy and had not able sleep. I could sense that time was draw-

ing near. It was pitch black in the bow of the boat, so I pressed the backlight button on my watch. Sure enough, it was almost 3 AM. I slipped out of the bunk and turned off the alarm before it sounded. I opened the saloon hatch and ran the single side band radio antenna out onto the deck. This far south—at Clarence Town Harbour on Long Island in the Bahamas—the only time we could pick up the National Weather Service broadcast without interference was at 3 AM. I pulled out my writing tablet, hurricane tracking chart, and pencil, put the earbud in my ear, turned on the radio, and prepared to copy the weather broadcast.

When you are 360 nautical miles from the Florida coast in a 40-foot boat with your wife, four kids, and a dog, the marine weather forecast is always of interest. This morning, however, I was keenly interested in the broadcast. For several days, hurricane Olga had been parked in the Atlantic between the Bahamas and Bermuda, generating 12-foot seas. Each morning for four days, I awakened the crew before sunup, prepared to make way, and cast off from the pier. By the time the sun came up, we had rounded Harbour Point and were headed for Booby Rock; but each time, we were driven back by the huge breakers rolling into the Clarence Town Harbour entrance.

The mechanical-sounding voice indicated it was time for the Southwest North Atlantic Zone Offshore Forecast, so I rapidly wrote down the details. When I plotted the new latitude/longitude coordinates for the hurricane on the tracking chart, I

realized that what I had feared was becoming a reality. Olga was picking up speed and moving directly toward Long Island—and our vessel, the Phoenician.

After securing the radio, I went topside in the darkness and knelt on the deck. At its present course and speed, the storm would be upon us in two days' time. I knew from past experience that God hears me when I pray. But never before had I been in a situation where it was so obvious that the very survival of my family depended on God hearing and answering my prayer. This tends to focus your attention!

Just as the sky was beginning to lighten, the peace of God came over me, and I knew that we were going to escape.

For the next hour, I prayed more earnestly than ever before. Just as the sky was beginning to lighten, the peace of God came over me, and I knew that we were going to escape. I awakened the crew, and we prepared once again to make way.

Because of the relatively narrow channel that passes by Lark Point on Strachan Cay, we did not have the steerageway to be able to keep our bow pointed directly

into the breakers that were rolling over Conch Spit. I have to admit that the sea was very intimidating; Jacqueline repeatedly begged me to turn around and go back into the harbor. But God had given me assurance of our escape, and I persisted in urging her to have courage while we went just a little further. After a few very tense moments, we passed the 3-fathom line where the sea broadened out into 12-foot swells, and we were able to turn east and then south toward Crooked Island. (Twelve-foot swells are anything but comfortable, but they are not particularly dangerous as long as they are not breaking.) Three days later we were anchored off Southeast Point on Mayaguana when Olga passed directly over Clarencetown Harbor!

During our 8-month Caribbean cruise, I learned many valuable lessons. I learned to avoid passing through a cut when the tide is going out and the swells are coming in. I learned that the best way to travel is to leave port so as to make open ocean before dark and plan your speed so as to reach shallow water at your destination shortly after sunrise. But the most important thing I learned is just how dependent we are on the Lord God Almighty.

Traveling across the ocean from island to island in a small boat provides unparalleled learning opportunities for a homeschool family. I have asked each of the members of my family to write about something they learned on our family cruise.













Jacqueline Smith, Mother of Four Children at Sea

Homeschooling while cruising the Caribbean on a small yacht is about as difficult as getting wet in a thunderstorm! There was so much to learn and see. At the time, we had only four children, ages 17, 14, 12, and 11. Bret required everyone on board to get involved in navigation, which was a complicated study of charts, currents, speed, electronic hardware, and more. The kids and I had to physically care for the boat, learning such things as which chemicals will remove rust stains and how to refinish teak. We learned to prioritize our material possessions and fill the precious little storage space available with only those items that were truly necessary. We learned to ration our fresh water. We shared adventures with mariners from all over the world, of various financial means, as well as the native peoples of a dozen different cultures. We learned to speak English with British, Bahamian, and Latino accents (a helpful exercise when movie-making becomes your family's next project) and practiced our Spanish in two different countries. We enjoyed the waters and wonders of the Bahamas, the cliffs and dropoffs of the Turks and Caicos, the wild and verdant countryside of the Dominican Republic, the mountains and rain forests of Puerto Rico, and the rich underwater habitat of the Virgin Islands. We beach-combed and snorkeled and scuba dived at dozens of beaches and reefs, each one a unique fingerprint of the Creator.

The people of each island were also unique in their worship of God. We attended very different worship services at

Top to bottom: A secluded beach on Rum Cay; Captain Bret with Sparky "the Boat King"; the Phoenician anchored at Dewey Harbor, Culebra, the Spanish Virgin Islands; Bethany coming aboard in Puerto Rico; exploring a lagoon at the Spanish Virgin Island of Vieques. the churches on the various islands and enjoyed each and every one. I prayed more fervently than I had ever done in my life—what with frightening experiences like an onboard fire, an encounter with a shark, being trapped in a harbor by a stalled hurricane, watching my son fall overboard (and then hauling himself back onboard by a trailing mooring line before his father even knew what had happened!), and trying to sleep without being tossed out of my bunk during a gale.

But perhaps the most important things we learned had to do with our relationships—and our level of trust in God. Our very lives were in my husband's hands, and we had to learn to trust him. We held our breath and prayed while Bret made difficult decisions. We held on in heavy seas, eventually becoming so "salty" at sea that making the difficult approach to reef-ringed Rum Cay during a gale was exciting rather than frightening! We learned not to let our emotions swing, even while our experiences swung from difficulty and danger to peacefulness and pleasure. The close quarters helped me learn that my two youngest daughters had developed a habit of quiet bickering; through active and prayerful intervention, God did a work in these girls' lives, which has created a sisterly devotion and camaraderie that is rarely seen.

All in all, cruising with a husband, four children, and a dog was an incredible, scary, difficult, wonderful opportunity that few Americans ever experience. I wouldn't have missed it for the world!



Alan Smith, Age 17 at Sea

Perhaps the most important thing I learned during our voyage was a new confidence in the mercy of our Lord. He

chose to impress this on me before the voyage actually began!

Circumstances leading up to our departure had conspired to place us in a time-critical situation. Dad was still working at his job and would not fly in until the day before we left. So the entire job of preparing the vessel for sea was placed in the hands of a very novice chief engineer (me!). Providentially, the Lord sent me a highly experienced Christian marine electrician who gave me invaluable instruction on the "care and feeding" of two diesel engines and their requisite support systems. It would be several weeks and hundreds of miles before we would see a West Marine or a Wal-Mart again!

Finally, the morning came for us to leave Hollywood, Florida, for the Bahamas. The last four days had been a mad rush of systems analysis and refitting. Although we were not afforded the opportunity of a shakedown cruise, nevertheless I felt pretty good about the condition of the vessel. Imagine my consternation when, having reported to Dad that all systems were go, he turned the key on the starboard engine and—nothing! And this engine had run flawlessly the day before. For the next two hours I checked every system I could think of that might interfere with the function of that engine. I could find no problems.

At this point, Dad announced that he was going below to pray. While he was praying, I descended once more into the engine compartment simply to look around. Just forward of the starboard engine, I noticed that the fuel line had not been secured to the compartment overhead and had fallen down. Now, although this would in no way prevent the starting of the engine, the fuel line was lying across the drive shaft. If the engine had started, then within a few hours the spinning drive shaft would have chafed a hole in the fuel line, spraying fuel all over the engine compartment. Most likely, we would have had a fire-somewhere between Baker's Haulover and Cat Cay!

I took some wire ties, secured the fuel line, and went topside to ask Dad to try the engine one more time. He hit the starter, and the engine started right up! This was just the first of many occurrences that helped me learn just how dependent we are on the providence and protection of Almighty God.



Kressant Smith, Age 14 at Sea

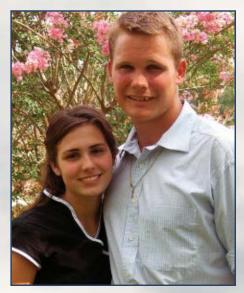
One of the most fascinating things that I learned on our adventure was just how amazing the sky is and everything in it. The beauty of God's handiwork is even more evident and breathtaking out on the vast ocean under His canopy of twinkling stars. Far from the land of lights, I discovered that the stars are much brighter and far more numerous than I had ever imagined. I learned how to spot various constellations, and I can well remember my joyous surprise when I first saw the Milky Way.

The ocean is a wonderful place to observe and learn firsthand about the intricate details of God's creation.

During our voyage we were often underway 24 hours a day, dozens of miles from the nearest land; it was a daily necessity for each family member to take a turn at the helm. I soon came to prefer the night watches. From the driving station I would stare up into the heavens and count 1, 5, 20, 60 falling stars as they shot across the sky. I can remember once counting off 15 seconds as a meteor crossed from one horizon to the other-what an amazing sight!

Another fascinating phenomenon visible only at night was the glittering, phosphorescent glow of deep-sea worms that come to the surface in the middle of the night. I would hang my head over the side of the boat and watch them wiggle and squirm, leaving iridescent trails of pink and green across the endless black.

The ocean is a wonderful place to observe and learn firsthand about the intricate details of God's creation. Every day on the water brings a new learning experience—and a new adventure!



Rachel Smith, Age 12 at Sea

One of the things I enjoyed while cruising was writing about the places we went and the things we saw. I wrote this poem while we were moored in the bay at Luperon in the Dominican Republic (and have subsequently edited it a little!):

Dominican Republic, we're finally here!

We come to a stop alongside the

The harbor offers a pleasant view With dozens of other boats anchored here too.

You can't go out on the island until You take this little malaria pill.

The mountains are towering proud and high,

And over the mangroves the little birds fly.

The jungle reminds me of a steamy

With more plants and flowers than a big-city florist.

Most of the houses are really quite small:

Some perched on mountains look ready to fall!

The ways that the villagers all get

Is funny to watch as you stroll through the town-

On mules and on foot, and a few scooters too,

But riding in cars, there are only a

Pretty white fog graces each mountaintop.

Oh, how I wish we had more time to stop

And stay for a while in this tropical place—

An island lifestyle would be fun to embrace!



Bethany Smith, Age 11 at Sea

One of my fondest memories from our cruise was going to see an airplane that had crashed in about 15 feet of water in a lagoon near Norman's Cay in the Exumas. The adults had all donned their scuba gear and were diving in and about the aircraft while we girls snorkeled above. Afterward, we took the dinghy and headed toward a small beach across the lagoon, thinking it would be but a short ride. When we were still nearly a mile from this "beach," the water shallowed until the dinghy bottomed out, and we continued on foot, picking our way through a minefield of sharp coral and prickly sea urchins.

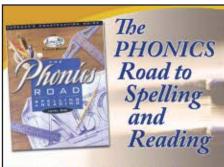
A half-mile and hundreds of urchins later, we came upon an 8-foot shark! We warily circled the partially submerged monster, debating whether he was a relatively harmless nurse shark or a more aggressive lemon shark. Our debate was interrupted by his sudden thrashing about in the shallow water as we apparently came too close for his comfort level, so we withdrew posthaste towards the dinghy.

As the sun sank behind the beach we never quite reached, we sat together on the deck of the boat and talked about the day's adventures exploring the wonders of God's creation.

Ahoy, mates! Now it's time to weigh anchor and plot a course for your own nautical homeschool adventure. Visit our website at www.HomeschoolAdvantage .us and do our online unit study on nautical homeschooling. You could win free website hosting from The Homeschool Advantage for a whole year! 🚠

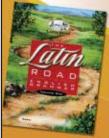
Captain Bret is currently the father of six children and is in the process of adopting five more from Latvia. He is the producer of Captain Bret's Christian Movie Show, which airs each Wednesday at 9 PM Eastern on the Faith Television Network. He is also the president of the Homeschool Advantage, which produces family events such as camp meetings, film festivals, and betrothal camps. The Homeschool Advantage also markets products and services for homeschool family businesses by building e-commerce sites and promoting them on nationwide television and at special events.





- Complete K-4 curriculum: spelling, writing, reading, grammar, composition, and intro to Latin
- Complete DVD presentation from start to finish
- All taught in a clear multi-sensory approach
- & Email, write, or call for a sample DVD

www.thephonicsroad.com



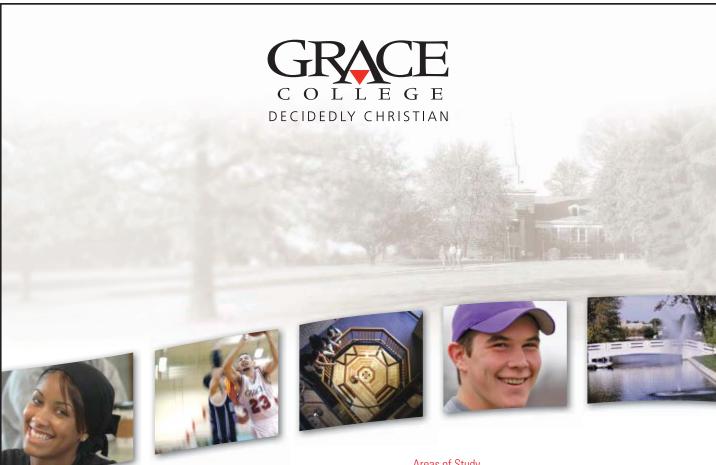
LATIN Road to English Grammar

- A complete Latin language and English grammar study in one curriculum!
- 2 years of high school Latin in 3 Volumes; begin as early as the 5th grade
- Learn and teach Latin at the same time!
- 1 Teacher-training DVDs, audio CDs, tests, and more!

For a FREE brochure/sample packet: www.thelatinroad.com

Schola Publications 1698 Market St. #162 Redding, CA 96001

530-275-2064



- An evangelical Christian liberal arts college with high academic standards
- Committed to the classical and defining doctrines of historic Christianity
- Affirming the moral, spiritual, and historical authority of the Bible and embracing sound theology, including the divine creation of the universe and other great doctrines
- A vibrant community designed to encourage serious academic inquiry, a Christian worldview, spiritual understanding, and service to others, all in the context of God's grace
- A warm, caring campus environment nestled in a quiet, midwestern community

Areas of Study 52 majors, 38 minors

Enrollment

1,200+ students from 37 states and 17 countries

Academic Profile

Average GPA: 3.44; ACT: 24; SAT: 1120 (math and reading)

Four-Year Scholarships (including international students) \$10.000 to \$80.000

Athletics

14 NAIA men's and women's varsity sports

Location

The resort community of Winona Lake, Indiana

Areas of Study:

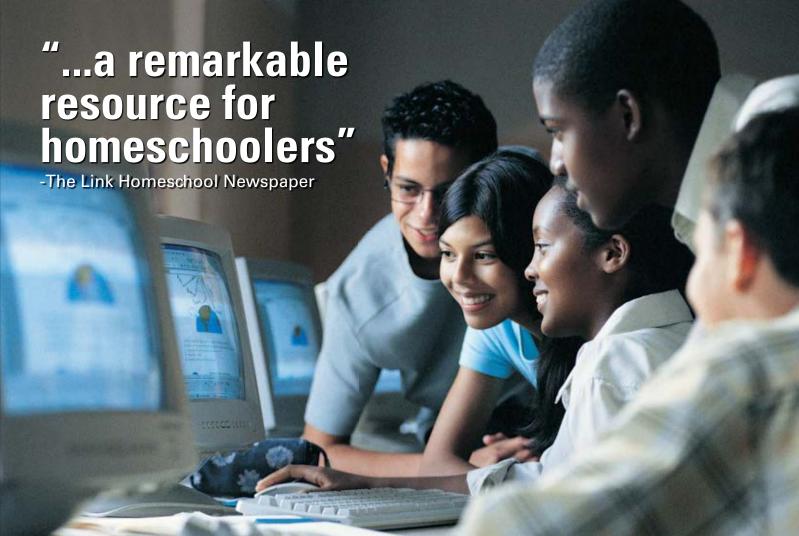
Accounting
Art Education
Biblical Studies
Biology
Business Administration
Business Education
Communication
Counseling
Criminal Justice Administration
Criminology
Drawing and Painting
Elementary Education

English
English Education
Finance
French
French Education
General Science
German
German Education
Graphic Design
Health and
Physical Education
History
Illustration

Information Technology
Intercultural Missions
International Business
International Languages
Journalism
Journalism Education
Life Science Education
Management of Information
Technology
Marketing
Mathematics
Mathematics Education
Music

Music Education
Nursing
Pedagogy
Physical Education
Pre-Dentistry
Pre-Law
Pre-Medicine
Pre-Physical Therapy
Pre-Veterinary
Psychology
Science Education
Social Studies
Social Studies Education

Social Work Sociology Spanish Spanish Education Special Education Sport Management Sports Studies TESOL Youth Ministry



Middle and High School

EdAnywhere offers unique online services beyond merely curriculum, such as:

- Teacher advice and aid for parents in such subjects as Chemistry and Math.
- Accredited high school diplomas
- GED Prep Online
- Vocational Assessment Testing and Counseling (fully online by June, 2006)
- Fully Approved Individual Courses (downloadable page allows you to check if a course's credits transfer

to a specific college.)

- Recovery Accelerated Method for specific class that may have been failed. The student re-takes the course at E.A., focusing on the weak areas.
- All E.A. instructors are Special Ed. certified
- Remedial Testing, Evaluation and Counseling Program from 3rd grade levels and up
- Assessment Testing can be performed on an asneeded basis, without full enrollment in the program
- Transcript preparation for homeschoolers
- Approved by the Better Business Bureau



Call toll free to enroll today!

877-4ED-0805

www.edanywhere.com

Washington Allston Gifted American Poet and Artist

By Sharon Jeffus

n the world of communication, some of the greatest writers in American history were also artists. The book Doubly Gifted: The Author as Visual Artist lists many artist-writers, including



Harriet Beecher Stowe, Robert Lewis Stevenson, O. Henry, Rudyard Kipling, and Emily Bronte, to name just a few. This is also true in the case of Washington Allston. He was an artist and poet of great merit. Washington Allston was born in Waccamaw, South Carolina, on November 5, 1779. His father was a planter.

Not only was Allston a gifted American poet, but he also pioneered America's Romantic movement of landscape painting. He was well known during his lifetime for his experiments with dramatic subject matter and his bold use of light and atmospheric color and perspective.

Allston graduated from Harvard College in 1800, then sailed to Europe, where he spent the next three years studying art at the Royal Academy in London, England. He was a good friend of Benjamin West. He wrote excellent sonnets that also serve as a record of history about certain people. From The Sonnet in American Literature we read his sonnet about his friend Benjamin West:



To My Venerable Friend, the President of the Royal Academy

From one unused in pomp of words to raise A courtly monument of empty praise, Where self, transpiring through the flimsy pile, Betrays the builder's ostentatious guile, Accept, O West, these unaffected lays, Which genius claims and grateful justice pays. Still green in age, thy vigorous powers impart The youthful freshness of a blameless heart: For thine, unaided by another's pain, The wiles of envy, or the sordid train Of selfishness, has been the manly race Of one who felt the purifying grace Of honest fame; nor found the effort vain E'en for itself to love thy soul-ennobling art.

From 1803 to 1808 Allston visited the great museums of Paris and then for several years those of Italy, where he met Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who became a lifelong friend. Samuel F. B. Morse was one of Allston's art pupils and accompanied Allston to Europe in 1811. We can remember Morse as a well-known early American historical artist who became a scientist and inventor. Allston traveled

Educating With Art!

Let your children be creative and encourage problem solving while studying the core subjects! Give them what they need to

grow in all the arts and sciences. Visual Manna's Teaching Through Art Series has been educating kids on geography, science, English and history for over 9 years. Get all 8 books for only \$135.00! And now we have a brand new book Lewis and Clark Hands On Art/English Activities that

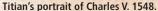
comes with art supplies and activity

packet for only \$39.95.

We offer wonderful art workshops for your support group! Get 6 full hours of art training by qualified professional artists. We also have an internet art class for highschool/junior high students.

We have a new creation science/ art newsletter that is FREE! For more information on our products and workshops call us toll free at 1-(888)-275-7309 or visit us on the web at http://www.visualmanna.com. You can also email us at <sjeffus@visualmanna.com>.







Florimell's Flight by Washington Allston, 1819.

throughout western Europe until he finally settled in London. He won awards and became a popular artist there. Do we influence younger members of our family to become artists? Allston did. He was the and Margaret Fuller, a writer, journalist, and advocate for women's rights. The list of people who were profoundly affected by Allston is like a "Who's Who" of early American history, when Boston was

The list of people who were profoundly affected by Allston is like a "Who's Who" of early American history.

uncle of the artists George Whiting Flagg and Jared Bradley Flagg, both of whom studied painting under him.

Allston was sometimes called the "American Titian" because his style resembled the great Venetian Renaissance artist in his display of dramatic color contrasts. Compare Titian's picture of Charles V, above left, with Allston's painting Florimell's Flight, above right. Do you see similarity between Allston's work and the work of the great Titian? Allston's work greatly influenced the development of U.S. landscape painting. The themes of many of his paintings were drawn from Bible stories. Allston himself was considered very religious.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge much admired Washington Allston's artistic genius. Ralph Waldo Emerson was strongly influenced by his paintings and poems, as were both Sophia Peabody, a painter and writer who married Nathaniel Hawthorne,

called "The Athens of America."

When Allston returned from visiting Paris a second time (he spent nearly 20 years in Europe), he continued practicing his profession in Boston (1818-1830), living in nearby Cambridge for 25 years. In 1831, Allston built a studio at the corner of present-day Magazine and Auburn streets, which he designed himself. It was shaped like a Greek temple, about 20 by 40 feet, large enough to house the giant paintings that were his stock in trade. He died on July 9, 1843, at age 64. Allston is buried in Harvard Square in "the Old Burying Ground" between the First Parish Church and Christ Church. The west Boston neighborhood of Allston was named for him.

For many years, Allston's importance as an artist faded. However, a new appreciation of the importance and uniqueness of Allston's work came in the 1940s, in response chiefly to the writings of E. P.

VOCABULARY of the Arts

atmospheric perspective A means of showing distance and depth in a painting by gradually changing the color and tone of objects that are "further away" to make the picture look realistic.

background The part of a picture that appears to be at a distance, behind the principal object(s) in the picture.

depth A sense of distance in a picture.

foreground The part of a picture that appears to be close, at the front.

portrait A realistic picture of a person.

romanticism An artistic movement in both Europe and the United States that characterized many works of literature, painting, music, and architecture from the late eighteenth century to the midnineteenth century. Romanticism sought to emphasize the individual, the personal, the emotional, and the transcendental aspects of man's interaction with the world.

seascape A picture primarily of the sky and sea.

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ 145

Richardson of the Detroit Institute of Art, the painter's principal biographer. Slowly, Allston's reputation has revived. A landmark exhibit of his work on the 200th anniversary of his birth, entitled "A Man of Genius," signaled Allston's full rehabilitation. The catalog of that exhibit described him as "a sensitive portraitist, the first major American landscape painter, perhaps the country's most important historical painter, and the most versatile draftsman of his time."

Allston greatly influenced not only the art world of his time but also the literary world. As a writer, Allston shows great facility of expression and imaginative power. His friend Coleridge (a portrait of whom by Allston is in the National Gallery) said of him that he was surpassed by no man of his age in artistic and poetic

He also wrote about his great country, America:

Yet, still, from either beach. The voice of blood shall reach, More audible than speech, "We are one!"

-"America to Great Britain"



William Ellery Channing, 1811.

Project One

After reading Allston's sonnet about Benjamin West, students can practice writing a sonnet about a friend or important person in their life. Allston not only wrote sonnets about his friends but also created portraits of them, such as his painting of William Ellery Channing at left. One of the most delightful projects I did with my children was to have them interview someone and write a character sketch or sonnet from the interview (see the sidebar at bottom left for basic information about sonnets) and then do a portrait of the person they interviewed. A visit to a rest home is an encouragement to the people there, and they love the attention. If time is a consideration, a camera can be used to photograph the subject. Students can do a sonnet from their interview and draw a portrait.

Have your students follow the diagram below to correctly place facial features as they draw their

portrait.

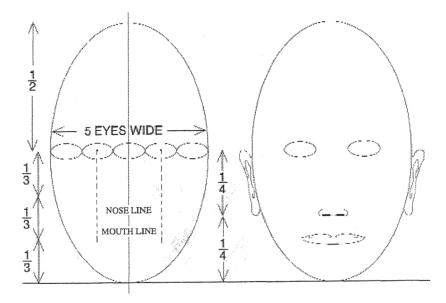
It is a good idea to have your students take a photograph of a face, cut it in half, and glue it onto drawing paper. Then have them draw the missing half. This will

Sonnets were first recited with the accompaniment of a mandolin or lute and were very popular in the 1200s and 1300s in Italy. A sonnet is a 14-line lyrical poem, usually in iambic pentameter, with a varied rhyme scheme. The two main types of sonnet are the Petrarchan (or Italian) and the Shakespearean, which is probably the most popular.

The Petrarchan sonnet is divided into two main sections, the octave (first eight lines) and the sestet (last six lines). The octave presents a problem or situation that is resolved or commented on in the sestet. The most common rhyme scheme is a-b-b-a, a-b-b-a, c-d-e-c-de, although variations can occur.

The Shakespearean sonnet has a final rhyming couplet (pair of lines) that states the theme or makes a surprising point. Its rhyme scheme is typically a-b-a-b, c-d-c-d, e-f-e-f, g-g.

Dimensions of a Face



Look at the fractions to see how far down the eyes need to be and where the nose and mouth lines should be.

Ears are between the eye line and the nose line.

The difference is in the details. When you have lightly drawn your preliminary lines, put on your details using shading, shadow, and texture.



Rising of a Thunderstorm at Sea, 1804. Washington Allston. Photograph © 2007 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

teach them not only about symmetry but also about how to shade and shadow the lips, eyes, and mouth. Go to my website for a free lesson you can download on drawing faces: www.visualmanna.com/index.pl/free_homeschool_art_lesson.html.

Project Two

Have your students study Allston's *Rising of a Thunderstorm at Sea* (above) and copy it using the instructions on the following page. Copying a master artist can teach an older student technique.

Rising of a Thunderstorm at Sea

When looking at this master artwork, we notice that this is a seascape. A seascape is primarily a picture of the sea and sky. You can see the horizon line (the place where the sky and land meet) in the background of the picture. The ocean gets lighter toward the horizon line. The sky is darker blue at the top and also gets lighter

toward the horizon line—just as the color of the sky appears lighter toward the horizon on a clear day. This is an example of atmospheric perspective. The boat in the foreground is larger and the boat in the background is smaller. This shows depth in the picture. These are elements you can put in your own artwork to make it look realistic.

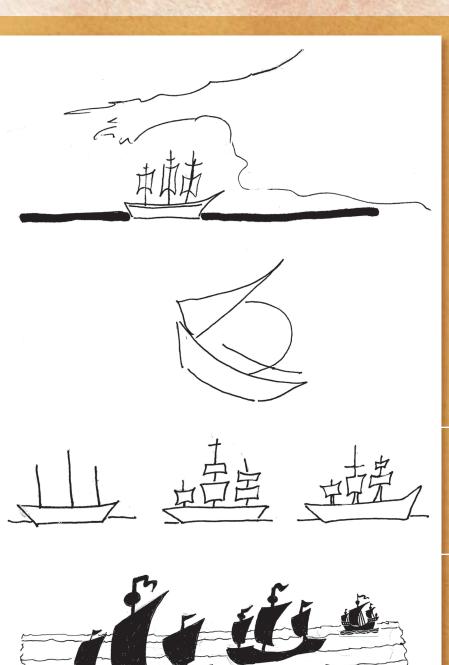
Another picture by Allston using atmospheric perspective is *Coast Scene on the Mediterranean*, shown at right. Notice that the boats in the foreground are larger and darker. The horizon line in the distance fades into the sky.

Sharon Jeffus of Visual Manna graduated with a BSSE in art education from John Brown University and then went on to get her certification to teach English from the University of Arkansas. She studied painting at Metropolitan in Denver and sculpting at Southern Illinois

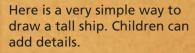


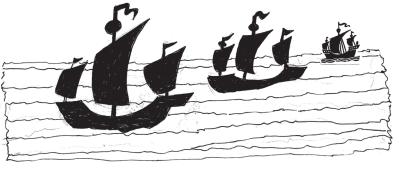
Coast Scene on the Mediterranean, 1811.

University. A homeschool mom, Sharon has written over 20 books on teaching art and focusing on using art to reinforce core learning for visual and kinesthetic learners. Her new six-book reading program, Artsy Animals Learn to Read, combines integration of drawing, reading phonetically, science, vocabulary, and being kind to each to each other. You can contact Sharon at sjeffus@visualmanna.com or call 1-888-275-7309. Go to visual manna.com for free lessons and more information.

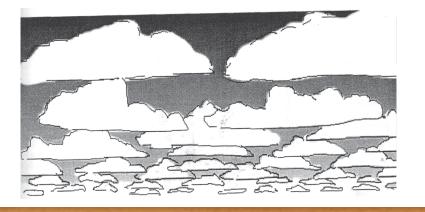


Have students create a preliminary sketch to mark the space before beginning to paint.





The important thing to note while copying the painting is that things in the foreground are larger and things in the background are smaller.



Shade the sky so that the sky shown at the top of the painting, in the foreground, is darker blue and gets lighter as it approaches the horizon line in the background.

148 Fine Arts and Music www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

Quality Homeschool Software—for FREE!

Pay only shipping & delivery for free, full-version educational software. No clubs to join and no hidden fees!

Over 500 titles from Pre-K through High School and beyond!

DVD software covering math, reading, typing, science, history, geography foreign languages, music, art, health & fitness, reference, crafts and much much more!

Choose from the brand names you've grown to trust:

Scholastic, Britannica, Sesame Street, Crayola, DK, Golden Books, Bible Library, Brighter Child, Speedstudy, Knowledge Adventure, LEGO, Hasbro and more!





The Best Homeschool Software Source!

www.planetcdrom.com/homeschool



Breakthrough Music Program. Turn Your Love of Music into a Career You May Have Never Dreamed Possible!

Simply Music is a remarkable, Australian-developed piano method that offers a breakthrough in both music learning and teaching. This revolutionary program has students of all ages playing great-sounding contemporary, classical, gospel, blues and accompaniment pieces - immediately - from their very first lessons!

In contrast to traditional methods, Simply Music's revolutionary approach sets a new standard in music education and completely transforms the very nature of music learning. With a successful and rapidly-growing network of teachers throughout Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States, Simply Music has consistently proven that it culturally redefines who is capable of teaching music. Although our teachers include advanced musicians and those with extensive, prior piano-teaching experience, remarkably, many of our most successful teachers were piano hobbyists, self-taught musicians, those with no formal music education, as well as piano enthusiasts who were novice musicians with very basic playing skills. The simple fact is that this unique program can be successfully taught by people who are not advanced musicians, have no formal musical qualifications, nor prior teaching experience!

There are many people who have had a lifelong love of, or a calling to music. If you've ever had a dream of pursuing music, and turning your love of music into a part- or full-time occupation, the Simply Music program has the capacity to fulfill many needs at many levels. Our invitation is for you to consider becoming a part of this fast-growing, multi-national community of teachers, all of whom are playing a role in bringing about a new era of results in self-expression and music learning.

I'm 15 years old and have been homeschooled my entire life, I recently completed my teacher training. I now have 14 students and am amazed at how quickly they are progressing. As a business opportunity, this has been incredible. I set my own hours, work at home, and I'm being paid to do what I love. Chelsea Quigley - Ohio

This is a wonderful music program and the results are astounding! Even if you don't consider yourself musically talented, this program is designed for you! I also think this program could be a major breakthrough for children with a variety of cognitive delays and learning disabilities. I love Simply Music's approach.

Dr. Anne Margaret Wright (Psy.D.)

This method is a breakthrough. Not only had I never taught before, but I couldn't even play piano before Simply Music. Now I have a studio of about 150 students. I teach, and also have other teachers who work for me. This has been a blessing. I love it and am a part of something truly special.

Sonia Castro - Sacramento

For nine years I taught a method which was faster and simpler than the traditional approach, but the Simply Music program has blown even that out of the water. The program is genius in its simplicity. Kerry Halbert - Perth, Australia

> To find out more about Simply Music, visit www.simplymusic.com or call:

> > 916 486 1200



BOOK PEDDLER

Discount Books wo 50% off!

Shipping only \$4.95!

"Living Books" • Unit Studies Apologia Science • Biographies Easy Grammar • Saxon Math Common Sense Press • Doorposts

Beautiful Feet • Peace Hill Press Mystery of History • Wordly Wise Spelling Power • Pathway Readers

Five in a Row • Classic literature

Handwriting Without Tears Reason for Handwriting **Dover Coloring Books** and a whole lot more....

www.BookPeddler.us 1-800-928-1760



Delivered to You Monthly • Enjoyed by You Daily

Enjoy Fine Art in Your Home

Learn about classic art with your family



Receive a new classic piece of art and biographical sketch to enjoy and study every month, frame included.

Visit us on the web @ Art-Share.com or call us at (936) 756-1112



www.KinderBach.com

God Made Music

...music education study for five year old kindergarten through grade 7.

Star Series Bible

...Bible workbooks for grades 1 through 6.

Hymnplayer

...piano books that teach all ages how to play hymns.

Alphagator Al

...preschool workbooks that teach alphabet letters and sounds.

Visit our web site

PraiseHymnInc.com

for a complete description of these and all of our products, or call for a complete catalog. Call Now...

1-800-729-2821





Warning: All Bible Translation is Commentary

If you don't know how to read the Bible in it's original language, then you are simply reading someone else's opinion of how the Bible should be translated. Furthermore, so many beautiful idioms, pictures, and word-plays are lost in the translation. Wouldn't you prefer to read the Bible the way God wrote it? Reading the Bible in English is like kissing your bride through a veil. Now you can remove that veil



"At Home with Hebrew" teaches you to read the Hebrew alphabet in 13 Easy Lessons. Each lesson introduces only two new

letters and includes dozens of exercises and interactive voice to make the process easy and enjoyable. It teaches both printed and cursive Hebrew letters, along with songs, prayers, numbers, telling time, "The Top 400 Words of the Hebrew Bible", and some very basic modern Hebrew. There are over 700 screens and 2700 sound files in this program. It can be used as a quick start to learn the Hebrew alphabet, or can actually be used for an entire semester of study.

"Hebrew Kindergarten" will be available August 1. It takes up where "At Home with Hebrew" leaves off, using eight engaging children's stories to teach both modern and Biblical Hebrew from the very beginning (only assumes you know the Hebrew alphabet). This package is truly multimedia, including interactive software, printed materials, video lessons, drills, quizzes, games, and over 8 hours of Israeli-recorded programmed lessons on either MP3 or audio-CD. At two weeks per story, this product could be used for one semester of study.

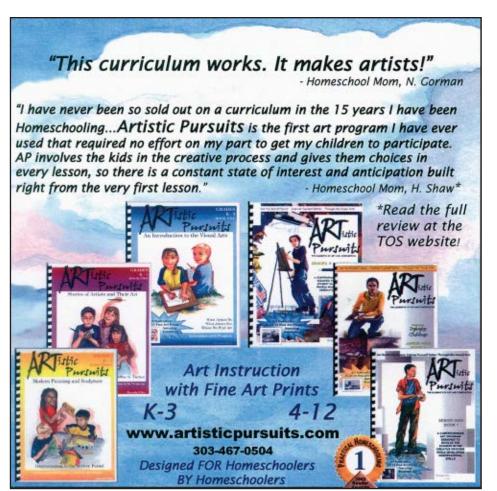
Each program was designed with homeschoolers in mind. Each student has a logon, and lessons, quizzes, and accomplishments are tracked for each student. Optional internet classroom and graded homework with an Israeli is soon to be added.

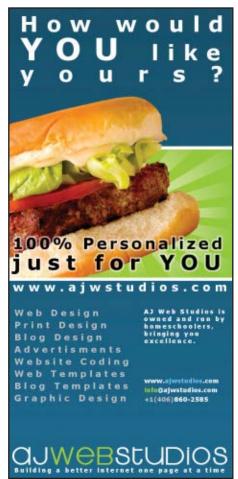
Use the coupon code "oldschool" for 15% off your first order. Free Video Demo of All Software http://Hebrew-Resources.com





150 Fine Arts and Music www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com







www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **151**

Little Artists

Nautical Adventures: The America's Cup

This summer, the thirty-second sailing of the America's Cup was held off the coast of Valencia, Spain. Qualifying races began on April 16, and the final race took place on July 3, with the defending Swiss champs retaining their hold on the historic trophy.

ith 150 years of history and tradition, the America's Cup is the oldest and most prestigious regatta in the sport of sailing, and its trophy is the oldest active trophy in world. The America's Cup predates the World Cup (soccer), Davis Cup (tennis), Stanley Cup (hockey), and Walker Cup (golf).

The America's Cup is named after the schooner America, which was commissioned by members of the New York Yacht Club to compete in a regatta held in conjunction with the 1851 London World's Fair. The yacht club members agreed to pay the designer and builder of the 100-foot-long racing schooner a sum of \$30,000 if the yacht could beat all competitors in a series of races. If the yacht didn't win, the designers would get nothing.

The America, whose unique design was modeled after working fishing schooners of the day, defeated its English rivals from the Royal Yacht Squadron and launched the United States's 113-year-long winning streak—the longest winning streak in the world of sports. It also started the tradition of bringing only the very best in technology, design, teamwork, and sailing skills to this history-rich race.

In 1857, the owners of the America's Cup donated the trophy to the New York Yacht Club as a "Perpetual Challenge

Cup for friendly combetween petition foreign countries." In its 150-year history, there have been

31 challenges for the right to claim the America's Cup. For over a century, no one could beat the United States. In 1983, the Australia II, featuring a revolutionary winged keel, won the cup, finally ending the United States's long winning record. U.S. teams won the trophy back in 1987, held it in challenges in 1988 and 1992, and then lost it to New Zealand in 1995. New Zealand held the cup against Italy in 2000 but, in 2003, was defeated by Switzerland who, for the first time ever, brought the

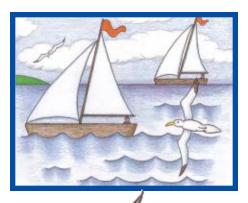
This summer marked the thirty-second sailing of this great race. Twelve teams from ten countries sailed against each other over a four-month period. New Zealand fended off other teams to become the top challenger and went on to meet the defending Swiss champion, Alinghi, off the waters of Valencia, Spain. On July 3, Alinghi beat the New Zealand team in a photo-finish race, successfully defending their title to the American's Cup.

Learn more about the America's Cup online at the race's official website, www .americascup.com. Look under the toolbar labeled AC-CLOPAEDIA and click on Understanding the Cup. From there, go to the link labeled The Cup For Beginners (www.americascup.com/en/acclopaedia/ understanding/beginners/index.php) and click down the toolbar to the right for in-

formative and interactive pages that explain key facts and details on the race, the boats, the crews, the rules, the course, and more.

Carolyn Hurst

As the publisher of the award-winning Draw•Write•Now® series of books, Carolyn Hurst has spent the last decade researching how children learn



A-Z List of Nautical Terms

Practice your dictionary skills by looking up these sailing terms.

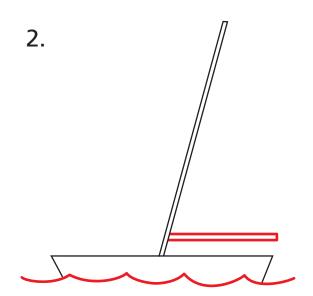
Make your own Nautical Alphabet book! Visit www.schoonerman .com/sailingterms/index.html for more A-Z words and their definitions.

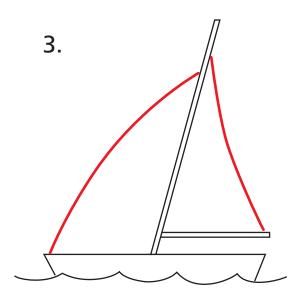
nautical mile Avast! batten down outhaul cast off pennant dory quay ebb rudder fore schooner gale tack heel underway in irons vane whisker pole jib ketch xiphias lee yacht mast zephyr

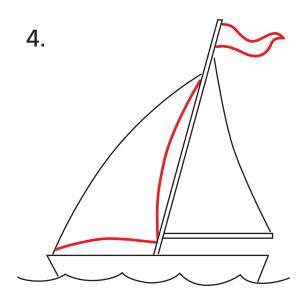
to draw and the benefits of teaching directed drawing. Carolyn, her husband, Steve, and their two children, Natalie and Evan, share their Poulsbo, Washington, farm with three dogs, a cat, two pygmy goats, five horses, and a rooster named Napoleon.

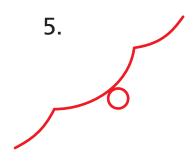
Sailboat in the Wind

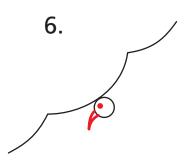


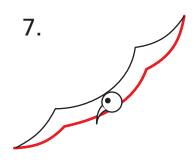






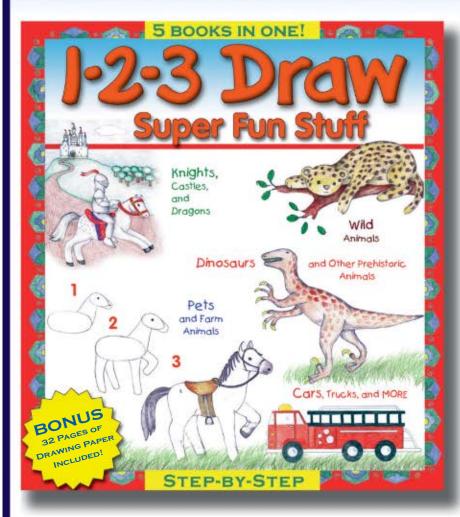






SPECIAL OFFER!

This special binder-style edition includes 32 pages of drawing paper and the contents of five popular how-to-draw books.



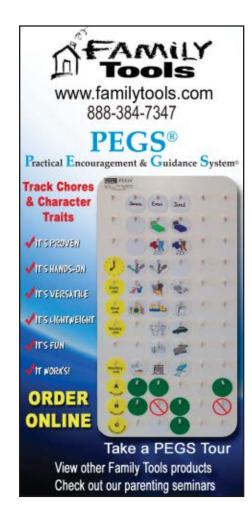
- * 1-2-3 Draw Knights, Castles, and Dragons
- * 1-2-3 Draw Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Animals
 - * 1-2-3 Draw Wild Animals
 - * 1-2-3 Draw Pets and Farm Animals
 - * 1-2-3 Draw Cars. Trucks and Other Vehicles

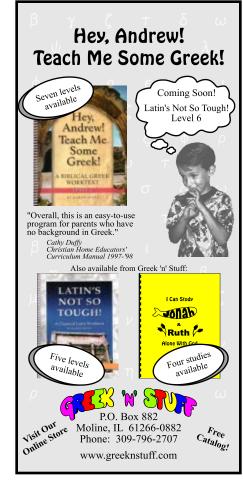
Purchased separately, these five books cost \$44.95. With this special bindup edition, you save almost \$25!

Visit WWW.123draw.com or phone

(800) 345-6665

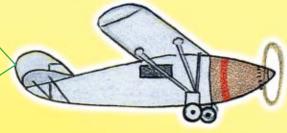
* Offer limited to stock on hand - act now *



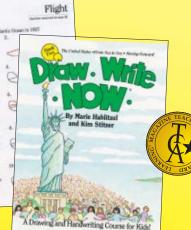


154 Little Artists www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

Learn to Draw Step-by-Step







...aND STRENGTHEN WRITING SKILLS. TOO!

Draw · Write · Now ·

Award-Winning Eight Book Series

Available from your favorite school supply dealer!

Call For a FREE Barker Creek Catalog 800,692,5833



educational products at www.barkercreek.com





Best Art Curriculum Voted #1

How Great Thou Publications

Like having An Art Teacher in Your Home!

1st Place Awards: * The Old Shoolhouse * Practical Homeschooling

* Cathy Duffy's Top 100

Highly Recommended by:

- * Homeschooling Today
- * Mary Pride

Satisfaction Guaranteed!



ART for All Ages! *Beginning Drawing

*Beginning Painting *Art History

*& Much More!

How To Teach ART (a \$7.95 value) by Barry Stebbing

FREE with any purchase \$30.00 or more (when mentioning this ad)

> Call for a FREE Catalog: (800) 982-DRAW (3729)

PO Box 48 Mc Farlan, NC 28102 sales@howgreatthouart.com www.howgreatthouart.com

Homeschooling and American **Heritage Girls**

By Sarah Small





Left: Troop TN0131 at their father-daughter campout. Photo by Lynn Freeny. Right: Two AHG Explorers.

merican Heritage Girls (AHG) is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country. Like other scouting organizations,



AHG offers merit badges, service projects, leadership opportunities, and outdoor activities. But the vision of AHG is different from that of its secular counterpart: American Heritage Girls embraces time-honored moral standards while encouraging each member to grow in her faith in God, personal integrity, family values, citizenship, and community service. AHG is unabashedly Christian, recognizing that there is no greater purpose than providing a firm foundation for our children. As AHG Founder Patti Garibay says, "Through diligence, commitment, and sacrifice, our daughters can enjoy an environment that upholds the Truth while allowing joy-filled living."

When Boy Scouts of America was celebrating its 85th anniversary a decade ago, AHG was just a handful of families

determined to make a change in the world of scouting. Disappointed with the evershifting values of the Girl Scouts, Garibay decided that she could offer something different—something that provided clear Christian moral guidelines and emphasized character-building on a firm foundation. From 100 Cincinnati-area girls in 1995 to over 6,000 members in 32 states in 2007, American Heritage Girls has experienced explosive growth. Thousands of families across the nation have joined AHG, and, for Christian homeschoolers, the group is a natural fit.

Our Troop's Journey

My own journey with American Heritage Girls began in 2003. My daughter was part of our co-op's Girl Scout troop. We had a fantastic Christian leader. But some of us also had boys in Cub Scouts, and we became increasingly aware of the vast differences between the Boy Scouts (BSA) and Girl Scouts (GSUSA). At the time, BSA was in the public eye because the organization had again refused to allow homosexual leaders. BSA was often portrayed in the media as the stubborn cousin to the morally flexible GSUSA.

Add GSUSA's shifting value system to the decision to drop the mandatory oath to honor God ("when reciting the Girl Scout Promise, it is okay to replace the word 'God' with whatever word your spiritual beliefs dictate"), and we parents were convicted that we needed a different scouting organization. We "stumbled" ultimately upon American Heritage Girls. The program we had envisioned had already been established! We gathered information and held a meeting to determine local interest.

Sheila Jackson was thrilled about the possibility of associating with AHG: "I wanted my girls to grow up with everything centered around Christ, and I wanted to be around other parents who felt the same way. I wanted my kids to have a love for family first and an attitude of serving in our community and country above a desire for 'Girl Power.' That's not what it's all about."

Jackson's three girls were among the charter members of our Troop TN0131, established in August 2003. Just a month earlier, my co-chair, Caroline Milne, and I approached the leadership of First Christian Church of Maryville, Tennessee,







Above, left-right: AHG scouts proudly display their badges; AHG scout carries a horse feed bucket; a Georgia troop visits an area nursing home at Christmastime.

about chartering a troop. After reading the material sent by AHG's national office, the church leaders agreed to charter a troop. Now in our fourth year, our troop has grown from 35 girls to nearly 80.

A Place to Connect

American Heritage Girls is a natural fit for homeschoolers. All but two of our troop's members are homeschooled, although we are open to anyone. Susan Glenn, chair of NC0001, says her troop is about 60 percent homeschooled. Some troops, such as Knoxville's Troop TN0215, are open only to homeschoolers. More and more homeschooling support groups are chartering AHG troops, including Middle Tennessee Home Education Association's Troop TN1004.

American Heritage Girls is a natural fit for homeschoolers.

We begin each meeting with a flag ceremony and devotion. Troop meetings focus mainly on badge work and service projects. Service is an integral part of the program. Our troop performs many hours of service, from packing care bags for foster kids to reading poetry at nursing homes and more. These girls define love in action.

Not only do the badges and service enrich any homeschooling program, but girls have a safe place to build relationships. Meetings provide an opportunity for girls to interact on a regular basis. And the relationship building isn't just for girls: AHG is family-focused. To make scouting easier for families, our homeschool-

ing support group's Cub Scout pack meets concurrently with AHG. This "one-stop shopping" makes it easier for families who have children in both groups. Each month we plan an optional family activity. Annual events include a Family Sunset Hike, Fall Campfire-Hayride, Mother-Daughter-Grandmother Christmas Tea, and the much-loved Father-Daughter Campout.

Badges and Home Learning: A Natural Fit

AHG has 60 badges, which can easily be incorporated into any home education program. Badges, which can be earned at three levels, are categorized into six "frontiers": Heritage, Family Living, Arts, Outdoor Skills, Personal Well-Being, and Science and Technology. The AHG Handbook is like a personal guide to 60 multi-level unit studies!

Susan Glenn sees homeschooling and AHG as a natural blend: "If you think about it, you can use AHG as a supplement at home or you can use homeschooling materials to supplement the troop time." While girls are not required to do badges outside of troop time, most families look upon these "outside" badges as a great opportunity.

"Kitchen Scientist," for example, is a complete unit study for all ages. Younger children can conduct taste tests, while older children can investigate leavening agents. Karen Metcalf, homeschooling mom of five, says that working on badges has given the whole family ideas. She has found that badge work provides an opportunity for Sarah, age 10, to have quality time with her grandmother. "My mom volunteered to work on my daughter's sewing badge with her, so Sarah has been

meeting with my mom weekly for a sewing lesson. Being a part of AHG helped to create more bonding between Sarah and her grandmom."

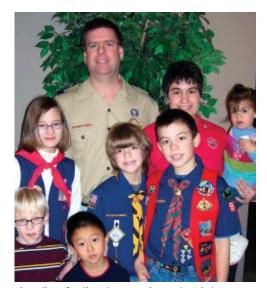
Julie Griesen has been a leader in AHG for four years. "As an AHG leader and mother, I try to find ways to incorporate badge requirements with our regular homeschooling activities. We are doing a lot of badge requirements at home without even realizing [it]." Griesen also incorporates AHG with a scrapbooking class she teaches at her local homeschooling coop. While the class is open to any co-op family, Griesen says that most are AHG



Girls in Troop NM0002 work on the sewing badge.

members. In the first session the girls completed their Memory Maker badge. This time around they are focusing on the Ancestor Detector badge. "I decided to tailor the scrapbooking class to match the badge requirements," says Griesen. "We are making a family heritage scrapbook." By the end of the 10-week class, girls will

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **157**



The Wilson family enjoys supplementing their homeschool studies with Boy Scouting and American Heritage Girls.

not only have earned their badge but will also have a family history keepsake to treasure.

Penny McIntosh says her girls, one of whom was a former Girl Scout member. love AHG. As McIntosh says, "I was a bit skeptical about getting them involved in another organization that was not much more than a craft and play club. AHG has proven to be more than that. I feel they are truly learning something valuable that they can extend into their lives as students and as responsible citizens." In October the family spent five weeks in Costa Rica while dad Harry prepared for a bike race. Penny made a point of taking the AHG handbook on the trip, and the girls wove both the Travel and the Cycling badges into their Costa Rican adventure.

Serving Others

Service is an integral part of AHG, and homeschooling families find myriad ways to incorporate service into their lifestyle. Metcalf explains, "Paying attention to making opportunities for service has been really good for our kids. Instead of groaning about going to help clean the church, Sarah was cheerful about it. Plus, AHG has made service opportunities available, such as visiting a local nursing home. This has helped my girls develop the mentality that it is a good thing to help others."

Explorer Leader Lara Gresham agrees. "AHG has helped us with community service responsibility. Brianna and I pulled countless pounds of garbage out of our local river. We collected car batteries, plastic bottles, tires, metal scrap, old inner

AHG and Homeschooling from a Girl's Perspective

By Jessica Browning

I began my journey with American Heritage Girls in 1996, when I was in the third grade. Two moms from my family's homeschool support group agreed to start and lead a troop for girls within the group. After a few years, we moved on to a troop consisting of girls from public, private, and home schools. Troop OH0025, in Cincinnati, Ohio, is where I earned my Stars and Stripes award and continue to be a member, providing leadership to the youngest girls and helping the chairperson with administrative duties.



American Heritage Girls has provided me with opportunities to be with girls my age who come from families that value the same things my family

Being homeschooled allowed me the opportunity to incorporate badge requirements into my curriculum. The zoology badge, for example, became part of my science studies, and the money management badge was part of my life skills curriculum. Homeschooling and AHG also encouraged me to earn badges that I wouldn't otherwise have pursued, such as the fishing and aviation badges. I also had time to earn badges that I really enjoyed, like the cooking and snow skiing/

snowboarding badges. The horsemanship badge was a lot of fun to earn because my troop went on an overnight camping trip where we learned how to groom and care for horses. After they were bridled and saddled we were able to trail ride to our campsite.

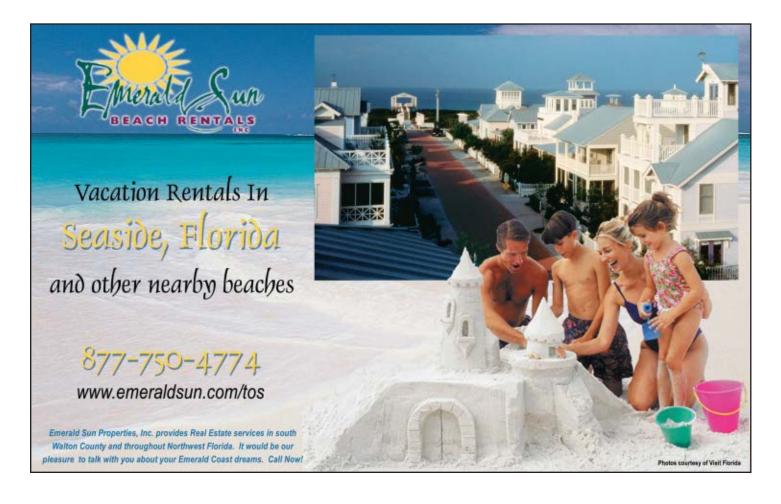
One of my most memorable experiences came while I was working on earning my citizenship and government badge. One of the requirements for that was to write a letter to a United States Representative requesting a flag that had flown over the United States Capitol. This experience taught me how to write a formal letter to a U.S. representative and enabled me to practice my public speaking skills when I presented the flag to my troop.

Service to the community is also a major part of American Heritage Girls. In AHG I was motivated not only to perform the minimum hours of service needed as part of earning a level award but to earn additional service stars when I discovered that I had abilities I could use to help others. Some of the activities I did on my own included assisting with a children's choir during my junior high and high school years, helping with Vacation Bible School and the Christmas pageant at church, and preparing and serving dinners at church and for homeschool leaders. Two of our troop's service projects that I really enjoyed were making blankets for children placed in foster care and baking cookies for prisoners.

A major blending of American Heritage Girls and homeschooling came when I decided to earn my Stars and Stripes Award (the AHG equivalent to the Eagle Scout award in Boy Scouts). This award requires completing 10 badges, providing leadership in one's troop, and a service project of a minimum of 100 man-hours. The project portion requires a detailed project proposal and final write-up. I was also required to keep detailed records of each step of the project. These requirements became the basis for much of my curriculum during my junior year of high school. While working on completing my Stars and Stripes award, I was able to improve my leadership, project management, writing, and public speaking skills. I earned the award in May 2005.

Homeschooling allowed me to take full advantage of the American Heritage Girls program.

Jessica Browning is one of only twelve girls to have earned the Stars and Stripes award. She is still active in Troop OH0025 and serves on the AHG Heart of America Council Board of Directors. She also was the coordinator of the National Pen Pal Program for 2006-2007.



tubes, rafts, and a TV." Service hour requirements vary according to level, from 5 hours to 20, but rarely does a girl do "just" the minimum.

In 2006 the girls in our troop logged 1,100 service hours. From reading to the elderly to picking up trash, these girls are learning to be servants. Encouraging a lifestyle of service prepares Kingdom workers, and that's what AHG is all about.

"AHG would be the last thing I would ever drop off our schedule!"

Starting a Troop

The hand of God is evident in American Heritage Girls. It is beautiful to hear girls reciting the AHG Oath in unison: "I promise to love God, cherish my family, honor my country, and serve in my community." How encouraging to hear a parent say, "AHG would be the last thing I would ever drop off our schedule!"

As Glenn says, "I couldn't imagine separating AHG and homeschooling." I encourage homeschooling parents to consider forming a troop. Ask your church or even your homeschooling support group if they would prayerfully consider chartering a troop. The AHG headquarters has literature that you can share with a potential charter. If you are interested in learning more, please visit the website at www.ahgonline.org.

Sonah Small

Sarah Small and her husband, Randy, homeschool their three children, Jesse (14), Laurel (9), and Duncan (6), in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains in East Tennessee. Sarah co-leads American Heritage Girls Troop TN131; teaches writing and grammar classes for her local support group, Blount Home Education Association; and blogs at www. HomeschoolBlogger.com/SmallWorld.



Morning meeting—with a bobcat.
Close encounter with a porcupine.
Getting to know an Oregon Trail pioneer.

Every day is Wild here.

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

Just south of Bend on Highway 97 541.382.4754 | highdesertmuseum.org

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **159**

How Civil Air Patrol Enabled One Cadet to

Cross into the Blue

By Jonathan Unrue, with editorial assistance from Mom, Dad, Sam, and Matt!

Follow the Leader

Not just a game for kids!

"Follow the Certified Flight Instructor's (CFI's) directions and you'll have a perfect flight," I tell myself as I climb into the Cessna 172. We go through the "before start" checklist. As the engine sputters to life, butterflies flutter in my stomach. "Taxi to ...," I follow the instructions my CFI gives. On the edge of the runway, we follow the final checklist. Behind me my buddy, a passenger waiting his turn to fly, is asleep. I sit in the cockpit, alert for any final instructions.

I'm a 17-year-old homeschool student attending what my transcript describes as FAA Flight Training, a practical arts elective. For an A, I need to get my FAA private pilot's license. There isn't any place I'd rather be. My parents support this because of the leadership training I received in Civil Air Patrol (CAP). In CAP, I realized that the first step in learning to lead is learning to follow.

Leadership Through **Exploring**

Follow your interests and join CAP!

My dad is a former cadet and introduced me to CAP when I was 12, the youngest age permitted in the program. At my first meeting, I was impressed by how well the cadets followed orders. Soon after I joined, I got to take my first CAP orientation flight in both a powered aircraft and a glider. That day I decided to become a pilot. A caricature that my parents had done at that time shows me in a flight suit in front of a CAP plane. It is still displayed in my home.

CAP is the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, the only such organization in America. CAP is a benevolent society and holds no enlistments or commissions. It is a volunteer organization and requires all senior officers (21 and over) to have a criminal background check as a condition for membership. The



Introducing the Unrue brothers, Sam, Jon (me), and Matt

Air Force has assigned three missions to CAP: cadet programs, aerospace education, and emergency services (which includes homeland security).

Each squadron is unique in its focus. Families unfamiliar with CAP should look for a squadron that is strong in cadet programs. Emporia Composite Squadron (ECS), my home squadron in Kansas, places cadet programs at top priority. We have families with two and three generations as members. Begin your squadron search at www.cap.gov, click on "Join," and then "Find Units Near Me."

Leadership Through Followership

Promoted to cadet airman basic.

Cadet programs is the mission you are immediately exposed to when joining CAP. Cadets learn moral leadership, discipline, and good study techniques. All presentations are interactive. Cadets are tested in leadership, aerospace, and physical fitness for advancement. All cadets begin at airman basic and can progress, through 16 steps, to colonel. Parents are always welcome to attend. Disruptive younger siblings are not.

CAP cadet encampments are a learning experience in responsibility, respect, organization, time management, and teamwork. The basic encampment is your ticket to the coveted National Cadet Special Activities (NCSAs). Cadets must go before a wing (state) review board to be ranked for NCSA opportunities.

These activities range in cost from the \$100 Weather School to the \$850 Flight Academies, lodging and meals included. Transportation is not included but can be shared with other members.

Local units offer their own unique experiences. Last year ECS offered Weekend Flight Frenzy. During the course of three weekends, we flew in both powered planes and gliders, camped, toured a World War II era bomber, and had a huge picnic. This year the cadet staff planned weekend emergency services training, including a ten-mile hike in full gear. WHEW!



Matt coming in for a landing during Weekend Flight Frenzy.

The airmen and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) are permitted to compete for spots on squadron color guard. The color guard marches in parades, presents the flags at events, and competes for awards. Often they are the squadron's important "first impression." Honor guard is the officers' color guard and is more advanced.



Sam and Matt on guard at Timmerman Grave, Veterans Day 2006. Located in Emporia, Kansas, site of the first Veterans Day celebration in America, it is guarded all day by CAP cadets.

Leadership Through Responsibility

Promoted to cadet NCO and more followership.

CAP reaches out to the community by supplying aerospace education resources



A cadet tests his rocket design for stability.

to teachers. These resources are also used in instructing cadets. You get to build and launch rockets. The course material is comprehensive and requires extra study time to prepare for testing.

In 2005, I attended National Blue Beret in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This activity operates in conjunction with the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual fly-in. I got to marshal planes, view the exhibits, and meet famous figures from aviation, like Dick and Burt Rutan (designers of *Spaceship One*), Mike Mellville (first civilian astronaut), and Scott Crossfield.



The finished design clears the tower!

In 2006 I went to the National Flight Academy in Muskogee, Oklahoma. During this activity I flew every day. I made great friends, and we gave each other nicknames. My fellow cadets christened me "Crash" after a few not-so-gentle landings. Some of the cadets got to solo. At the farewell banquet, the mayor swore each of

us in as honorary "Okies from Muskogee." It doesn't get any better than that. On my return from this event, I enrolled in flight school to complete my pilot training. CAP has scholarships available to help.

Leadership Through Accountability

Promoted to cadet officer and more followership.

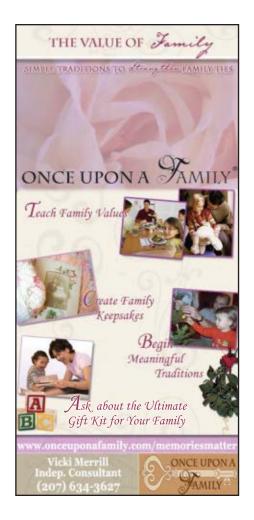
A call comes in from the squadron commander. Are we available for a mission? I reply affirmative and relay the



That's me flying high in the back seat of a 172 on a CAP orientation flight. All cadets are given the opportunity to participate in this activity.



www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **161**



instructions to my mom and brothers. "I want to stay here so we can have everyone over for dinner after the mission!" Mom replies. I sigh. "You're licensed to drive the CAP vehicle, and Dad goes to Dallas in two hours. Sam and Matt could get a CAP Find Ribbon from this! Mom, do you know what a big deal this is?" "I do now," she replies. Dad calls to finalize plans to be taken to the airport. Mom responds, "I won't be here—we've been called out on a mission. Leave the car in long-term. Guess I'll order pizza for dinner." Dad stares ahead, quietly reflecting, "I've entered the twilight zone."

That sentiment continued a month later when not only my brothers but also my mom was awarded the CAP Find Ribbon.

Emergency Services spans many different sub-missions, the most notable being Search and Rescue. When a plane goes down, it transmits a radio signal from an Emergency Locating Transmitter (ELT), which is picked up by an Air Force satellite. The Air Force determines what state the signal is coming from and assigns the mission to the appropriate CAP wing. That wing will then send out the airplanes and/or ground teams.

CAP also assists local authorities in missing person searches and disaster relief. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, CAP took aerial photographs, ran shelters, handed out relief supplies, and assisted with damage estimates. ECS actually helped set up a shelter in Kansas after Hurricane Katrina.

In 2005 I attended the National Emergency Services Academy at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. I passed all the requirements for Ground Team Member. A CAP form 76 or Radio Operators Card allows me to use the radios that are carried by ground teams and installed in CAP vehicles and aircraft.



Sam and Matt carefully turn the propeller of a B-17 to clear the engine and prepare it for startup. The airplane was on its way home from an air show and stopped at Emporia to refuel.

Leadership Through **Patriotism**

Senior officers meet the challenge of homeland security.

CAP senior officers like to quip, "We were homeland security when homeland security wasn't cool!" CAP has, in fact, been doing homeland security since World War II.

A CAP pilot flew the first plane in the air, to take aerial photographs of the World Trade Center Towers, on 9/11. The surprised senior officer who received the initial call from headquarters followed his orders and the regulations. Some of his photographs can be found on the CAP website.

Leadership and Your Future

"Cadet Major Unrue, if you want a different view you have to be the lead dog!"

The university I applied to hosts a Corps of Cadets whose highest-ranking member is a five-star general. She's a real dog. Literally, the corps mascot is an American collie. Some question, "Neat, but why?" Thanks to my time spent in CAP I don't wonder. In the real world, there will always be someone ahead of you, a top dog. A clear view is often a signal that you have reached your goal and need to look for new opportunities. Or maybe you're just lost-in which case one of our ground teams might be looking for you!

Follow the Leader

I'm grateful for the insight and support.

"Muskogee traffic, CAP FLIGHT 3526 taking off runway 35, Muskogee." I slowly push the throttle up to the firewall and accelerate. As the airspeed increases, I pull back on the control stick and the little Cessna jumps into the air. The horizon drops below my field of view. I pause to enjoy the moment as I cross into the blue. The responsibility I feel for the occupants and myself is defining. I radio my intentions to land and take off, "touch and go" in pilot speak. As I line the plane up with the runway my CFI takes a breath and begins giving me instructions. I'm ready to take on responsibility and follow—or lead! 🚠

Jonathan Unrue

Jonathan has been homeschooled for eight years. He completed his Solo Flight in November 2006 and is now working toward his "ticket," or private pilot's license. Jonathan has been accepted into the Mechanical Engineering Program at Kansas State University and is a K-State Foundation Scholarship recipient. He intends to always stay involved in CAP, of course!



HOMESCHOOLOPOLY®



GREAT FUN FOR THOSE LONG HOT SUMMER DAYS!



The game also includes numerous freebies, discounts, and coupons. It's like getting the game for free! You might even get a SILVER or GOLD ticket! Curious? For details, pictures and testimonials, visit our website! While there, check out Pamela Berthume's new book...



Visit our special page for The Old Schoolhouse readers:

www.homeschoolopoly.com/tos.htm or call 1-800-471-4354





Cross-Cultural Studies **Firsthand**

A Homeschool Grad Goes to College in Japan

By Matthew Lickey

ne of the most important lessons I learned as a homeschool student is that learning can take many forms and most of life's most important lessons are taught outside the classroom. This has been especially true during the last seven months I have spent attending Temple University in Tokyo, Japan. Every day here has been a new chance to strengthen

my character and expand my knowledge. While the demands of my courses and the social atmosphere of the school are important, they pale in comparison to the everyday challenges of living abroad in a country with a vastly different culture and language than my own.

The challenges started before I left home. When I made the decision to pursue the remainder of my undergraduate education at Temple University Japan (TUJ), I had nowhere near enough money to pay for tuition and Tokyo's astronomical living costs. Despite working since the age of 14 and saving the majority of my pay, I was about \$20,000 short of my projected needs. This started a frantic search for scholarships that kept me up into the early hours of the morning typing out essays, forms, and worksheets and had me running trips all around, tracking down transcripts, delivering applications, and mailing off paperwork, all while working and doing the host of things such as getting passports and visas that are necessary for travel abroad. It was a very stressful time and I probably would have given up if it weren't for the constant encouragement and understanding of my parents.

After everything was sent off, a period of waiting began to see whether I would get the scholarships and so forth that I needed. As the deadlines for payment approached, there was no sign of scholarships in sight. I was confused about what to do next and prayed and doing all the things that I knew I'd miss that I didn't research living in Japan very much. As a result, when my plane arrived at Narita International Airport on August 18, I was clueless. I had no idea what I was doing, so I was forced to rely on God. As always, He was faithful, and I got through the confusion of those first few weeks without getting myself into any real trouble.

One of the first tasks I had to master was the use of Japanese transportation systems. I took the bus to school, but incomprehensible routes that befuddled even the natives prevented me from taking it anywhere else. So, like the vast majority of everyone in Tokyo, I have learned to rely on the trains. Inside the city I'm never more than a 15-minute walk from the nearest station, and for a few hundred yen (a dollar is worth about 115 yen) I can get from anywhere to anywhere in less than an hour. While this is very convenient, all those train tickets can really add up. So, like many other Tokyo residents, I use a bike as much as possible.

That first service was one of the most meaningful times of worship I have ever experienced.



I went out to dinner with several new

That night we had curry, one of my favorites here, but not all Japanese food seems wonderful to my American taste buds. My first experience with Japanese food came the day after my arrival when I ate out at one of Japan's popular restaurant chains, Denny's. It sounded comfortingly familiar, but back home Denny's doesn't serve spaghetti topped with seaweed and tuna. Since then I've tried a lot of different things, everything from sliced octopus legs and raw fish to whole pickled fish that are eaten with their scales and bones. Among the myriad of strange dishes I've found several that I really like. The donburi shops that are on seemingly every corner serve large, tasty bowls of meat and veggies on rice. The Japanese version of curry is quite good and very affordable. Ramen here is quite tasty and very different from the instant varieties found at home. Other foods that I eat often include soba, a kind of wheat noodle; onaghiri, rice balls wrapped in seaweed containing fish or other seafood; and yakisoba, fried noodles with vegetables. One notable absence in my diet is teriyaki. One of my favorites at home, I've discovered that it is much more American than Japanese.

It didn't take long after my arrival for life to settle into a routine. Get up, ride to school, sit through class, come home, eat dinner, read or surf the Internet for a few hours, go to bed, and repeat. My class schedule had me coming in to school every weekday, so for my first semester I had little opportunity to really explore Tokyo. I managed trips to the fashionable Shibuya, home of the world's busiest Starbucks, perched next to an intersection that is crossed by 2,500 pedestrians every cycle of the signal. I squeezed in weekend visits to the Imperial Palace, Tokyo Station, and the Sunshine City mall, but I really wanted to get out and see more of Japan.

That chance came when I had the privilege to help staff at a weekend English camp for Japanese high schoolers. The camp was hosted in the beautiful and rural prefecture of Gunma in central Honshu. Surrounded by mountains and the beautiful fall colors of broadleaf forests,

about 20 of my fellow TUJ students and I helped 250 Japanese freshmen practice their English.

> The kids and their teach-

ers loved us. It was a great time to connect and get to know a lot of new people, both Japanese and my fellow American students.

One of the things that has contributed most to the pleasantness of my time here is the friendly, helpful nature of the Japanese people. Whenever I have gotten lost or needed help finding my way, helpful Japanese people have gone out of their way to assist me. Even when they don't know the way themselves, they ask until they find someone who can help me. One time I lost my wallet with the equivalent of \$400 in cash, my credit card, ID, and train tickets in it. It was returned with nothing missing. I've since learned that 70% of all cash lost in Japan is returned to its owner. Another admirable mark of Japanese hospitality is their patience and tolerance of what must appear to them strange foreign behavior. In the months I have been here I've encountered really rude behavior only a few times.

A perfect example of this is the Japanese couple who allowed two friends and me to stay at their house for a couple of nights before we went home for Christmas break. Their home was close to both the airport and Tokyo Disneyland, so I was able to go to Disneyland for the first time the day before I left for home. The generosity shown to us was humbling.

This semester I managed to arrange my schedule so that all my classes are spread over only three days. This has allowed me to do a lot more sightseeing. I've seen the view from Shinjuku's skyscrapers, visited Toyota's auto showroom in Ikebukero, visited the historic shrines, museums, and lush parks of Ueno, browsed through the anime shops and electronics vendors in Akihabara, walked across the Rainbow Bridge to visit the manmade island of Odaiba, and gawked at the crazy fashions on Takeshita Street in Harajuku. All in all, it has been a much more satisfying and enriching semester, and I am so thankful for the opportunities God has given me to explore this city.

For those who may be interested in attending a university in Japan for more than a short visit, there are a couple of ways to do so. If you are just starting college, the Japan Student Services Organization, an agency of the Japanese government, provides placement and funding for hundreds of foreign students to study at Japanese language schools and universities. If you want to study in English and receive an American degree, Temple University Japan, my current school, is the only real option. To find more information about either of these options you can visit the organizations' websites. If you have any specific questions or just want a more detailed view of life in Japan, you can email me at the address provided at the end of this article.

Currently I am finishing up my second semester here at TUJ. I plan to return home over the summer to work and earn money for the fall. I will be graduating at the end of the fall semester and returning home to once again live in the United States, but I will never forget my time here. The lessons I've learned, the memories I've made, and the friendships I've formed will shape the rest of my life. $\stackrel{\land}{\leftarrow}$

Matthew Lickey

Matthew Lickey, a homeschool graduate, is studying economics at Temple University's campus in Tokyo, Japan. He plans to graduate in the fall of 2007 and hopes to pursue a career in financial services. He can be contacted at rabenstrange@gmail.com or via his blog, viewable at www.rabenstrange.com.



LEATHERCRAFT - A GREAT ADDITION TO Your Homeschool

Leathercraft is a positive, educational activity that encourages creativity and

working with your hands. The basics of leatherwork are easy and quick to learn. Best of all, children (and adults) love to do leathercraft.

To learn more about how leatherwork can be integrated into various subjects within your child's education, visit www.tandyleatherfactory.com/homeschool.asp



View our 140 page 2007 Catalog at www. tandyleatherfactory.com. Or send for a copy:



Tandy Leather Factory Dept 7OS-A P O Box 50429 Ft. Worth, TX 76105

Summer Camp

Beyond Our Small World

By Sarah Small

ave your kids ever competed in the Olympics or painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel? Can they bake a good batch of chappatis before they head out to play a rousing game of



lagoria? Can they outlast their opponents to become the *fiti-fiti* champions?

Last summer, 25-30 homeschoolers met weekly at my house for our first "Around the World" camp. We toured 10 countries, and with 193 countries in the world, we have plenty of places left to visit over the next many summers! Campers experienced different cultures through cooking, art, crafts, and games.

Our summer camp series grew from a simple desire to provide enriching summer activities for our kids in a group setting. Throughout the traditional school year, our kids enjoy a plethora of activities, from weekly co-op classes to field trips to scouting and other clubs. But in the middle of May, all activities abruptly cease. Classes are over. Field trips dwindle. Clubs take a summer break. Our children yearned for a regular dose of seeing their friends, and we saw a great opportunity.

Supporters of the "learning never stops" mantra but devotees of the traditional summer break, fellow homeschooling mom Leigh Laney (my "creative partner") and I decided to launch a camp for homeschoolers that would give them the social contact they craved with a big dose of hands-on education.

From Conception to Reality

Our support group holds an annual "Festival of Nations." This well-attended event features 15-20 families manning information booths that feature various countries. Visitors can taste Irish soda bread or practice calligraphy in Korea. A collage of costumes, food, and facts about each country, the Festival of Nations has become one of our group's favorite events. Why not extend the enthusiasm generated by the festival into a summer-long camp?

Because Leigh and I both love geography and culture studies, picking this "Around the World" theme was easy. We decided to focus on one country each week for a total of 10 weeks, beginning in mid-May and ending in July. Our camp would be two-and-a-half hours each week. Campers could come as often as they wished but would sign up on a weekto-week basis to allow flexibility for summer traveling schedules.

We decided to split our camp into just two groups, with kindergarten through second graders in one group and third through sixth graders in the other. We realized that we would need help, so we recruited two other homeschooling friends to join our enterprise. Leigh and I headed up the older group, while Caroline and Amy, our new recruits, planned for the younger kids. We decided it would work best to manage our groups independently; so except for focusing on the same country each week, we did not plan activities together.

The hardest part for us was picking our ten countries. We had dozens of ideas, but eventually we settled on Nigeria, Australia, China, Greece, India, Ireland, England, Italy, Mexico, and Russia. From there we chose foods, crafts, games, geography, customs, and other activities for each country. While the sessions followed the same basic format, we wanted to make sure that each camp day was unique and exciting. We perused countless websites and made weekly trips to the library. Our biggest challenge was always narrowing down the week's activities to fit within our time constraints!

This page, top to bottom:

A.J. Brown and Brendan Laney count down the seconds until Mt. Vesuvius erupts.

Learning about a country's traditional crafts was a highlight of each camp day. Here Laurel Small models her Nigerian tribal mask.

Katriel Griesen concentrates on picking up objects with chopsticks during the camp's China day.

Sarah Whitson, Caitlin Freeny, and Laurel Small dine alfresco at the Italian restaurant.

Facing page, top to bottom:

Jacob Teffeteller gives a few final pats to the focaccia.

Campers Brendan Laney, Matthew Cagle, Josh VanderVeen, and Micaiah Griesen get a little taste of Michelangelo's monumental task as they practice painting the "ceiling" of the "Sistine Chapel."















Our schedules were set and countries picked: now we just needed campers! Advertising was easy with the great communications network among area homeschoolers. With our support group's newsletter and e-mail system and just oldfashioned word-of-mouth, we were able to reach 200 homeschooling families in a short time. We set our maximum at 10 in each group (plus our own kids), and we quickly filled up.

An Afternoon Abroad

While each camp day was different, we had the same basic components for each country: geography, food, arts and crafts, folktales, and games. With two-and-a-half hours per session, we had approximately 30 minutes per component, although we allowed flexibility to reign.

Each camp session began outside at the craft tables. Markers and coloring sheets were available for campers to work on as they arrived. While our camp officially began at 1 PM, campers often arrived a few minutes before or after the hour. We generally allowed 10 minutes for this opening activity. The coloring sheet was always related to the country of the day: William Shakespeare for England, the Mona Lisa for Italy, or the rainbow serpent for Australia.

When all our campers had arrived, we began our introduction to the country. Using Geography Matters Mark-It maps, we outlined the appropriate country and marked its capital. Campers marked their own blank maps and colored that country's flag (both easily downloaded from the Internet). While they colored, we provided facts about the country. We tried to always find fun facts about each country (e.g., Irish castles often had a lobby inside the front door called a "murder hole," with an opening in the ceiling that defenders could use to shoot at or pour hot liquids onto unwanted guests) as well as unusual statistics or trivia (e.g., the longest place name in Ireland is Muckanaghederdauhaulia, in County Galway). This session also included a language lesson, which was generally as challenging for us as it was for our campers! We introduced basic phrases, including "Mi piace la pizza!" for the all-important "I like pizza!"

Crafts often followed geography. Each country has many unique traditions, and we often had difficulty choosing just one craft. Our goal was to work on something

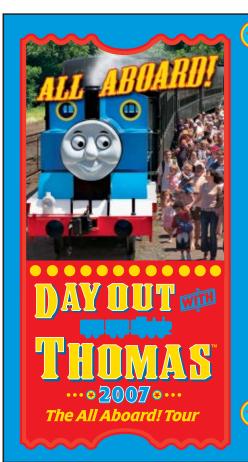
Indispensable

While myriad resources exist for around-the-world studies, these are the sources that we used again and again. These were undoubtedly the most valuable for our camp!

- Around the World Coloring **Book** (Dover Publications, ISBN 0486439836)
- Arts and Crafts ideas at www. crayola.com
- Folktales on Stage: Children's Plays for Reader's Theater by Aaron Shepard (Shepard Publications 2003, ISBN 0938497200)
- Free Readers Theatre scripts at Aaron Shepard's homepage: www.aaronshep.com
- Multicultural Folktales (Readers Theatre) by Suzanne I. Barchers (Teacher Ideas Press 2000, ISBN 156308760X)
- Geography facts (including maps and flags) at www.EnchantedLearning.com
- Mark-It Maps and Trail Guide to World Geography from Geography Matters at www.geomatters.
- Recipes from around the world: www.recipesource.com

that perhaps parents were less likely to delve into at home: Indian batik, Aboriginal bark painting, or Greek sculpture. On Italy day, campers lay flat on their backs under our craft tables to paint the "ceilings" in an effort to replicate Michelangelo's masterpiece in the Sistine Chapel. After this 20-minute painting experience, they understood why the artist was plagued with aches and pains!

By this time our campers were usually begging for food, so we headed into the kitchen for cooking. Leigh was in charge of the food, and her challenge was always to make the more difficult preparations ahead of time and yet allow for plenty of hands-on cooking by the campers. Each country has its own unique kind of bread or other grain, so we always made this the central part of our cooking activity. Campers rolled out chappatis for India and tortillas for Mexico, kneaded



All Aboard for Thomas & Friends™

Classic Storybook Engine Chugs Into a Station Near You!

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD Dillsboro, NC

July 27~31 & August 2~5, 2007

- 25-minute Ride with Thomas
 - Meet Sir Topham Hatt™
- Enjoy Storytelling, Live Music, & Much More!

www.thomasandfriends.com

Call for reservations and details:

800-872-4681 (code T6) • www.gsmr.com

866-468-7630 • www.ticketweb.com

Tickets are \$16 for ages two and up.

Advanced purchase is recommended. Ticket sales are final. Events are rain or shine.



Day Out With Thomas and Thomas the Tank Engine © 2007 Gullane (Thomas) Limited.





H.O.M.E SCHOOL BOOKS AND RESOURCES

Your Discount Source for NEW and USED Curriculum

A Beka Alpha Omega Apologia Common Sense Press

Bilingual Books (German, etc. in 10 Minutes a Day) Henty Books on Tape Jacob's Math

Great Science Adventures Learning Language Arts Through Literature Saxon Math and Phonics

Mention Code TOS20 for 20% off total order PLUS free shipping 602-277-3497 info@homeschoolresourcecenter.org

www.homeschoolresourcecenter.org/bookstore/

ABBA Homeschool Academy

Opening Doors Through Christian Education

Let us provide the home school curriculum for your child's education!

For a FREE info pack, call (620) 223-3434

ABBA is a full service K-12 home school academy, providing complete home school curriculum packages.

- Year-round enrollment
- * Accredited diplomas
- Project Boxes/Living Books
- * Imagination Stations
- * Course study projection
- * Progress reports & transcripts
- Academic counseling



www.abbahomeschool.com

focaccia for Italy, and assembled scones for England. (We adults did the actual frying and baking.) The kids filled their plates with a sampling of other foods as well: potatoes for Ireland, pierogi and chunks of hard cheese for Russia, Lamington cake for Australia. We kept the food simple, knowing that kids are often picky eaters, yet we were always delighted with their spirit of adventure. Many parents were surprised to hear that their child asked for second helpings of plantain chips, Greek olives, or Russian pickles!

Games often followed our meal, as the kids were full of energy after eating. During a usual camp session, we taught the campers one or two traditional games of the country. Some games were familiar, such as soccer for Mexico and bocce for Italy; some were completely new, such as Ireland's hop the cob and Nigeria's fiti-fiti (squat-jumping). Our most memorable games were certainly the Greek Olympics, which included such traditional feats as the javelin throw (with a PVC pipe), the discus (or brick) throw, and the long jump, as well as toga relays and the tonguetwister competition. We presented each winner with an ivy crown.

To wind down our afternoon, we spent the last 30 minutes either reading traditional folktales or performing a Readers' Theatre. Each country has its own unique stories, and the campers had a great time acting the stories out for each other. Because our group of third-sixth graders usually numbered 14, we would divide into two separate groups for Readers' Theatre. Each group would practice for 20 minutes and then we'd perform for each other. If a Readers' Theatre script wasn't readily available either in one of our books or from the Internet, we would read a couple of traditional folktales. Third through sixth graders still love picture books, and our library has a wonderful section of stories from around the world.

While each camp day included the basic components above, we found that the days varied widely simply because the cultures themselves have such unique aspects. For Australia, for example, we sent the kids on a walk-about, an Aboriginal ritual in which a young man goes on a solitary journey through the wilderness in an attempt to learn more about his own character. We took this as an opportunity to present our young campers with some time to find their own personal messages. We found specific Scripture verses that

were especially encouraging and hid them around the yard. Each child went on his own solitary walk-about to find his message. (The hot, dry day helped the kids to really feel as if they were in the outback!)

The Benefits

Our summer camp experience was a positive one in every way. Parents loved that this was a once-a-week camp rather than a daily camp. The hours were perfect: not too long, but long enough for Mom to do the grocery shopping and run a few errands. And to top it all off, their kids were getting a healthy dose of learning about other cultures! Kids loved the excitement of the activities as well as the chance to interact with their friends. One mom related to us that her children offered to pay for the camps with their allowance if it meant they could go to another week's session!

For the camp leader moms, the rewards were many. First, we provided a place for homeschoolers to stay connected during the summer. Second, we were able to provide an outlet for our own creativity by sharing with this wonderful group of campers. And finally, we made a little extra money during the summer, and that is always satisfying.

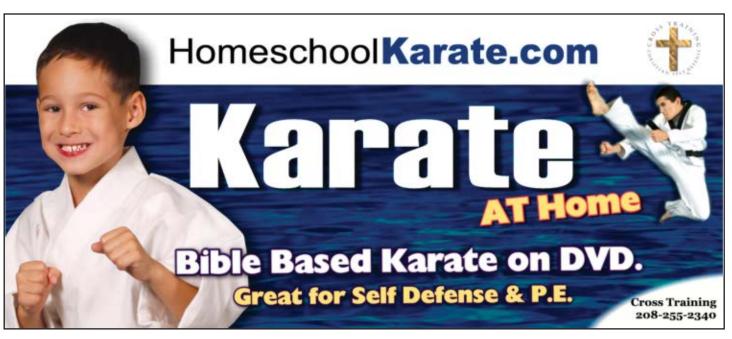
Our second annual Around the World Camp is currently in the works. With over 180 countries yet unexplored, we have enough material for another 18 years!

Sonah Small

Sarah Small and her husband, Randy, homeschool their three children, Jesse (14), Laurel (9), and Duncan (6), in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains in East Tennessee. Besides leading summer camps, Sarah co-leads American Heritage Girls Troop TN131 (see article on AHG in this issue); teaches writing and grammar classes for her local support group, Blount Home Education Association; and blogs at www.Homeschool Blogger.com/SmallWorld.



www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **I 169**





The Natural Schoolhouse









WORKING TOGETHER

By Nancy Carter

ecently a friend and I decided to learn how to quilt together. We're both total sewing rookies, so there have been plenty of laughs and frustrations as we tried to navigate the tricky waters of bobbins, rotary cutters, thread tension, and pressing itty-bitty seams.

We each had on our own quilt, but as we worked side by side, we would stop through the process to help each other—adjusting the sewing machines, helping to hold the quilt, and pressing seams. Seeing the progress was so rewarding, and we both felt that it was a balm to our soul. For us, it was about much more than making quilts. It was about working together—being together without needing to entertain each other, and actually getting something accomplished that benefited our families.

Have you ever thought of how different many of our modern-day relationships are to how friendships used to be? They are often so much more about entertaining each other than bearing one another's burdens. Women used to go down to the creek to wash their laundry together. They would get together to shell corn or do their canning, and somehow, even though their lives were so much harder back then, people seemed happier, more content.

Maybe it was because they were serving each other as they served their families. Women would go do their laundry together and come home, and their load would be a little lighter. Now it seems as though it's easy to get wrapped up in the cycle of getting things caught up so you can go have mommy-time with friends (and don't get me wrong, I love girls' night out at times too!), returning home to all of your waiting responsibilities, and the stress continues to mount.

What if, instead of going out, you went to your friend's house and helped her organize her closet? You could still laugh and have a great time together, but when your time that night was finished, her load would be a little lighter. Something would be marked off her to-do list. Shouldn't we as women do more than just entertain each other? Titus 2:3-5 tells us that we are supposed to teach the younger women to love their families and to be busy at home, so why not spend time together having fun and actually getting things accomplished?

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work" (Ecclesiastes 4:9).

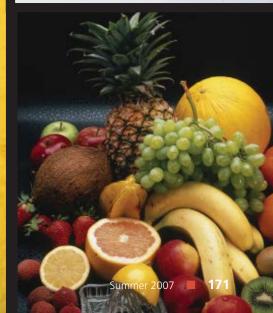
Some women get together to do oncea-month cooking, some hit the yard sales together, some quilt or scrapbook, and some babysit each other's kids so that they can have time alone with their spouses. The main thing is that they are doing things that benefit their families. Scripture speaks of turning the hearts of the fathers toward their children, but we need to also encourage women to turn their hearts toward home. Society has done so much to undermine the biblical roles of women, telling them that they will be fulfilled only by having a career or activities outside the home. We need to support and encourage each other to take delight in serving God by serving our families. Remember Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Truthfully, most of us don't need more time away from our families. We don't need a break; what we need is a helping hand—someone to come alongside us, roll up her sleeves to help, and remind us of the blessings of being a wife, mother, and homemaker. Talk to your friends and see how you all can bear one another's burdens. Sometimes it's hard for people to open up and let you see where they need help, but let's be real with each other and put our hands and feet to what God has called us to do.

Mancy Carter









Most Items Deeply Discounted!



\$5.00 Flat-Rate

Shipping Offer!

*see below for details

Serving the home school community for over 15 years! We have searched the highways and byways to bring your family the latest and best in educational products (most at discount prices) to make your home school a success. We carry thousands of titles from publishers such as Saxon, Alpha Omega, BJU Press, Christian Liberty, Rosetta Stone, Modern Curriculum Press, Bluestocking, Common Sense Press, Memoria Press, Easy Grammar Systems, Betty Lukens/Little Folks felts, and many, many others! We also carry a full selection of games, arts/crafts titles, open pollinated seeds, health/nutrition titles, CD's/DVD's, and much, much more! New products added frequently!

Shop our web store for thousands of carefully chosen products and ease of shopping!

www.homeschoolfcgs.com

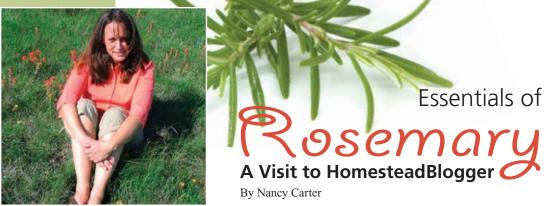
For Inquiries: 1-309-367-2844 Ordering Only: 1-800-551-3276

*Take advantage of our \$5.00 Flat-Rate Shipping Offer on orders subtotaling \$100.00 or more in the contiguous 48 States! You must mention code # FCGS-FL07 in the comment box at checkout if ordering online (the shipping will be adjusted manually), on phone and mail-in orders. Does not apply to backorders or returns. Offer expires August 31, 2007.

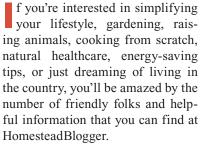




172 The Natural Schoolhouse www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com







This issue, we want to introduce you to one of our resident garden gurus, Catherine Love. Catherine blogs with us from the heart of Texas, where she lives with her husband and three children. She loves reading; growing herbs, flowers, and veggies; cooking; and learning everything she can about the homestead life while they're waiting for their own homestead in the country. Living in the city doesn't hold her back, though. She raises lots of wonderful things in her raised beds and containers right in her backyard!

Check out these wonderful entries that she has shared with us on rosemary and visit Catherine's blog at www.HomesteadBlogger.com/CatherineAnn to read more of her Ramblings from My Heart and Home.

Herb of the Week— Rosemary

Rosemary is a much-loved perennial herb. It is easy to grow provided you give it plenty of sun, air circulation (as it is somewhat sensitive to mildew), make sure it is in well-drained soil, and do not let it dry out.

Rosemary will need to be brought indoors for the winter in most climates. In my area of Texas, a welldeveloped rosemary planted in the garden will do fine outside during the winter; but when the temperature drops below freezing, I always bring potted rosemary inside just to be safe. Rosemary will do well inside through the winter if you have a sunny south-facing window so it can bask in the winter sunshine. It will be a nice addition to a kitchen windowsill or make a pretty potted Christmas tree, too.

Rosemary grows very slowly from seed, so I recommend purchasing small pots from a nursery or garden center. You can also propagate cuttings fairly easily. Take cuttings of semi-woody stems that are about 4 inches long, strip the lower leaves off, dip in rooting hormone powder, and place in damp vermiculite. You should have rooted plants in a few weeks. This is a nice way to share your garden with friends and family, and these little plants will make welcome gifts.

There are two types of Rosemary—upright and prostrate. The upright variety will grow to about 3 to 4 feet tall in the South. Tuscan Blue is one variety that has grown well for me. Prostrate rosemary grows by trailing and is quite pretty in a hanging basket or draping over the top of a window box or wall. Lockwood de Forest is a nice trailing variety.

Rosemary has blue, white, or pink flowers; the most common color seems to be blue. In Texas, rosemary usually blooms in January and February, though I did have a Lockwood de Forest that bloomed almost year-round! Unfortunately, when we moved to the apartment, a lack of sunshine and too much humidity followed by mildew did it in. Majorca is a pink-blooming variety that I've had good luck with, too.

Rosemary is a very fragrant herb, useful both in the kitchen and for medicinal uses.

Rosemary Remedies

Rosemary is a must for the home herbal first aid kit, in my opinion. I use rosemary essential oil often. Here are some ways I use rosemary to ease what ails me and my family:

When cold and flu season hits, or someone gets one of those nasty sinus headaches, boil a pot of water and add either a few drops of essential oil of rosemary or a few sprigs of a rosemary plant. Then, pour that hot steamy scented water in a bowl, grab a towel to cover your head, and breathe in the rosemary-scented steam. Works great. I sometimes add a few drops of eucalyptus oil to the water, too.

Rosemary has antiseptic properties, so I mix rosemary essential oil, plus essential oils of eucalyptus and thyme with distilled water to make a room freshening spray.

Rosemary is also good for muscle aches and strains. A hot bath with some rosemary added to the water will help soothe those aches and pains.

Another way to use rosemary for muscle pain is to mix a few drops of rosemary essential oil with sweet almond or grapeseed oil to use as a massage oil. Very nice!

Rosemary is said to darken the hair and also keep the scalp healthy and dandruff-free. To make an herbal hair rinse, use 2 tablespoons rosemary to 2 cups boiling water. Cool, strain, then pour over hair after shampooing. For best results, leave in for about 30 minutes, then rinse with 2 cups water combined with 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar.

Rosemary is also known as a memory-enhancer, something I could use very often! The next time I forget something, I think I'll go out and pet the rosemary and see if it works. If not, at least I'll enjoy the wonderful aroma!

Nancy Carter



By Eleanor Joyce

very day throughout the world, millions of consumers wander the aisles of grocery stores, browsing their way through a mind-boggling array of food. As cartons, bags, and cans pile up



in their carts, it's unlikely that most shoppers are thinking about the foods' origin. The focus is more typically on filling the week's menu plans, stocking up on sale items, or grabbing something quick for the next meal. Tuna evokes a mental picture of little round cans with paper labels, not large fish swimming in the sea. In an undeniable sign of our times, most of us are fairly far down the food distribution chain. We may not be aware that many of the foods we eat, supplements we take, and beauty products we use can be traced back to the sea.

Over seventy percent of Earth's surface is covered by saltwater. The oceans regulate our climate and play a key role in transportation and recreation. But

floating freighters and cruise ships and rippling onto scenic beaches. The Genesis account of creation portrays God gathering the water together into one place, calling it "seas," filling the seas with living creatures, and then granting mankind stewardship over His creation. Thousands of years later, the seas remain a beautiful, bountiful, and integral part of our planet, Earth.

For many people, fish is probably the first seafood that comes to mind, and it seems that everyone has something to say about it! Concerns about mercury and other pollutants, commercial fish farming, and ecologically sound fishing practices are frequently raised. While there is validity to these issues, fish remains a very healthy nutritional choice. Fish is an excellent source of lean protein, low in saturated fat.

The American Heart Association (AHA)recommends two three-ounce servings of fish per week for adults. According to the AHA, research has established a definite link between the consumption of fish high in omega-3 fatty acids and a lowered risk of death from coronary artery disease. Ocean fish high in omega-3 fatty acids include salmon, albacore tuna, and herring. Omega-3 fatty acids are important for proper cell function and

Unfortunately, many fish do contain mercury, PCBs, and other environmental toxins. These levels are higher in older, larger, predatory fish. The relative risk versus benefit of eating fish really depends on an individual's stage in life. Most children and women of childbearing age are at fairly low risk of cardiovascular disease but are at higher risk of danger from toxins. Therefore, they should avoid eating too much fish and be careful about their sources. On the other hand, for men and women middle aged and beyond, the health benefits of eating a moderate amount of fish far outweigh the potential risks. Risk factors can also be reduced by eating a variety of fish rather than just one or two types. To assist consumers in making intelligent decisions about fish consumption, the American Heart Association website provides a chart showing the levels of mercury and omega-3 fatty acids per type of fish at www.american heart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3 013797.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued specific guidelines for pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children in regard to fish consumption. These individuals should avoid shark, swordfish, king mackerel, and tilefish.

However, they can safely eat a limited amount of fish with lower mercury levels, such as shrimp, salmon, pollock, catfish, and canned light tuna (as opposed to white). An excellent and detailed "Smartfish Guide" that specifically addresses the needs of women and children is available at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (www.iatp.org/foodandhealth). In a sobering statistic, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) estimates that 16% of women of childbearing age have sufficient levels of mercury in their bodies to harm a developing fetus. It pays to be an educated consumer!

Ecological issues need to be considered as well since we are, after all, stewards of God's creation. Both commercialized fish farming and the harvesting of wild fish can cause harm to the ocean ecosystems. Many antibiotics, pesticides, and other chemicals are used in fish farming, and these are often damaging to surrounding native species. In addition, the practice of feeding ground up wild fish at some fish farms is wasteful and can cause levels of toxins to increase faster in the farmed fish than those found in the wild. By the way, the rosy color of farm-raised salmon just might be caused by artificial colorants (although the FDA does require that it be included in the labeling information if used). Dangers of harvesting fish in the wild include over-fishing leading to species depletion and possible extinction, damage to habitat, and also bycatch. "Bycatch" refers to species accidentally caught, such as the well known example of dolphins and sea turtles being snagged by tuna nets.

Again, excellent Internet resources are available to help consumers make informed and environmentally friendly decisions when purchasing seafood. These include reports from the Monterey Bay Aquarium (www.mbayaq.org/cr/Seafoodwatch.asp), the Audubon Society (seafood.audubon.org), and The U.S. Tuna Foundation (www.tunafacts.com).

After running the gauntlet of controversy, fish remains a very healthy food choice when eaten in moderation. It is best prepared simply, by broiling, baking, grilling, or poaching. Dousing it in batter and then deep-frying will obviously minimize the health benefits!

As a general rule of thumb, fish should be cooked for a short time at high heat. Allow 5 to 7 minutes per centimeter of thickness, or about 12 minutes per inch. Fish is done when the flesh is completely opaque and flakes easily with a fork.

For broiling, baking, and grilling, try brushing the fish with olive oil and sprinkling with salt, pepper, and favorite seasonings before cooking. Squeeze a wedge of fresh lemon over all before eating. An inexpensive wire fish basket will make grilling much easier. Grill about three or four inches above the coals or gas flame, and turn fish once during cooking.

To bake, preheat the oven to 450 °F, place fish in the center of the oven in a greased pan, and cook according to the time guidelines above. When broiling, the fish should be placed on a greased pan, three or four inches below the heat source. Turn once during cooking.

To poach fish, add it to boiling, lightly salted water. Cover and simmer until fish is done, using the guidelines above. It can then be seasoned as desired. Alternatively, try wrapping the fish in greased, heavyduty foil with some chopped onion and/or celery, salt, and pepper. Put the packet in a pan of rapidly boiling water. Return the water to a boil, then simmer the fish for 12 minutes per inch of thickness before checking for doneness.

In addition to the abundant food source of fish that it provides, the ocean gives us so much more. Of course, we also eat many varieties of shellfish. Most of the health and environmental issues regarding fish apply to shellfish also. They too remain a healthy choice when eaten in moderation.

An entire range of supplements, such as shark cartilage, omega-3 capsules, cod liver oil, coral calcium, and a host of others, are derived from the ocean's bounty. Again, many of these are not without controversy, but some are proven to be of significant nutritional value.

For the adventurous eater, seaweed offers some great health benefits. North American Kelp (www.noamkelp.com) offers a link to an online handbook on foraging and preparing seaweed and provides extensive nutritional data. Even the most conservative eater likely consumes seaweed derivatives on a regular basis. Common foods such as ice cream, brownie mix, sour cream, yogurt, cheese, baby formula, salad dressing, evaporated milk, and pudding contain at least one seaweed derivative, labeled as carrageenan, alginate, beta carotene, or agar. These ingredients are also commonly found in health and beauty products.

Thalassotherapy is the name given to popular European spa treatments and beauty regimens that incorporate natural ingredients from the sea. Sea salts contain high levels of magnesium and potassium, which are purported to have anti-inflammatory and moisture retention properties. Seaweeds are rich in amino acids and minerals that encourage circulation and promote new cell growth. Many oceanderived bath products are available both online and in retail stores, allowing consumers to bring the therapeutic qualities of the ocean to their own bathtubs at home

Less than one third of Earth's surface is dry land. Salty waves cover all the rest. We are only beginning to understand and appreciate how important the oceans are to our survival. Robust in some ways yet fragile in others, they remain a beautiful and bountiful part of God's creation and provision.

Eleanor Joyce is a freelance writer and homeschooling mother. She shares her western Pennsylvania home with two dogs, two preteens, two teens, and one husband.

Take the Mystery Out of Computers...

Becky Ascough of Lecanto, FL: "I wish Tom (age 13) was as excited about math and history as he is about computer!



"I'm so happy to report that he absolutely loves working with MicroWorlds, and is flying through the lessons. ...

"Thank you for providing this wonderful computer curriculum. It's great to have a lesson that he thinks is just plain fun!"

Find out about Computer Science Pure and Simple, and get your FREE Internet scavenger hunt at www.MotherboardBooks.com



Naturally Clean ... By Lisa Barthuly

hy bother with the hassle of cloth diapers and homemade wipes? You can always shuffle off to the closest retailer and buy what you need



by way of disposables and commercial baby wipes, in literal minutes these days. Easy, done, no work, right? Well, it's not quite that simple, despite what the advertisers

would have you believe.

Stop. We need to give some thought to what we are doing and how we are doing it. Just because the mainstream does something doesn't mean it's best; in fact, I usually find the opposite is true. If the rest of the world is doing it, that is usually my red flag to give something more thought.

Cloth diapers are not disposable or the easiest option in this throw-away society we live in today, but they are best for many reasons, the chief of which is our babies! Disposable diaper companies would have us believe that their product is best all the way around, for baby, mom, and the rest of the world as a whole. "Come on, Mom, make life easy! It's hard enough just being a mom, isn't it?" is their pitch to lure us in. We know this just isn't true.

I would much rather spend a little extra time and have my baby swaddled in real cloth that I cleaned-and I know what it was cleaned with. The skin is our biggest organ, and everything that touches it is absorbed into our bodies. Did you know that some disposable diapers contain a super-absorbent chemical inside their plastic casing called sodium polyacrylate, which pulls fluid away from the baby's skin and holds it inside the diaper?

I could really go on and on about the dangers and chemicals of disposables and the baby wipes that are commercially made, but you get the idea. Do even a small amount of your own research and you will find tons of information in regard to the dangers of the chemicals in some commercial disposables.

Now ... what to do about it?

Swaddle them in cloth! Make our own wipes! What did our grandmothers do without disposables and commercial baby wipes? Cloth diapers are even easier to use today than back when, anyway. We have it good compared to what Grandma dealt with. We have wraps now (tons of varieties!) with Velcro or snaps, pull-ups (the list goes on!) that keep diapers on and in place so much nicer, and no pins to stick ourselves and precious baby with! We have washers and dryers. Can you imagine the work involved with using the wringer and clothesline for cleaning babies' diapers back when? Now that's some work!

Cloth diapers can be bought, homemade, or hand-me-downs. They can be lovingly washed in our own homemade laundry soaps or tea tree oils—what could be better for a baby's skin? Depending on many factors, the savings can be substantial! On average, the savings can range anywhere from \$1,200 to \$1,700 per child. Check into the options available today in

Baby Wipes

- 2 cups distilled water
- 3 drops essential lavender oil
- 3 drops tea tree oil

Combine the ingredients in a small resealable plastic container and keep clean washcloths soaking in it.

I have seen quite a few recipes online for wipes with regular paper towels (sometimes made with toxic bleaching agents) and baby shampoo (you might be shocked to know what chemicals are put into baby shampoos—do your homework here first!).

There are literally thousands of recipes on the Internet and in books from the library for baby wipes. You just have to glean what is best for your

A few more recipes that will do the job too:

Baby Wipes



- 2 cups distilled water (must be distilled!)
- ½ tsp. Dr. Bronner's baby soap (½ tsp. Burt's Bees baby almond oil or olive oil will work too!)
- 2 drops lavender oil
- 2 drops tea tree oil

Pour over cloths/wipes or keep in spray bottle.

Baby Wipes

2 cups distilled water ½ tsp. Dr. Bronner's lavender soap Pour over cloths/wipes or keep in spray bottle.

Baby Wipes

2 cups distilled water

4 drops tea tree oil

Pour over cloths/wipes or keep in spray bottle.

cloth diapering. It can be simple and safer for our babies, God's creation, and our pocketbooks.

When it comes to cleaning baby, you can go so many routes. I have heard or read of everything from literally changing and cleaning a baby under a faucet or pump with a clean cloth diaper to making your own nontoxic version of baby wipes. I prefer the latter for my own convenience (taking baby to the faucet every change and hosing him off sounds messier to me, somehow!).

Of course, the worst job is the cleaning out of the diaper when needed. I think the simplest way I've heard of is to take the diaper to the toilet, unfold it, hold it with some sort of salad tongs or canning jar lifter (something that will really hold the diaper), and swish it around to remove what needs to be removed. You can also allow the diaper to soak in the toilet, provided no one goes in and tries to flush! (A couple of drops of tea tree oil in the toilet while soaking is good, too.) Using the tongs or canning jar utensil, remove and squeeze out as much water





www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **177**

as possible and put in the diaper pail or designated spot. Then flush.

To clean baby's skin? A huge variety of recipes are available for making nontoxic baby wipes. Organic paper towels soaked in a homemade nontoxic solution can be stored in an airtight container. Plain ol' washcloths and warm water work just fine too. I've sewn washcloths and pieces of soft flannel from old receiving blankets together for a dual-purpose wipe (an idea gleaned from a mama online). My preferred method, thus far, is a batch of "Mama's Wipes" and a combination of plain washcloths or cloth diapers (sometimes it's whatever is handy). When using a wipe during the diaper change, just rinse it out with hot water and toss it in the diaper pail.

I prefer to use the first recipe listed at left. Simple, ready when baby is, and easy on Mama! You can multiply this recipe and make up a gallon jug so you aren't doing this daily, should you like to!

As you can see, myriad options are available to us! We have a new baby in our family, and he is wearing a combination of cloth cleaned by me and organic cotton disposables—yes, we can even use some disposables these days and swaddle

them in all-natural cotton! "Organic disposables" are available. Such options we have! Do an Internet search and you'll come up with companies such as Tushies and Mother Nature Diapers, just to name a few. We just need to exercise our options and find what works best for our families, to keep our babies naturally clean and healthy!



Lisa Barthuly, her husband, Marc, and their children live in Washington State on their little homestead with Cooter the dog, Beauty the kitten, a flock of chicklets, and lots of wild critters. They pray for more critters and more children and love the quiet country life amidst God's creation! Check out their website, www.Homestead Originals.com, where they specialize in all-natural soy wax candles, books, and gifts. Visit Lisa's blog at www.Homestead Blogger.com/ourlittlehomestead.



Bread Made Eas

Our DVD Bosch class!

Basic and advanced techniques!
We answer your questions!
Mills? Grains? What is a
sponge? How much flour is
enough? What is gluten? Let
the class come to you!
A wonderful price of \$17.95!
Mention you saw us in TOS
and get free shipping on our
DVD!



The Bosch and Nutrimill are one of the best combinations you can have to make healthy whole grain bread. Our new DVD will guide you through your new equipment to help get your whole grain bread right!

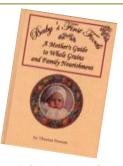


Ripe For Harvest is now Joyous Home, LLC! www.ripe4harvest.com 303-814-6877



"The information isn't just for people with small children. There's nutritional information that all families should know about. It's really a book for everyone." Carmen M., GA

"Very, very nice. Excellent information and well presented." Anita Hansen Pleasant Hill Grain Farm



Baby's First Foods \$15.95 \$24.95 w/DVD

Our Whole Wheat Class Bread

Mill enough hard wheat for 15 cups of flour In the Bosch mixer combine and sponge for 20 minutes:

5 cups warm water 1/2 cup grapeseed oil 1/2 cup honey 3 tbsp. dough enhancer 2 tbsp. Saf yeast

5 cups of hard wheat flour to start, (11-14 cups total) After the sponge add 2 Tbsp. real salt and the rest of the flour until the bowl starts to clean. Knead 5 minutes and check gluten. Divide into 5 parts, shape your loaves and place in pans to rise. Bake at 350 for 27 minutes, or until brown and hollow when tapped.

178 The Natural Schoolhouse www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

AREYOU GETTING ALL THE GOOD STUFF IN SPORTS?

Sports Spectrum...where sports and faith collide.

www.sportsspectrum.com 866-821-2971 US 704-821-2971 CAN



Contests for Readers

By Kate Kessler

Check out our contests! We have reviewed these products in the Lab section of the magazine starting on page 184, and these are the contests we are offering to go along with them!

The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, LLC ("Company") is sponsoring the following contests ("Contests"), which will run from July 10, 2007, to October 2, 2007 ("Contest Period"):

- The Old Schoolhouse Magazine Spring 2007 Apple Contest (10 winners)
- Biology 101: Biology According to the Days of Creation (2 copies)
- Something Worthwhile: Handwriting Exercises
- When Homeschooling Gets Tough (3 copies)
- *Managers of Their Chores* together with *Feed My Sheep*: A Practical Guide to Daily Family Devotions (2 copies of
- How to Help Your Husband Make More Money So You Can Be a Stay-At-Home Mom
- Tell Me More Foreign Language Premium Homeschool
- Digital Disaster (2 copies)
- Latin for Children Primer A Set

To enter one or more contests, just fill in the Contest Entry Form in this issue of *The Old Schoolhouse Magazine* or write your name, address, and telephone number and the names of the contests you'd like to enter on a postcard and send it to us at The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, Attention: Contest Department, PO Box 8426, Gray, TN 37615. Entries are limited to one entry per household per day during the Contest Period. You can enter each of the Contests once per day, but you can only win once per Contest Period! You must be 18 years of age or older and follow all rules to participate. All Official Rules Apply.

The Old Schoolhouse Magazine Apple Contest—Count all apples pictured throughout the magazine (every apple counts, including those in ads) and write the number on the insert card. Ten winners will be selected at random. Winners will receive one each of the following items: Find Your Wings CD and gift book, Adventure on the High Sea! book, and The Phonics of Drawing CD.

All other Contests—One winner for each Contest will be selected at random. The prize for each Contest is a copy of the book or product for which the Contest is named. Att Kessler

Disclaimer and Legal Notice: Entering a Contest constitutes full and complete acceptance of, and a warranty that the entrant has read, understands and agrees to, all contest terms and conditions, including without limitation all of The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, LLC Contest Rules ("Official Rules") as published on pages 180–81. Entry also constitutes full consent and unlimited permission for Company to print, publish, broadcast and use all intellectual property and personal information submitted as part of the Contest entry on the Internet and in any and all Company publications in accordance with the Rules. Entries become the sole property of Company and will not be returned. Employees and independent contractors of The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, LLC, Contest sponsors, individuals or entities furnishing Contest prizes and their family members may not participate in this contest. Company reserves the sole, discretionary right to determine contest winners and to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the contest or the Rules at any time with or without notice or cause, subject to applicable law. See Official Rules for details. No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited by law. For a full copy of the Official Rules see pages 180-81 or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Old Schoolhouse Magazine: Official Rules Request, Contest Department, PO Box 8426, Gray, TN 37615.

The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine, LLC ("Company") **Contest Rules**

All contests sponsored by the Company ("Contests") are subject to the terms of these Company Contest Rules ("Rules"), additional rules, instructions and guidelines published in connection with a specific Contest ("Contest-Specific Rules") and applicable law.

Eligibility. Contests are open to all natural persons who are over the age of eighteen (18), not otherwise disqualified by and comply with all relevant Rules, Contest-Specific Rules and applicable law. **The following** persons are never eligible to enter or participate in Contests: (a) employees and independent contractors of The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine, LLC, (b) Company sponsors, advertisers and affiliates, (c) family members of and persons living in the same household with any of the persons named in (a) and (b), and (c).

Submission of Entries. Contest entries must be submitted in accordance with the Rules, relevant Contest-Specific Rules and applicable law. Improperly submitted entries or entries submitted in violation of applicable law are void and not eligible for consideration. E-mail and other electronic entries must be submitted by the authorized account holder or user of the e-mail address from which the entry originated. "Authorized account holder" means the person whose name appears on the business records of the Internet or online service provider or other organization responsible for assigning the domain associated with the email address. Only one (1) entry per household (or e-mail address) may be submitted for any given Contest unless the relevant Contest-Specific Rules specifically state otherwise. Submission of more than the permitted number of entries renders all entries from the relevant household and/or email address ineligible for the Contest.

General Conditions. All Contest entries and information submitted as part of or in connection with Contest entries become the sole and exclusive property of Company and will not be returned. Submission of an entry to a Contest constitutes:

(a) Full and complete acceptance of each and every one of these Contest Rules, relevant Contest-Specific Rules (whether or not published separately from or in a different form than these Rules), and The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine Writers Guidelines and Terms and Conditions for Submitting Queries (available online at http://www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com/site_index.php).

(b) Full consent and a grant of unlimited permission and non-exclusive rights for Company to print, publish, broadcast and use all portions of the Contest entry and all information submitted as part of or in connection with the Contest entry, including without limitation the entrant's full

name, on Internet websites owned or operated by Company and in any and all Company publications, including without limitation the print publication The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine. Company reserves the right, but has no obligation, to establish Contest-Specific Rules for some or all Contests permitting entrants to request that Company not publish entrants' names and e-mail addresses and will make reasonable efforts to comply with requests made in accordance with such Contest-Specific Rules, provided that Company accepts no liability or responsibility for publication of any information submitted as part of or in connection with a Contest entry unless such publication occurs as a result of the intentional misconduct of Company.

(c) Acknowledgment that Company is under no obligation to use or publish any Contest entry and that the entrant is not entitled to any consideration in return for submission or publication of the Contest entry or any information submitted as part of or in connection with the Contest entry.

(d) Acceptance of any and all risks, responsibilities and legal obligations associated with entering or winning Contests, including without limitation any tax liability associated with winning a prize in one (1) or more Company

Contest-Specific Rules. Company will publish Contest-Specific Rules for each Contest, which may include, without limitation, additional rules, instructions and guidelines for entering the relevant Contest. Contest-Specific Rules are automatically incorporated into and made a part of these Rules on a Contest-by-Contest basis.

Disqualifications. Company reserves the right to disqualify any entrant or entry trying to circumvent or break Contest Rules, tamper with the Contest process or otherwise interfere with proper functioning of the Contest. Entries received in violation of applicable law or submitted by entrants whose conduct violates applicable law are automatically null and void.

Judging, Disputes. Company reserves the right to sponsor both random drawings and Contests involving skills. Contest-Specific Rules will establish in advance whether winners will be judged on the basis of various criteria or drawn at random from all eligible entries. Entries will be judged or winners drawn at random, as appropriate, by Company staff. Staff will judge Contests of skill using standard Company Contest guidelines, policies and procedures, which may change to comply with Company and Contest needs and applicable law. Winners of Contests involving random drawings will be selected at random from all eligible entries. Company reserves the sole, discretionary and absolute right to determine contest winners and to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend any Contest at any time with or without notice or cause. Company reserves the sole, discretionary and absolute right to resolve any dispute relating to or arising out of any Contest.

Notification of Winners. Contest winners will be contacted by e-mail within five (5) days after conclusion of the judging process or random drawing, as appropriate. Winners must respond to the e-mail within seven (7) calendar days of the date of the Company e-mail notification in order to claim the prize. If a winner cannot be contacted or does not claim the prize within the specified time period, Company reserves the sole, discretionary right to declare the prize forfeited and select another winner. Prizes must be accepted "AS-IS," with no substitutions. Prizes are not redeemable for cash value. Winners are solely responsible for payment of any taxes on

Odds of Winning. Odds of winning will vary based upon the number of eligible entries received and the nature of the relevant Contest.

No Purchase Necessary. No purchase is necessary to enter Company Contests.

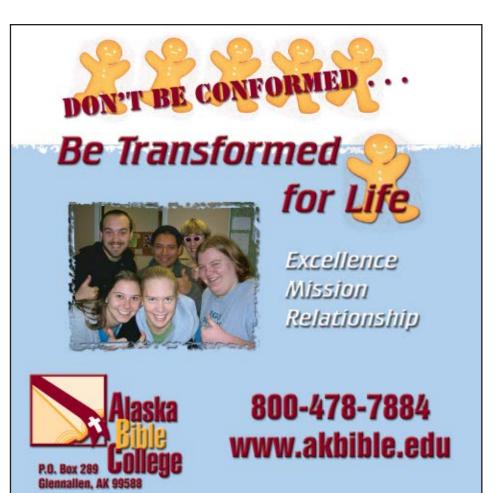
No Warranties. Company and its officers, employees, agents, representatives, affiliates, advertisers and sponsors accept no liability and make no representations or warranties, express or implied, with respect to any aspect of Contests, including without limitation (a) Contest prizes and awards, (b) the form, substance and content of entries, including without limitation entries containing false or inaccurate information, (c) entries which fail to comply with Contest guidelines, Rules, Contest-Specific Rules or applicable law, (d) entries which may be lost, incomplete, illegible, damaged, submitted after applicable deadlines or not received by Company, regardless of the reason or justification for damage, destruction, deletion or failure of delivery, (e) technical errors or malfunctions, whether or not caused by or originating with Company equipment, (f) the functionality of the Internet, email servers or Company websites, (g) loss, injury or damage of any kind caused by, resulting from or arising out of any Contest, entry, prize or related matter, to the maximum extent permitted by law. Entrants accept sole and complete responsibility for making sure Contest entries are received by Company in an appropriate form and timely manner.

Waiver of Claims. Submission of an entry into one (1) or more Contests constitutes the entrant's agreement to waive, release and discharge Company and all Company officers, employees, agents, successors and assigns from any and all claims, demands, causes of action and liabilities (including without limitation costs and attorney fees) (collectively, "Claims"), known or unknown, that the entrant may have or claim to have in connection with, relating to or arising out of (a) the use or publication of intellectual property or specific personal information submitted with or as part of the Contest entry, unless and to the extent the relevant use or publication results from the willful misconduct of Company, (b) the nature and content of Contests, (c) the ability or inability of individual entrants to access Company websites, email addresses or other information relating to Contests at any time and for any reason and (d) acceptance, possession or use of prizes won as a result of participating in Contests. Entrants accept full responsibility for and agree to fully indemnify Company against any and all Claims arising out of or relating to the substance and content of their Contest entries, including without limitation violations of intellectual property law.

Conflict. If any conflict arises between these Rules and Contest-Specific Rules these Rules will prevail. If any conflict arises between Contest Rules and applicable law the latter will prevail, the relevant Rules will be deleted, modified or limited to the extent necessary and the other provisions of the Rules will remain in full force and effect.

Contest Rules, Winner Lists. Complete copy of these Rules, Contest-specific guidelines and lists of Contest winners may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine, LLC, PO Box 8426, Gray, TN 37615.

Void Where Prohibited. All Contests are subject to applicable law and void where prohibited by law.





Academic Cap & Gown

20644 Superior St. Chatsworth, CA 91311 (800) 626-5000 (818) 886-8697

Serving you for over 60 years!

- **Graduation Robes**
- **Class Rings**
- **Honor Cords**
- **Honor Stoles**
- **Choir Robes**
- **Caps and Tassels**



Caps and Gowns for everyone from Kindergarten

visit us online anytime www.academicapparel.com

Summer 2007 **181** www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

Schoolhouse for Homeschool Families Magazine

The Old Schoolhouse Magazine ("TOS Magazine"), ISSN 1538-4071, is a quarterly worldwide publication with approximately 95% of its readers residing inside the US and its territories. The remaining 5% are homeschool support groups, education retail outlets and/ or families stationed overseas on military bases or non-Americans homeschooling on foreign soil. Most recipients of these are families homeschooling in Canada, although distant lands such as Belgium, Germany, England, France, Ireland, Turkey, Iran, Greece, Pakistan, Honduras, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, and others (30 countries) are represented. Readership is estimated at 100,000+ readers per run (issue). TOS Magazine is made available to thousands of homeschool families (subscribers), our advertisers and writers, education companies, and individuals desiring to know more about homeschooling through various churches and community posts, public libraries, and educational/book supply retail outlets across the US, such as Christian bookstores, Barnes & Noble Bookstores, Borders Books, Hastings, Books-A-Million, Waldenbooks, Amazon.com, Chapters, Indigo Stores (Canada), and numerous smaller stores. Disticor is the major distributor (newsstands). Approximately 1,000 pastors and/or missionaries have also subscribed to TOS Magazine. The Old Schoolhouse Magazine is published by The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, LLC. Website: www.TheHomeschool-Magazine.com

Submitting articles to TOS Magazine: We look forward to receiving your comments or queries about submissions. For submission guidelines, please visit our website or you may write to us for those guidelines at The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, LLC, PO Box 8426, Gray, TN 37615. Phone is 1-888-718-HOME. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. Please do not submit materials to us until you first reply to the submission guidelines.

Advertising policy with TOS Magazine: We reserve the option of refusing any advertisements we deem unsuitable, with or without prior contract for position space. If we feel the advertisement is unsuitable for the publication for any reason, the publishers, with or without explanation, may refuse it or insist upon alternative artwork and/or copy. TOS Magazine uses the strictest screening methods based upon personal conviction and principle. Further, TOS Magazine and its staff do not necessarily endorse the advertisers or their products contained in this magazine or on our website.

Statement of Faith: Our statement of faith is rather lengthy. It can be found in its entirety on the company website. If you do not have Internet access, please contact our business office at (888) 718-HOME and we will mail a copy to you.

Subscription inquiries: Subscribe at our website or by calling our business office. Save off the newsstand price. Pay only \$24.95 per year in the US and \$45.60 per year (USD) for foreign. Cover price is \$7.95 US and \$9.95, foreign. Free subscriptions are made available to any family experiencing financial hardship that cannot pay. Pastors and missionaries receive free subscriptions: just ask. Homeschool support groups may offer their members 50% off when 50 or more subscriptions are ordered at once. To order 500 issues or more for your church or homeschool organization at a reduced cost (\$3 per issue which includes shipping), call 1-888-718-HOME. We allow you to take these reduced-cost magazines and sell them at 100% profit for fundraising purposes. Earn money for your groups!

Buying homeschool products: Please let our advertisers know that you found them here at TOS Magazine. Catalogs or brochures are available from most—just call them and ask. Tell them TOS Magazine sent you! TOS Magazine and its staff do not necessarily endorse the advertisers or their products contained in this magazine or on our website.

Submit YOUR website: If you are family-friendly, we may give you our regal emblem which can be found at great sites all over the web now. Check out our website for details. There is no charge for the emblem. Email Kate Kessler at Kate-Kessler@ TheHomeschoolMagazine.com for details.

DISCLAIMER: The Old Schoolhouse Magazine and its staff do not necessarily endorse the articles, letters, images, advertisements or other matters in the magazine or on our website or otherwise. The views and opinions or other matters expressed by any author, artist, company or others in this or any past or future edition of TOS Magazine or on our website are not necessarily those of the publishers, editors, staff, associates or other parties of TOS Magazine, and no representation as to the accuracy, validity, truth or other aspects of such matters is made. Please use discernment and wisdom when considering the advice and recommendations made in this magazine or on our website by its many contributors. If you engage in any dealings with any of these advertisers, writers or other parties, you do so on your own and TOS Magazine shall not be responsible in any way for those dealings.

Advertising Sales: PO Box 8426, Gray, TN 37615 1-888-718-HOME.

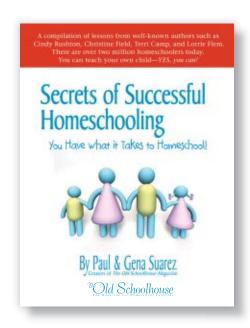
All images without attribution found on the pages of TOS Magazine are provided either by Photos.comTM or DreamstimeTM.

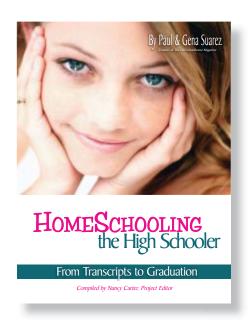
Copyright © The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, LLC 2007. All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, transmitted, posted, duplicated, stored in a retrieval system or otherwise used without the express written approval of the publisher. For reprint permission, contact our business office.

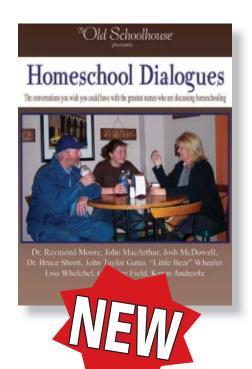
HOMESCHOOL? Yes, You Can!

Learn From the Homeschooling Experts

\$1245 each no shipping









Compiled and edited by Kate Kessler





Summer! I don't know about your neck of the woods but it of the woods, but in ours the summer weather can be really overwhelming at times! The heat is strong and the tomatoes and zucchini grow like weeds. What is it like in your home? Are you planning new curriculum and checking out the latest homeschooling catalogs? Well, I hope to share some ideas with you here. So grab your iced coffee and come join me in The Old Schoolhouse Magazine's Laboratory!

So who does these reviews anyway? A fantastic group of homeschool families just like you. They share the ups and downs they encounter to hopefully help you in your curriculum choices. If you see (...) below it is because the review was just too long to fit it all here. You can find all our reviews on our website at www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com/ Homeschool Reviews. We have close to 2,000 reviews up there now! You can also find the remainder of the review there if it happens to be a long one.

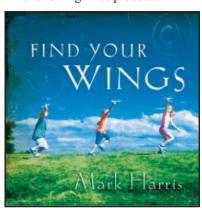
Would you like to win the products you read about? Some of the companies below joined with us to bring you some free curriculum. After you have read about the products, head over to the Contests for Readers column on pages 180-81 to see what is up for grabs! All entry details are found there. Do enter the contests. I cannot tell you how often I receive the response, "I have never won anything before!" when I call a winner. All contest entries are due by October 2, 2007.

APPLE CONTEST!

Remember to count the apples for the Apple Contest! Some of you



don't do this when you enter the other contests, but you really should. All you have to do is count the apples found scattered throughout the magazine—*any* apple in the magazine is fair game, and that includes partial apples and those found in the ads. Get your children counting! Write the number on the insert card, and then mail it in (specific contest details found on the Contests for Readers pages). TEN of you will win the following three products:



Find Your Wings CD and Gift Book

BY MARK HARRIS HOWARD BOOKS WWW.HOWARDPUBLISHING.COM 800-858-4109

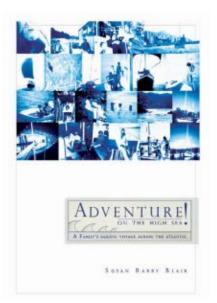
Find Your Wings is based on the beautiful song by Mark Harris. This gift book is just as touching and lovely as the song. With more than 50 pages, this hardcover gift book is filled with beautiful illustrations, the song lyrics, Scriptures, inspirational quotes, poems, and the accompanying CD. Watching the CD video brought tears to my eyes. It is such a moving song!

The following quote by Charles Spurgeon is one that I love:

> Be dogmatically true, Obstinately holy, Immovably honest, Desperately kind, Fixedly upright.

This is a gift that will be treasured and an absolute winner. I loved this very special book and CD!

> -Lisa Barthuly Sales and Advertising Specialist



Adventure on the High Sea! A Family's Voyage **Across the Atlantic**

BY SUSAN BARRY BLAIR WWW.SUSANBARRYBLAIR.COM



Even though I'm the daughter of a sailor, I've never learned to enjoy sailing. However, my children love it, and together we've had many sailing adventures—seated safely on our couch—as we've navigated the pages of Arthur Ransome's Swallows and Amazons series and other great books. Knowing the love of sailing that flows through my children's veins, I thought they'd be delighted to hear the real-life adventure of the Barry family as they sailed across the Atlantic. I was right.

In Adventure on the High Sea! A Family's Voyage Across the Atlantic, Susan Barry Blair has written the true story of her family's adventures in an easy-toread, 77-page, self-published book. The book is aimed at young readers, ages 8-13, but I decided to read it aloud to my crew of young sailors. We dove in during a recent trip to the lake. We spent two delightful evenings laughing at their escapades and gripping the seats of our chairs during tense moments. (...)

Susan's book is a delightful telling of her family's journey. You'll read about the hurricane they survived, the reason you should never fish using your spinnaker sail as a net, the story of their cat being rescued from crocodiles, and how to make lunch on a volcano. Her simple explanations of sailboats and sailing made me understand things I've been meaning to look up since reading Ransome's books. Susan's dad navigated their trip with traded sea charts and a sextant—a perfect real-life application for anyone who's enjoyed Carry On, Mr. Bowditch. We referred to the simple hand-sketched map in the front of the book often, and it was a helpful addition to our reading of the story.

One of my favorite parts of Susan's story is the respect she shows for her parents. I'm always thrilled to read a book to my children that shows strong family relationships, and Adventure on the High Sea! didn't disappoint. Susan speaks highly of her parents; her love and honor for them oozes from her writing. And you can tell that she truly enjoyed her relationship with her brother. The story is a rare, wholesome book that can be safely handed to a child to read on his own.

My only complaint was a little awkwardness in both the writing style and the layout. I'm assuming that because her book was aimed at young readers she felt a need to write in simple sentences. Some of the writing and chapter layouts led to choppiness when reading aloud. However, the short chapters will be a benefit to re-







N7137 County Hwy. C Seymour, WI 54165 1-800-655-1811

FREE MEDIA MAIL SHIPPING WITH ONLINE ORDER

- Spanish In 10 Minutes A Day
- A Charlotte Mason Companion A Charlotte Mason Education
 - Common Sense Kindergarten Rummy Roots
 - Learning Language Arts Through Literature
 - Spelling Power Writing Power
 - Key To . . . Math Workbooks
 - Kids Learning Magnets Beautiful Feet Books

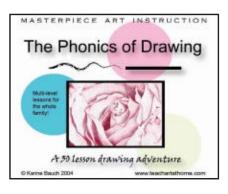
Visit Our Web Site www.birchcourtbooks.com 1-800-655-1811 FREE CATALOG

Summer 2007 **185** www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

luctant readers, and none of it detracted from the enjoyable story.

I was happy to learn that Susan is writing a sequel to her story; my crew and I will be happily onboard, eager to read of their next voyage!

-Lisa Kjeldgaard



The Phonics of Drawing

BY KARINE BAUCH MASTERPIECE ART INSTRUCTION WWW.TEACHARTATHOME.COM



The Phonics of Drawing, named because it teaches the fundamental principles of drawing in a basic way, contains 30 art lessons in three levels that correspond to the stages of the trivium. The

Grammar Stage (Beginner) is for students in first through fourth grades, and they learn basic shapes and lines, basic color theory, and basic shading and shadowing techniques as they imitate styles from classic artists. The Logic Stage (Intermediate) is for fifth through eighth grades, and the Rhetoric Stage (Advanced) is for ninth through twelfth grades.

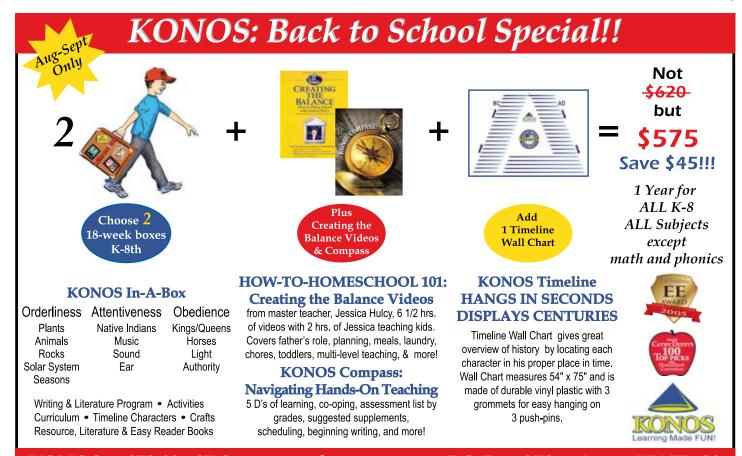
Because each lesson is multilevel, the entire family could learn together. However, if you, Mom, do not want to teach, why not hand off the job to a high schooler? The lessons are easy to follow, and kids from fifth grade on up could do them independently. Each lesson should take about an hour.

The CD contains everything you need to teach 30 weeks of art, except the supplies, of course. Needed supplies, which are listed on the first screen of each lesson, include colored pencils, oil pastels, willow and compressed charcoal, charcoal pencil, white pastel, tinted charcoal paper, white drawing paper, newsprint paper, kneaded eraser, and a blending stump.

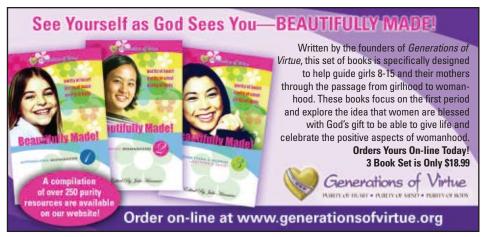
Okay, so what are the lessons like? Well, insert the CD and the homepage comes up on your screen. You'll want to make sure that the screen is maximized for best viewing. Click on Lessons on the bar at the top of the screen. Then click on the picture of the lesson you'd like to do. For example, Lesson 7 is about color theory and the color wheel. So first I click on the student handout for that lesson and print it out. (Student handouts contain samples to go along with the lesson or something for the student to use while working on the lesson.) Then I click on the picture of the color wheel, and the lesson appears on the screen. It first gives a basic introduction to the lesson and a list of the supplies you'll need. You read the lesson (this is not a video-type lesson) and work as you follow along with each step. The lesson is not lecture-based; students learn by doing. In order to teach a class, just print out the lesson and read it almost verbatim. The lessons are easy to understand and teach and are fun to do.

This looks like a wonderful reusable art program to add to your homeschool. The lessons don't take a lot of time, and they teach art fundamentals that every student needs to learn. At \$29.99, The Phonics of Drawing is a bargain as well!

-Dawn King

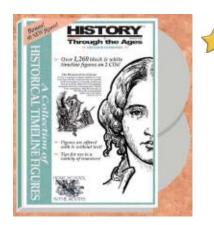


www.konos.com • PO Box 250 • Anna, TX 75409 KONOS • 972-924-2712









History Through the Ages: Historical Timeline Figures

Timeline Figures on CD, Record of Time Notebook. and Suggested Placement Guide

BY AMY PAK WWW.HOMESCHOOLINTHEWOODS.COM 585-964-8188

History Through the Ages: Historical Timeline Figures is a set of beautiful timeline figures from creation through the present offered by Home School in the Woods. I first became acquainted with Ms. Pak's timeline figures through Sonlight Curriculum. Fellow homeschooler Amy Pak hand draws these timeline figures; the drawings are very realistic and often based on actual art or photographs. The figures are available in reproducible notebook pages or on one convenient CD. The individual packages are Creation to Christ (world history), Resurrection to Revolution (AD 1-1799, world history), Napoleon to Now (AD 1750-present, world history), and America's History (explorers-twenty-first century).

All four sets are now available on two convenient CDs. These CDs are Windows and Macintosh compatible. You will also need Adobe Acrobat Reader. The first disk includes PDF pages of all four sets (more than 1,260 figures) in two sizes, notebook and wall size. Each page is available with or without text. These pages are identical to what you would get if you purchased the pre-printed sets. This CD also includes detailed timeline tips and many new bonus figures.

The second disk includes a gallery of all images as individual GIFs. These are extremely practical if you like to be selective. You can copy these individual images into any document, reducing or enlarging them effortlessly. Images are stored in more than 30 categories, the two basic ones being alphabetical and chronological. You can also search under Old Testament, Disasters, Artists, World War II, and many more categories. Each figure is available with or without text.

The new timeline notebook is beautiful. The delightful cover and titled spine insure that your notebook will look as lovely on the coffee table as in the bookshelf. This notebook is made to last, with 144 heavyweight pages covering from 5000 BC to AD 2025. Also included are 17 maps of the ancient world, seven continents, Canada, Central America, the Middle East, the United States, and the world. My only complaint is that the pages of this three-ring notebook do not turn freely. Had the pages not been so sturdy, I think they might have ripped with the effort.

A helpful placement guide is now available, showing every figure from creation (circa 5000 BC) to Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003) in its place in the new timeline book. This is quite helpful for those



of us who might fear "ruining" our beautiful timeline by not leaving enough room for other figures. The page with the year AD 1710 has only one figure (Louis XIV), but the page with the year AD 1790 has 24 figures crowded onto a single page! The authors stress that the book is meant to be only a guide and should not overrule a child's creativity. They also remind parents that timeline notebooks are best assembled by children as part of the learning process. (I needed this reminder!)

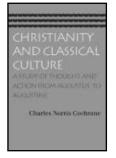
Users must read and comply with the copyright material. These CDs are licensed for individual family use only. Special permission is granted for small co-op classes of up to 12 children with a maximum of 50 images allowed. Additionally, resale of the CDs is strictly prohibited. Please contact Home School in the Woods if you desire more information.

Home School in the Woods has given us so many options with these incredibly convenient CDs, timeline notebook, and placement guide. Please visit their website to see samples of their beautiful products.

—Heather Jackowitz, Contributing Writer

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **187**

New Understanding Spread by Christianity



Published 2003. 6 x 9. 634 pages. Preface, translator's note, appendix, Quality paperback. ISBN 978-0-86597-413-5.

\$10.00

Christianity and Classical Culture

By Charles Norris Cochrane

This book is a thoughtful, insightful, informative examination of the contrast and sometimes clash between the classical era's culture and struggle to understand the world in purely rational terms, and the completely new understanding of the world developed and spread by Christianity.

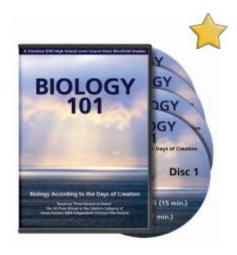


Liberty Fund, Inc. | 8335 Allison Pointe 17aii, ou Indianapolis, IN 46250-1684

Order Dept. ATOS47 8335 Allison Pointe Trail, Suite 300

Tel: Fax: E-mail: Web site:

(800) 955-8335 (317) 579-6060 books@libertyfund.org www.libertyfund.org



Biology 101: Biology According to the Days of Creation

BY WES OLSON Westfield Studios www.the101series.com 800-898-3213



Biology 101: Biology According to the Days of Creation is a four-and-ahalf-hour DVD course for Christian high school students. The set includes the four DVDs along with a PDF found on the fourth DVD that includes a guidebook, quizzes, answers to the quizzes, and a PDF accreditation booklet that outlines a 27-week program of optional supplemental activities (for a total of 135 hours of coursework). Topics include plants, aquatic creatures, birds, land animals, mankind, and genetics. This series blends biblical references, scientific facts, and historical evidence to present God's wonderful creation of life.

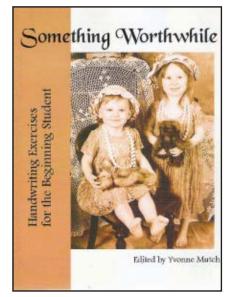
The Biology 101 course is very flexible. Though intended for high schoolers, the information is certainly presentable to younger students. You may choose to simply follow the course as it is, completing a quiz after each topic, or you can add worksheet or research activities as you see fit. The accreditation booklet is obviously a wonderful resource for supplemental material. Even if you choose not to complete the entire outline in the booklet, you can select specific activities. The guidebook includes many interesting facts, stories, and bits of trivia that can certainly pique a student's interest and lead to more in-depth research.

This course will definitely hold the attention of the viewer. After viewing the section on plants, my high school daughter eagerly requested the next DVD and even began reading plant life books on her own time! The DVDs are very well done, incorporating beautiful scenery, consistent narration, and background music.

Being a worksheet kind of person, I would like to have seen some simple fill-in-the-blank pages included. Drawings and diagrams for the student to label would be helpful. I also wish the guidebook could be purchased separately.

My family really enjoyed Biology 101. The course is very complete and offers more than enough information for a high school level biology course. I eagerly await additional courses from Westfield Studios as they have proven to our family that they do excellent work while standing firm on the Word of God.

—Donna Campos



Something Worthwhile: Handwriting Exercises for the Beginning Student

Something Worthwhile: Handwriting Exercises for the Intermediate Student

COMPILED AND EDITED BY YVONNE MUTCH XL GROUP WWW.LATINTRIVIUM.COM

Something Worthwhile is exactly what it says it is. How often have you thought how fantastic it would be to put together handwriting exercises with beautiful literature experts, poems, wonderful sayings by great people, Scripture references, and more? Yvonne Mutch has taken the time to do all this for us. Something Worthwhile is a spiral-bound resource from the same people who bring you Latin in the Christian Trivium. You will find the same high quality in this resource too.

Here are some samples of great things your children will model for their handwriting practice from the beginning

Philippians 4:8, Micah 6:8, and quotes like this:

From Virgil: "He who lives in fear will never, in my judgment, be a free man."

From George Washington: "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

From Herman Melville: "He who has never failed somewhere, that man cannot be great. Failure is the test of greatness."

And from an inscription on the wall of a concentration camp:

> I believe in the sun, even though it doesn't shine, I believe in love, even when it isn't shown. I believe in God, even when He doesn't speak.

From the intermediate book your child will become familiar with items like this:

From William Hutton: "The charity that hastens to proclaim its good deeds, ceases to be charity, and is only pride and ostentation."

From Thucydides: "The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding go out to meet it."

There are portions of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and quotes from Aristotle and Cicero and excerpts of letters of great men like John Quincy Adams after his mother's death. There are beautiful portions like this:

Good painting draws near to God and unites with Him ... it is but a copy of His perfections, the shadow of His brush, His melody and music ... So it is not enough that the painter should be a great and able master. What is more important, in my view, is that his life should be as pure and holy as possible, so that the Holy Spirit may guide his thoughts.

-Michelangelo

These books are designated for children who have mastered the basic skills of letter formation, as there are no specific handwriting instructions given, but rather lines for writing. These will better suit your children after they have been writing for a while and are comfortable with their pencil. I would not recommend them to a new writer because they will probably find themselves frustrated with the many words or the deeper (for little ones) sayings. This should not deter you from using these fantastic resources, though! I plan to use these beginning with my 9-year-old because the content is so wonderful. Modeling one's writing after great literature or great quotations has long been known to help in the formation of better writing skills. These are the perfect resource for this! I am considering using these with my older children too because I know that the content will produce wonderful conversations between us. Even though the older ones may not need the handwriting practice, they will surely benefit from the content!

-Kate Kessler, Product Reviews Manager

When Homeschooling **Gets Tough**

BY DIANA JOHNSON HOME-DESIGNED SCHOOLING WWW.HOMEDESIGNEDSCHOOLING.COM

When Homeschooling Gets Tough is written by 20-year homeschooling veteran Diana Johnson, who reminds us that it's not if homeschooling gets tough but when. Mrs. Johnson shares her homeschool experiences and lessons learned with honesty and humor as she comments on those "other" moments in the journey of homeschooling (the less-than-glowing ones no one likes to talk about).

I really enjoyed this book, an easy read that is chock full of solid advice and encouragement. The author's voice



Solid Proven Curriculum





Superior Administrative Services

Contact us today and discover how the CLASS program can help your family succeed at homeschooling.

For Free Brochure homeschools.org/tos or (800) 348-0899

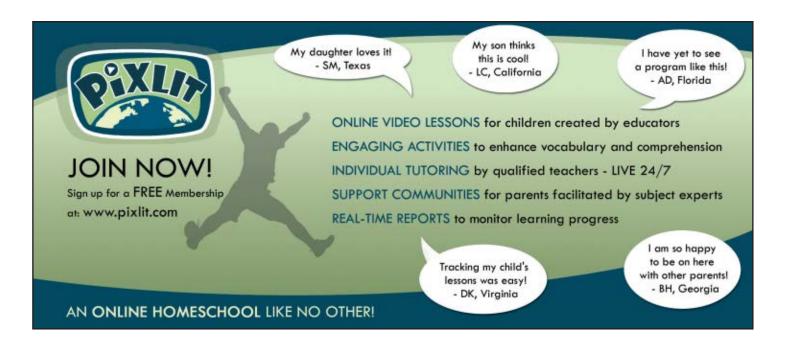
CLASS Homeschools 502 West Euclid Ave. Arlington Heights, IL 60004 custserv@homeschools.org



"CLASS has everything we were looking for in a home school program-high-quality, Bible-based materials with administrative services, all at a reasonable cost. Discovering that some successful homeschooling families we know used CLASS confirmed our decision. We're happy with CLASS!"

—Anderson Family, Illinois

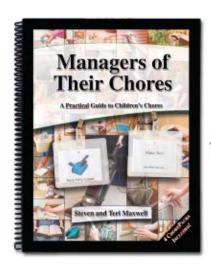
Summer 2007 **189** www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com



is knowledgeable yet unpretentious. She writes with a perfect mixture of honesty, experience, and encouragement. While she lets us in on her past mistakes and shares complete understanding of the difficulties of teaching at home, she urges us on to do our best.

Yet she does not paint a picture of the "perfect" homeschool family as something we should strive for. In fact, the second chapter is titled "Trusting God for Who We Are." In it the author encourages us to learn how God has created us and to find contentment with our teaching style, our husband's involvement, and our children's accomplishments by understanding our worth in Christ. Throughout the book, Mrs. Johnson reminds us to reflect on why we are homeschooling and the need to keep Christ central to that endeavor.

With Christ as the center, the book covers "Planning a Realistic Program," "Defining the Basics," "Controlling our Commitments," "Scheduling," "Dealing with Difficult Children," and "Looking Toward Eternity." This is one of those books that should probably be read once each year just to get us back on track. Fortunately, such a requirement would be a pleasure since the book is as humorous and encouraging as it is pertinent and helpful. This book is sure to be enjoyed by seasoned and rookie homeschoolers alike.



Managers of Their Chores: A Practical Guide to Children's Chores

Feed My Sheep: A Practical Guide to Daily Family Devotions

BY STEVEN AND TERI MAXWELL www.**T**iтus**2**.coм 913-772-0392



Steven and Teri Maxwell are the creators of Managers of Their Homes, the system that has blessed so many homeschooling moms by helping them create order in their environment. They have done a similar job with Managers of Their Chores: A Practical Guide to Children's Chores.

Chores are important. Not only do busy moms need help around the house,

but chores are a great training ground for character and work ethic. You want to get your kids onboard with regular chores as early as you can. The Maxwells help us to do this, whether our children are readers or pre-readers.

Part of the book is devoted to the importance of chores. The rest is the "how" of scheduling your family's chores. If you don't know where to begin, this book will be a big help. Also, if you are meeting resistance from your children, such as a negative attitude or poor quality work, the Maxwells offer tips for dealing with these situations as well.

On to the chores! First, you are provided with a master chore list, listing every possible chore to be done in a home. Using this exhaustive six-page list, you pick out the chores that are important to your family. Other forms are included for assigning them to individual children.

The heart of the system is the Chore-Pack. It's a vinyl pocket with a clip on it. After you've identified the chores you want your child to do, you print them out from the ChorePack website onto cardstock provided in the kit. Next, cut them out and place them in the pocket. Your child can clip the ChorePack onto his clothing, or you can place it where it will be easily seen. The child then works through the cards, with no forgetting or reminding. For readers, written chores are printed. For pre-readers, the website offers picture cards in attractive colors.

This is a fun, easy-to-administer system that you and your children will love. Planning time is minimized, and every-

—Dena Wood, Contributing Writer

thing is here for you to pick up the system and immediately put it to use in your family. Once again, the Maxwells have made family life smoother and more efficient—leaving us time for the more important things.

Another important resource by the Maxwell family is their two-CD set *Feed My Sheep: A Practical Guide to Daily Family Devotions*.

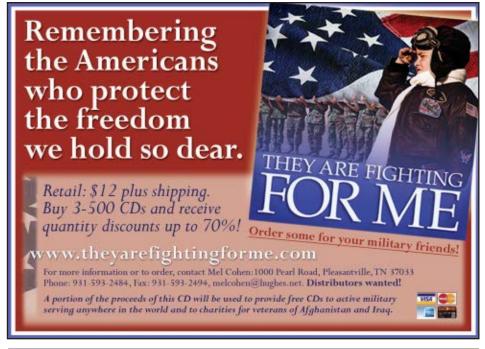
Have you struggled with the idea or practice of family devotions? Be honest. Have you questioned what to do and how to do it? Steve Maxwell can sympathize. He felt so strongly that parents need to be encouraged to do devotions that he produced this two-CD set to help us be successful.

On the first CD, he talks about the importance of devotions. It struck me hard when he said that this practice is 99% commitment and 1% technique. You can tell the depth of your commitment, he says, by how easily the commitment is derailed. How easy it is to skip Bible time when the kids oversleep or we're tired. But our commitment and faithfulness in this area will pay huge rewards: a solid grounding in the Word and a renewed family unity while studying God's Word. Mr. Maxwell shares his passion and enthusiasm. You won't look at family devotional time the same again after hearing this!

On the second CD are clips from two of the family's devotions. The father reads and talks, and the children read and talk. It demonstrates how this can be done very naturally and meaningfully in your own home. Basically, the family reads a passage of Scripture, taking turns with verses. The father then leads a brief discussion, asking personal application questions and adding insights to the study.

Family devotions don't have to be complex. We don't need a program or special materials. There is tremendous power in just gathering around the Word and talking about God. This audio set will help you to relax and feel empowered to obey Scripture by bathing your children in God's Word.

—Christine Field, Senior Contributing Correspondent





Sometimes fun and learning are the same thing.

Progeny Press

Study Guides for Literature. From a Christian Perspective.

www.progenypress.com Toll Free: 1-877-776-4369

How to Help Your Husband Make More Money So You Can Be a Stay-At-Home Mom

BY JOANNE WATSON
READ BY KIMBERLY SCHRAF
LISTEN AND LIVE AUDIO
WWW.LISTENANDLIVE.COM



Okay, I know this is a bit like preaching to the choir, but I have a great book on tape for you to listen to from Listen and Live Audio (www.listenandlive.com). It's called How to Help Your Husband Make More Money So You Can Be a Stay-At-Home Mom, by Joanne Watson and read by Kimberly Schraf. Isn't that a great title? Now, I know most of our beloved readers are stay-at-home and homeschooling moms and dads, but there are some great ideas and resources in this book. The concept is simple—many families feel like they have to both work to "make ends meet." Now, if you want to

stay home with your kids there are only a few options: spend less, make things last longer, or make more. Most families could cut expenses a good amount, but as Mrs. Watson points out, sometimes there are expenses that can't be cut, such as medical expenses or unexpected emergencies. Therefore, another option is to help your husband make more at his job, freeing you to stay home without mortgaging the kids!

I want to confess that I'm a bit of a snob on this issue. We have always worked things out so one of us, mostly me, could be home with the kids. We did this even when we were in graduate school and making less than peanuts. Most homeschooling families know that God will provide a way to make those dollars stretch further and do with less so that we can give our children the wonderful gift of homeschooling. All that being said, the concepts in this book can go a long way toward making this sacrifice a bit easier.

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ **191**

What if your husband really could be making more doing what he enjoys doing and is really good at? On the other hand, what if you have to work part-time in the evenings and weekends to make ends meet? A little planning (and a lot of prayer) might give your husband the opportunity to be more successful in his job.

There were many things I really liked about this book. Probably the best is that Mrs. Watson emphasizes teamwork at every turn. She stresses that you are a helper for your husband, so that you can both realize your mutual dreams. Nagging your husband about not making enough is a quick road to a fight! But

encouraging your husband, networking for him, setting goals with him, and most importantly, praying for and with him, puts you both on the same team with the same goal. This book gives the practical "how-tos" that make the process easier, as well as ample resources. Much of it could come from any good find-a-great-job-ata-great-salary type of book, but this book adds the valuable insight of how to work on this project together. For example, the wife can help network for her husband, can stuff envelopes and type résumés, and can do research on the Internet or at the library about job openings, average salaries, specific companies, and so on. Moreover, the most important way the wife can help is to encourage and pray for her husband as he takes the steps he needs to take. This is a great book filled with wonderful ideas, tremendous resources, information, encouragement, and practical steps. It is also witty and enjoyable listening!

—Dr. Anne Margaret Wright

Animal Survival



By Don Balick
TOPS Learning Systems
10970 South Mulino Road
Canby, OR 97013
www.topscience.org



The TOPS people sure do know how to make learning fun! *Animal Survival* is a book of structured hands-on activities that is part of their "science with simple things" series. These people take a lot of the so-called "junk" we all have lying around our houses and turn it into an educational gold mine! I would describe their teaching method as doing a unit study where the student does all the research. This is not simple stuff, either. It is independent, investigative, thought-provoking learning. The teacher simply supplies the materials and feedback.

Animal Survival begins by explaining the TOPS educational philosophy, general instructions, and a supply list (most of which you have lying around the house). A "logic tree" neatly organizes the activities into related groups. Next there is a page of extension activity suggestions to enhance your student's understanding of the material. Again, these are completed by the student, NOT the teacher. Included in this area are review or test questions with answers as well as notes to help you "teach to a higher level" so that your student is getting the most out of each lesson.

Part II covers the activities themselves. Each activity includes a student worksheet, lesson objective and notes, answer key, extension activity if there is one, and a materials list. The student worksheets give wonderful instructions with detailed black-and-white drawings that are easy to follow. Activity 1 is designed to enhance observation and communication skills. Activity 4 involves observing an animal, writing out those observations, and being able to distinguish between observation and hypothesis. Any animal can be observed. Activity 13 discusses camouflage, while Activity 15 explores how animals



Try the free sample lessons of AVKO Sequential Spelling @ www.spelling.org

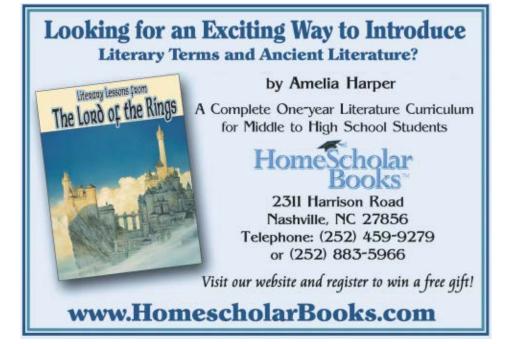


all tall stall install

AVKO Sequential Spelling works for children of all ages, all levels of learning abilities—even dyslexics.

installment

For information about **handwriting, keyboarding** programs that teach reading and spelling AS your child learns the alphabet visit the AVKO Educational Research Foundation's www.spelling.org website. If you don't have access to the internet, call toll free 1-866-AVKO-612 and ask for a catalog.



192 Lab www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

use shape, color, and sound to ward off predators. There are 20 total activities in this unit.

Part III has a few pages of supplementary cutouts used in two of the activities. How much easier can these people make it for the teacher? Not much! I just can't say enough about the TOPS Learning Systems products. Around our house, they are simply the best. Even Mom enjoys "doing" science the TOPS way!

—Teri Lucas



Tell Me More Foreign Language Premium Homeschool Edition



888-388-3535

Tell Me More is a foreign language computer program. This program includes four CDs covering multiple levels: Complete Beginner, Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced as well as a headset and an audio CD. This program completely covers languages such as German, Spanish, Japanese, French, Russian, and Italian. Each language is available for purchase separately.

To start using the program, you must first choose one of three learning modes: Guided Mode, Dynamic Mode, and Freeto-Roam Mode. In Guided Mode you will find all of the lessons in a strict order. In Dynamic mode the student sets the goals and the program works on the individual needs of the student. In Free-to-Roam mode, the student can choose between grammar, pronunciation, culture, vocabulary lessons, or writing (typing) the language. These modes make this program a great tool for people with some knowledge of the language to be studied, as well as one who is just starting out.

Although the manufacturer-suggested age for this product is 11 and up, we feel that anyone in third grade could use this program quite successfully if motivated. Auditory and visual learners would espe-

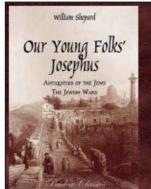
Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt

- Brings the Bible to life for children
- → Brilliantly colored felt figures capture attention and leave a lasting impression
- ♦ Versatile 600 piece set illustrates Old and New Testament stories
- ◆ 182 lesson Teacher's Manual

Available at your local Christian bookstore or write:



Betty Lukens, PO Box 2407 Rohnert Park, CA 94927 blukens@sonic.net www.bettylukens.com



"Jump back in time to a place where historical accounts of the Hebrews are brought to life in an exciting narrative style. The history of Ancient Israel is revealed in a first-hand account from the great historian Flavius Josephus. Our Young Folks' Josephus is a compilation of his two greatest works, Antiquities of the Jews and The Jewish Wars. You'll marvel at the history that is played-out before your eyes. A journey that begins with the call of Abraham and ends with the destruction of Jerusalem and the fall of Massada...this is a must-have for every bookshelf." ~ Eclectic Homeschool Online

PaideaClassics.Org

Available at Amazon.com (Marketplace), The Book Peddler, Arx Publishing, Homeschool Hangout, Tanglewood Education, and other fine homeschool retailers.

cially enjoy it because the words and sentences are spoken by a native speaker. An animated 3-D head also makes the mouth movements of the various sounds. This animated head is very helpful as it shows all the movement in the mouth, palate, and face to help the student make the sounds exactly. This program also has the ability to "listen" to the student with voice recognition technology and tell the student whether she is speaking correctly. This is a real help when no one is around who can speak and listen with the student or for a family to whom the language is new.

This program was made especially for the homeschool environment. With the ability to track several students and the ability for parents to access the content of the program with or without the answers, whole families will benefit from this program.

This is a great product for all types of homeschoolers—unschoolers, classical, and unit study folks alike would appreciate this program. Tell Me More programs

could even be used as a unit study on the country and language as they include cultural lessons as well as geography.

In purchasing this product, people should take heed of recommended computer configuration. We feel this product is the best foreign language program we have come across.

-Colton Dumont

Digital Disaster



BY ROBERT ELMER

WATERBROOK PRESS, A DIVISION OF
RANDOM HOUSE

WWW.WATERBROOKPRESS.COM



I read this book almost immediately after I received it. It is the first book in a Christian fiction series for ages 9-12 that takes place in the Internet—yes, literally in the Internet. Austin and Ashley are normal 12-year-old kids living in Normal, Illinois. Austin rigs up a digital camera to his computer so they can take

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 ■ 193

a photo of their aunt's pedigree dog and put it straight on the Internet. But then the dog disappears and they see him on the monitor, so they have to go find him. They chase the dog from site to site inside the Internet by stepping on a link that shows up only when they step on it—a very amusing scenario.

However, the humor subsides when they happen upon a mysterious lady with a little mechanical device in her hand. As they are observing the band playing a hymn on the sinking *Titanic*, the mysterious lady pushes her button. Suddenly, the band is being "rewound." Then, with a little more button pushing, the band starts playing a jazzy song instead, and then the lady links away. That's where things get even crazier as Austin and Ashley realize she is trying to change history and erase Christian influence. They have to stop her!

Digital Disaster is a wonderful book. My son was anxiously waiting for me to finish so that he could read it, and he is similarly pleased. My only disappointment is that the story line is continued in the next book, and we don't have that book yet—groan! So if you buy this book, you might want to go ahead and buy the next one in the series as well.

-Nancy Wagner

Latin for Children Primer A, Activity Book, and Libellus de Historia

By Dr. Aaron Larsen, Dr. Christopher Perrin, Rob Baddorf, and Karen Moore

CLASSICAL ACADEMIC PRESS WWW.CLASSICALACADEMICPRESS.COM 866-730-0711

Also Distributed by Timberdoodle Company www.Timberdoodle.com 800-478-0672



The Latin for Children primer series (LFC) is a wonderful Latin program offered by Classical Academic Press (CAP). I received this product to review from one of the companies that distributes it, Timberdoodle. The first time I saw it I was initially won over by the beautiful illustrations and its organized layout. Upon closer examination I soon realized it wasn't just another pretty face, but rather a meaty Latin program that is grammatically challenging and offers clear explanations so that anyone can successfully use it. (...)

Each primer has these supplementary items available (sold separately): (1) Answer keys that feature the actual text with answers in bold print. (2) Activity books with games and puzzles that help to ingrain the Latin vocabulary and grammar from each primer. (3) History readers with Latin stories from history that are geared toward what is being learned in each primer. (4) DVDs and a chant CD that offer chapter-by-chapter training by the author with two students. The chant CD contains all 240 vocabulary words chanted and sung in both the classical and ecclesiastical pronunciations.

For this review I looked specifically at *Latin for Children Primer A*. The Latin for Children primers are integrated with the Veritas history curriculum. This does not mean you must use Veritas, but you will find that the illustrations, maxims, and some translations in Primer A reflect the Veritas third grade New Testament, Greece, and Rome history series. Most chapters, excluding review chapters, follow the same pattern: memory page, grammar page(s), worksheet, and quiz.

The memory page begins with a chapter maxim. In Primer A this is often a verse from Scripture or a quote by a famous Roman. There is also a grammar chant as well as ten vocabulary words. All the verbs introduced in the weekly vocabulary include the four principal parts. This is something that is not included in most elementary Latin programs, but it serves the students well to learn these now. As they progress in Latin it will be much easier for them to learn the many verb forms.

The grammar page follows the memory page. One of the many things I appreciate about Latin for Children is that the student primer contains all new concepts being taught and the grammar pages include all the new grammar for the week; this gives students the ability to refer back in their own text if they need to review any information.

The chapter ends with a weekly worksheet that reviews vocabulary translation, chant, and grammar and introduces a couple of derivatives. Lastly you will find a weekly quiz. Every five chapters or so there is a review chapter. (...)

There is no teacher's manual for the Latin for Children primers. There is an answer key that replicates the student worksheets and quizzes with all the answers to quizzes, exercises, puzzles, and worksheets filled in with a large bold font. This is one area of criticism I have for the program: I would like to see the complete student text, including the memory and grammar pages, included in the answer key.

Classical Academic Press offers supplemental materials to use alongside the student primers. These are not necessary to successfully use the program, but I encourage you to give them consideration.

The Latin for Children Activity Book follows the student primer chapter by chapter and offers fun puzzles, games, and mazes to enhance a student's study of Latin vocabulary and grammar. Following the tradition of the primers, the activity book is wonderfully illustrated and laid out. It is a very useful and fun addition to your weekly Latin studies.

If you are looking for a supplement that packs a bit more punch, you need look no further than Latin for Children's history reader, Libellus de Historia. Reader A contains 15 stories that, like the primer, correspond to Veritas' New Testament, Greece, and Rome history series. It contains vocabulary and grammar covered in the student primer, along with some new vocabulary. The author, Karen Moore, suggests beginning the reader when the student is about halfway through primer A. In this text students are introduced to more vigorous translation exercises than those found in the student primer. Written and oral translation are both excellent tools to help students grow in their knowledge and understanding of Latin. Classical Academic Press has done a good job with their readers. In addition to the fifteen stories, there are two songs and a complete glossary of new vocabulary. These readers are an excellent supplementary text for students using other Latin curricula as well.

I have found Latin for Children to be a very thorough, challenging, creative Latin curriculum that engages the students and does a fantastic job with teacher support. I recommend it highly.

—Karen Ciavolella

And that will wrap up *The Old Schoolhouse Magazine*'s Laboratory for the Summer issue! I hope to see you back again in the fall. Don't forget to check out the contest page—as always, some gems are available this time!



194 Lab www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

BOYCOTT "ME"

-by Hap-

"He must increase, but I must decrease" Jn 3:30



Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whosoever loses his life for me will find it"

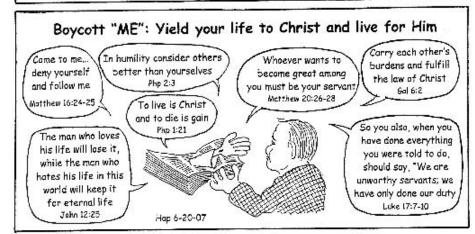
Matthew 16:24-25

As our secular culture boldly and loudly proclaims that we are to believe in ourselves and pursue to fulfill our desires, the Bible teaches a totally different path: a narrow way that leads to everlasting life. (Mt 7:13-14)

BOYCOTT "ME". As a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself and follow Him. Live a life of love that glorifies God. And whatever we say or do in the name of the Lord, we can only say "We are unworthy servants, we only done our duty." (Luke 17:7-10) —Hap

Concept taken from a sermon by Dale Thiele, Senior High Minister at Valley Springs Presbyterian Church...Thanks, Dale I





www.haptoon.com

Cartoons that renew your mind, revive your soul and tickle your spiritual funny bone...

THE HAPTOON COLLECTION

A 44 page book containing 23 of the very best of Haptoon personally selected by the artist.

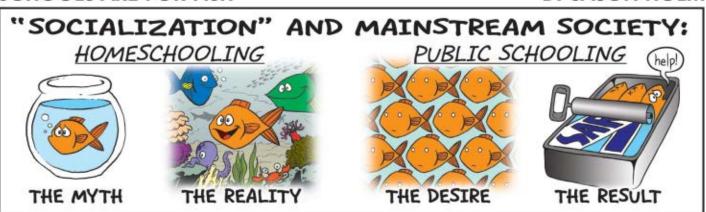


Only \$5.00

(including postage and handling)

Order online at www.haptoon.com or mail a check/money order to:

> Michael F. Halpin 6217 Gettysburg Lane Citrus Hgts. Ca. 95621



WWW.INFLATABLESTUDIOS.COM

© 2007 JASON HOLM

PhonicsTutor® Reading & Spelling Curriculum

www.phonicstutor.com Download Demo 888-420-READ (7323)
Orton-Gillingham, Dyslexia, ESL, Remedial

Analyze, hear, read, pronounce, and spell 20 words in 20 minutes, the speed necessary for the remediation of dyslexia. *PhonicsTutor* dictates and grades a sequential set of spelling tests of over 3,600 words. Students hear the

phoneme for every phonogram in every word. Research proven, synthetic-analytic, multisensory approach. Produces students who can spell and read 93% of all words in print, e.g.: machinery, picturesque, prodigious, azure.

"This is emphatically a five-star (****), can't-miss program. I envision smiles spreading all across the country because of Dr. and Mrs. Hickerson's amazing work!"

Merri Larsen, Reviewer

TOS Bulletin Board

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS We make history fun! Historical Happenings is a family-run homeschool business dedicated to helping homeschoolers have fun while learning history. We specialize in historical toys, clothing and accessories to aid in recreating history. Check out our website at www.historicalhappenings.com or call us at 978-939-4313 to learn more.

LOOKING FOR SCIENCE SUPPLIES, Kits, Project Supplies, etc. We stock them all for immediate and fast delivery. Agar, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Lab Equipment and Supplies. For Price, Quality and Variety, Visit our web site: **www.thesciencefair.com**. Questions: **(904)687-6257** EST. M-F, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

HOMESCHOOL LIVING wants to help you with ideas and make available to you different products to make your homeschooling days fun, educational, and enjoyable. We're a homeschool family that values YOUR choice to be in charge of your child's education. 10% off order with A68 code at checkout - www.homeschooliving.com - contactus@homeschool living.com

MOMS for 9 months your life was focused around protecting your precious little bundle and now you do your best to teach them as they grow. Why stop there? Be sure to protect their bodies and keep them healthy and safe from hidden dangers in places you wouldn't even think about. Also learn how you could supplement your home's income by educating others about these hidden dangers. Learn more by visiting my website at www.1000moms1000dollars.com/dcox

WHOLESALE BOOK PRICES AND A GREAT ADDITIONAL INCOME OPPORTUNITY!! Run your own online book business from home. Call 888-808-4796 or visit www.thejwpcompany.com

ARE YOU A HOMESCHOOLER LOOKING FOR A FAMILY BUSINESS? Interested in incorporating a home business into your curriculum? Around the country homeschoolers enjoy this fun opportunity. With Unlimited earning potential, flexible hours and a unique support system, this business allows your family to work together. Visit www.kidspartybusiness.com for more information.

196 ■ TOS Bulletin Board www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com

Use the program homeschoolers prefer for

Legible Handwriting

Getty-Dubay™

Italic Handwriting Series

Grades K-6 and Adult Learners



- Smooth transition from print to cursive
- Effective because it makes sense
- Legible because it's loop-free

1-866-647-7377

Continuing Education Press







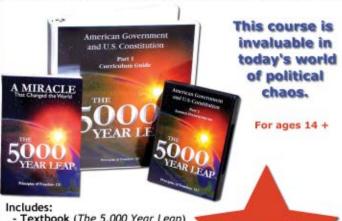
Principle Based Civics Curriculum

A whole new approach to studying American History and the Constitution

American Government and U.S. Constitution

(Part 1) one semester civics course

Discover the fundamental beliefs that the Founding Fathers said must be incorporated into any government or society to produce prosperity and peace. Learn how adherence to or the violation of these principles has directly affected the prosperity or decay of this nation and ultimately all nations.



Textbook (The 5,000 Year Leap)

 Curriculum Guide (Includes class schedule, teaching objectives, reading assignments, quizzes, exams, and more.) 27 Lesson Presentations

contained on 6 DVD's. (Lessons range from 20 to 45 minutes in length.)

Now only \$49.95

A More Perfect Union

America Becomes a Nation

Education Version

This stirring 2-hour film will bring the Founding Fathers to life as you witness the struggles and the miracles that produced the Constitution of the United States and the freest nation on earth. Filmed on location at Independence Hall; Williamsburg, Virginia; and other historical sites, it dramatically chronicles how America became a nation. It is exciting drama of the best kind-fact, rather than fiction.

This packet retails for \$39.95, but for a limited time you can have everything shown here for only \$19.95 + shipping. Order now and receive a second packet absolutely FREE!



I LOVE AMERICA

Let your child learn about America's history, heritage, and freedoms through...

Stories, songs, poems, cut-outs, coloring, and more.

Dont' just talk about America - let your child learn by doing and feeling!

For ages 4 - 7



www.nccs.net



Order online or call 800-388-4512

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com Summer 2007 **197**

Homeschool Alumni

he Old Schoolhouse Magazine would like to honor a few homeschool graduates and their parents and families for their accomplishment in completing their high school studies. Of course, this is just a tiny sampling of the homeschool alumni across the United States and around the world who are a credit to their families and to homeschooling. Our space is very limited here, but we invite you to visit our Homeschool Alumni page online at www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com/ Homeschool Alumni.php to see more homeschool alumni and to submit your own information to be posted there or considered for publication here in a future issue. Congratulations, graduates, and may God bless you as you follow His calling and find His purpose for your life!



Mandy Corbett

2007

It has been an adventure and large blessing to travel the United States in a 37-foot fifth-wheel for the past few years with my family (five people and three dogs). We have moved where the Lord leads and my dad finds work. Currently we live in Oceano, California. I am studying dance and long to develop this gift to use for the Lord. I have a huge heart for people and missions, especially for my King.



Ben Green

Alaska, 1999

After graduating high school in 1999, I worked for a year before joining the Air Force National Guard. I served in the Afghanistan Campaign and Operation Iraqi Freedom. I have my A.A. in criminal justice and have nearly finished my business administration degree. Along the way, I have enjoyed volunteering as a basketball



coach, sports official, and firefighter. I was married to my beautiful wife, Sarah [below], three months ago and now live in Spokane, Washington, where I work as a police officer.

Kyle Contino

My name is Kyle Contino, and I have been homeschooled for 13 years. The flexibility of homeschooling has allowed me to pursue a variety of interests, including sports, music, reading, carpentry, volunteer work, and entrepreneurial ventures. Homeschooling has also provided an ideal environment for learning how to work in-



dependently. After graduation this year I look forward to studying masonry at Williamson Trade School as well as pursuing my other professional and personal interests.

Sarah (Phippen) Green

New York, 2004

After graduating from high school in New York in 2004, I went to college, graduating as a registered nurse. Two days after I graduated college, I became engaged and started planning a wedding. The day after I was married, we moved to

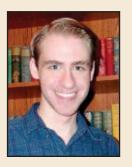


Spokane, Washington, and I am currently employed as a nurse at a long-term care facility. God has directed my life in the past and I look forward to seeing how He will direct it in the future.

Joshua Newborn

Pennsylvania, 2003

I was homeschooled through high school in Pennsylvania, graduated from high school when I was 15 years old, attended Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, for a B.S. in political science and economics, and just graduated summa cum laude with President Bush as my commencement speaker. I'll be going



to Los Angeles for a summer film production internship and then to Virginia in the fall for law school (most likely George Mason University).

Rebecca Turner

New York, 2006

Since graduating high school in 2006, I've been working as a presenter in public school health classes speaking about abstinence until marriage and have started a photography business called Trip the Light Photography. Although I thoroughly enjoy both jobs, my heart is in missionsespecially for the inner-city and homeless



population of our country. So, I am currently seeking God's will for how and where He would use me to reach them, while using the talent He's given me.

Congratulations, Homeschool Graduates!



Educational Opportunities for K-12 Students!

Regardless of where
"here" is, earning
a high school
diploma from Texas
Tech University
Independent School
District (TTUISD) is

possible.

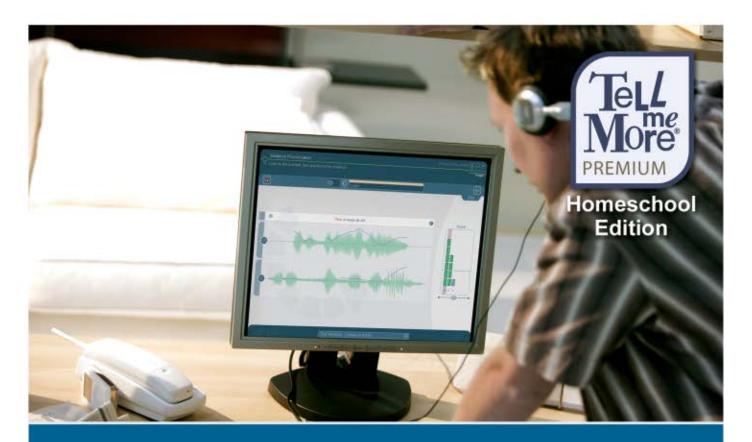
DISTANCE LEARNING - ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

CONSIDER THE BENEFITS!

- Apply to TTUISD at any time.
- Enroll in courses or Credit by Examinations at any time.
- Courses are written and graded by Texas-certified teachers.
- Online and print-based courses are available.
- Courses are self-paced; you have six months to complete a course.
- Comprehensive curriculum TTUISD offers coursework from kindergarten through twelfth grade.
- Recommended 24-credit college preparatory diploma program is available.

TTUISD is accredited by the Texas Education Agency. All courses and Credit by Examinations meet the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). For more information, call 800.692.6877, or visit our website at *www.ode.ttu.edu*.





You've never settled for less in your child's education. Why should you start with your language learning program?



TELL ME MORE is the best software option available. TELL ME MORE is clearly the leader in... language learning. Top Ten Reviews, 2006

"It is probably the closest thing to a live human tutor on the market today" About.com

"TELL ME MORE® is the most complete program we found. It accomplishes everything we were hoping to find in a language learning software application."

Eunwook Park. Bryant University, Rhode Island













PC-CD-ROM • Ages 11 and up

When outcomes matter, the world's leading organizations turn to Auralog, the pioneer of speech recognition in ESL and foreign language learning. Among them are the FBI, the U.S. State Department, IBM, and more than 10,000 schools.

The award-winning software TELL ME MORE addresses all the skills critical to language learning: reading, writing, listening, speaking, vocabulary, grammar, and culture.

- Over 5 million users worldwide
- Up to 950 hours of learning per language
- Levels from Beginner to Advanced
- Audio CD to reinforce your learning*
- Student Tracking

ENGLISH • SPANISH • FRENCH • GERMAN • ITALIAN DUTCH • CHINESE • JAPANESE • ARABIC

For more information:

www.auralog.com/OSH

Toll free: 888 388 3535



AURALOG 2720 S Hardy Drive #3 Tempe, AZ 85282 Phone: 480 829 1984 • Fax: 480 829 9649 homeschool@auralog.com

Know language. No limits™



Visit our special web page for *The Old Schoolhouse* readers:

www.RosettaStone.com/TOS or call 1-888-232-9245





- Homeschool consultants to answer all of your questions
- Testing services to help you track your child's progress
- Transcripts for college admission through the Academy of Home Education

Commitment

Another word for homeschooling.

Count us in.

