



2017 Great Homeschool Conventions **Featured Speakers' Workshops**

TEXAS Homeschool Convention, Fort Worth Convention Center, Fort Worth, TX – February 23-25, 2017
SOUTHEAST Homeschool Convention, TD Convention Center, Greenville, SC, March 16-18, 2017
MIDWEST Homeschool Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, OH, April 20 – 22, 2017
CALIFORNIA Homeschool Convention, Ontario Convention Center, Ontario, CA, June 15 – 17, 2017

(Last Update: 10-06-2016)

Please note: As you scroll down the next few pages, please enjoy a preview of proposed workshops by *some* of our 2017 featured speakers. We are very excited about our 2017 speaker roster! We will be adding *MANY* more speakers and workshop descriptions as we receive those in the coming weeks.

The following list of speakers and descriptions is subject to change. Not all workshops proposed by each speaker will be offered. The GHC board will make final workshop selections as the schedules are planned. If you have a particular workshop you are interested in hearing, please email only the speaker's name and workshop title to info@greathomeschoolconventions.com.

****This listing is only a sample for a preview. Please check back regularly for updates to this posting.**

[Click Here](#) to view our FEATURED SPEAKERS and the events they will be attending.

A

Albers, Connie

ConnieAlbers.com

Bio: Connie Albers has spent much of her adult life as a homeschool mom and mom-preneur with an outreach and ministry to homeschool parents through her speaking and various leadership roles. She is a respected leader, social media enthusiast and trusted homeschool mom who understands the challenges of balancing the demands of life and homeschool. Connie is a wife and mother of five homeschool graduates. Her children continued their studies at the University of Central Florida on scholarship. Four have graduated and one is currently enrolled. She is a speaker and writer, a spokesperson, and owner of ConnieAlbers.com. Her latest venture is fulfilling her desire to equip women in their calling through her Equipped To Be ministry and with her website. The Albers family lives in Winter Garden, Florida.

Keeping the Heart of Your Child in a World Trying to Steal it Away

You are in a battle for the heart of your child. How can you keep the heart of your child when devices and distractions surround? What can you do when others whisper untruths in your child's ear? Connie, a respected leader and trusted mom, opens up about what it really takes to build a lasting relationship, while keeping the heart of your child in a world that has lost its moral compass.

What if I Ruin My Child?

Have you wondered if homeschooling would ruin your child? If you answered yes, then take comfort you are not alone. We all struggle at some point with this thought. After all, homeschooling is "on the job" training. When Connie started homeschooling 25 years ago, that is what she thought as well. During this presentation, parents will learn truths from a mom who knows you are not ruining your child.

Help for Mom-Preneurs

The rise of Mom-Preneurs in the homeschooling community requires the active pursuit of a healthy balance between their homeschooling, work, and family needs. As a mother of five, active volunteer, business owner, and veteran homeschooler, Connie Albers discusses how to effectively delegate, set realistic goals, and find work that fits the homeschooling lifestyle. During this presentation, she will share with you how to manage your homeschool and evaluate your workload so your family runs smoothly. Come and learn from a mom who has lost the balance battle many times, but her resilient spirit, desire to finish well, and not short her family, will help you in your mom-preneur journey.

Facebook, Snapchat, and all those Apps: What's a Family To Do? KEEP THIS ONE

As parents we diligently try to protect our children from the dangers of the Internet world. We avoid sleepovers, smart phones, and social media but what do you do when all of their friends are online or when they have to take an online class? What do you do when your child asks you to download an app or you discover a hidden app on their phone? Connie

tackles the world of apps and social media in a way that prepares you to confidently navigate this uncharted territory with wisdom and knowledge.

Remaining Steadfast During High School

It's hard to stay the course during the high school years. Everything is changing: the rules, the requirements, and the relationship. Your teen is changing. The rules aren't working like they once did. So why is staying the course through the teen years the most critical and crucial years of your homeschooling journey? Because they need you to be the steady force in their life. When you understand how to navigate the teen years with confidence they can be the most rewarding years of your parenting journey.

Discover What's Right with Your Middle School Child

Have you caught yourself thinking, "What happened to my child?" Your once thoughtful, gentle, compliant child has gone missing and you are trying to learn about this new person. This is the season of transitioning from child to young adult. They stop needing a mommy and start needing a mentor. As a parent you are the best mentor they could have. In this presentation Connie will focus on tools that will increase your understanding of how God made your child, and you. Join her to discover what is "right" with your middle schooler.

Affording the Homeschool Lifestyle: Resilient and Resourceful

Homeschooling isn't cheap. But it doesn't have to break the budget. Rising costs, tough times, and financial shortfalls are common to homeschool families. We know our money doesn't seem to go as far as it once did. Join Connie Albers, mother of five, who homeschooled her children, and put them through college without going into debt or taking out student loans. This presentation is packed with practical information to help you continue your homeschool journey without breaking the budget.

Andrews, Adam

[CenterForLit](#)

Bio: Adam Andrews is the director of the Center for Literary Education and a home schooling father of six. Since 2003, he has traveled throughout the United States and Canada presenting an innovative method for teaching the crucial skills of literary analysis. Adam's dynamic presentations enable students to enjoy great literature as never before, while his fresh insights inspire parents and teachers with new vision for their task as educators.

Adam earned his B.A. from Hillsdale College in southern Michigan and his M.A. from the University of Washington in Seattle, where he is currently a candidate for the Ph.D. He is a Henry Salvatori Fellow of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute and a founding board member of Westover Academy in Colville Washington. He and his wife Missy, a Hillsdale graduate and accomplished educator in her own right, teach their children at home in Rice, Washington.

Failure and Fatherhood – The Story of a Homeschool Family Feud

Adam and Ian Andrews

Adam Andrews and his homeschooled son Ian recount the difficulties of their shared scholastic journey. Sons and Fathers alike will find something – and someone – to relate to in the testimony of these two homeschool veterans. What do our children need most from their fathers? How can we be sure to give it to them? Most importantly, how do we fix things when we do it wrong? Come hear about the hope that waits for us all on the other side of failure. You will find balm for your wounds, peace for your mind, and rest for your soul – and all in a most unlikely place.

"Witches and Wizards and Wands, Oh My!" -- A Parent's Guide to Fantasy, Fiction and Faith

As fantasy grows ever more popular in our culture, books and movies teem with elements that many Christian parents find objectionable. How can we equip our children to engage and influence their culture while protecting them from its evils? Adam makes a case for a type of reading that can accomplish both of these goals, and a vision for the Christian imagination that can restore our civilization to its roots in the transcendent God of all worlds, seen and unseen. Will the future of our culture be dominated by fairy tales and fantasy? Will it be ruled by wizards and dragons and enchantments? Help your students become the ones who will decide!

The Socratic Method for Dummies -- Become a Great Teacher the Easy Way

What is The Socratic Method and how can it make me a better teacher? Is it a separate curriculum? Is it difficult to learn? Is it a lot of work to apply? Can I use it with what I'm already doing? Adam lays out simple answers to all of these questions by explaining and demonstrating a Socratic discussion that will encourage and inspire parents to imitate the ancient philosopher himself. Parents of kids in K-12 will learn a simple technique can be applied in any subject to dramatically increase the power of contact time. Best of all, there's nothing to buy - all you need is a kid and a kitchen table!

Education in an Hour – Teaching Life’s Most Crucial Lesson in One Sitting

If you had only one hour in which to give your student a complete education, could you do it? If you accepted the challenge, what lesson would you teach? Adam Andrews argues that a complete and profound education can be acquired in one lesson – and then sets out to prove this audacious claim in an eye-opening, inspiring presentation. Adam first demonstrates the lesson using an example from his own subject, Literature. He then shows you how to teach it in your own area of interest. Adam gives examples of the lesson from every subject in the curriculum and invites the audience to contribute their own ideas. The power of this lesson may revolutionize the way you teach on a daily basis – and it only takes an hour!

K-12 homeschooler and Hillsdale College graduate Ian Andrews, son of Adam & Missy Andrews, shares experiences from a lifetime of reading and encourages anxious Moms with a thought-provoking question: Can great literature help my kids succeed in a scientific and technological world? Ian provides an inspiring summary of an all-time classic story and argues that the self-knowledge, humility and wisdom that come from reading such stories are absolutely critical for success – and that you, as the Mom in the trenches, can lead them right to it. Literary education worked for Ian, and it can work for your students too. Raising a Worldview Detective – Three Steps to Thinking Critically About Books, Movies and More

How do you teach your students to apply a “Christian Worldview” to the books they read, the movies they watch and the culture they live in? The answer to this important question may surprise you, for well-meaning Christians often misunderstand the basic principles of worldview analysis. This misunderstanding often prevents Christian students from thinking clearly about contemporary culture. In this enthusiastic and engaging discussion of a literary classic, Adam Andrews helps you avoid a serious (though common) teaching mistake and presents three steps for understanding a story-teller on his own terms. This presentation will empower you to uncover, identify and evaluate an artist’s worldview for yourself – and to teach your students to do the same.

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Teaching the Classics from Seuss to Socrates – Literary Analysis for Everyone (Should be scheduled first if selected)

Does the subject of literature seem like a mystery? Are you a loss about how to understand it yourself, much less teach it to your kids? This inspiring lecture demonstrates that everything you need to know about understanding and teaching literature is present in your second grader’s bedtime story. Adam reads a classics children’s story out loud and then leads the audience into a discussion of eternal literary themes. Along the way, he shows how you can do the same at home by following five simple steps. Your literature curriculum – to say nothing of family story time – will come alive automatically. You’ll never put the kids to bed the same way again!

Thinking Carefully About College – A Homeschool Dad Evaluates Higher Education

American higher education has become unfriendly territory for Christians and other conservatives in many ways. Many parents wonder whether they should consider sending their students to college at all. Drawing from extensive experience in higher education, Adam offers invaluable advice on this all important question, suggesting ways to make the considerable benefits of a college education available to your homeschool graduates. You’ll learn valuable tips for deciding what kind of school to choose, and for avoiding the pitfalls that await the unsuspecting freshman. A must for every parent of high schoolers.

Building the Perfect Reading List – A “DIY” Scope and Sequence Workshop

Many parents are dissatisfied with the books assigned in box curriculum sets – and yet, they feel inadequate to strike out on their own and create effective reading programs for their children. Adam puts these fears to rest with an inspiring lesson in scope and sequence development. Presenting a step-by-step procedure that is accessible to even the busiest teachers, Adam makes a powerful case that it’s not how many books you do, it’s how well you do them! Come listen and be set free from the “tyranny of the booklist.”

Homeschooling’s Highest Goal – Lessons from the Story of Job

Education is not an object we can possess; it’s a state of the heart, mind and soul. All great leaders share certain attributes in these areas, and Job was one of the greatest! Adam’s unique perspective on Job’s career inspires parents to prepare their own students for leadership. The lecture sends them away with renewed vision for the liberal arts and practical suggestions for applying this vision in the classroom.

Literary Keys – Unlocking the Meaning of Classic Books

Come listen to the story of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and his famous poem *Paul Revere’s Ride*. In the process, you will discover the surprising power of two literary elements – setting and context – to deepen your understanding of classic books. Based on the idea that every book is product of a certain time and place, Adam shows how to use these details as keys for unlocking the meaning and significance of any work of literature.

Even if you've read the poem a thousand times, you might come away with a new perspective – and new vision for your work as a teacher.

"It's Onomatopoeia, Mom!" – Using Children's Stories to Teach Literary Devices

Juxtaposition, metaphor, symbolism, irony, foreshadowing – HELP! Parents often avoid the subject of literature because of the intimidating vocabulary of literary analysis. The truth is, you don't need a college degree in literature to understand this vocabulary; what you need is a well written children's story. Adam takes the audience on a guided tour of literary devices, making discerning literary analysts out of each and every audience member. Doing the same with your own children couldn't be easier, but beware: soon, they will be finding onomatopoeia everywhere they look.

Berenstain, Mike

Attending with [Zondervan](#)

Bio: Stan and Jan Berenstain introduced the first Berenstain Bear books in 1962. Mike Berenstain grew up watching his parents work together to write about and draw these lovable bears. Eventually he started drawing and writing about them too. Though Stan died in 2005, and Jan in 2012, Mike continues to create the delightful Bear adventures from his studio in Pennsylvania, in an area that looks much like the sunny dirt road deep in Bear Country.

Everyone's Favorite Bear Family: The Berenstain Bears

Come along for a journey to Bear Country ... Since 1962 the Berenstain Bears have been educating children and parents alike about good morals and values through their loveable characters and relatable stories. Mike Berenstain grew up watching his parents Jan and Stan work together to write about and draw these lovable bears and eventually he joined the family business and started drawing and writing about them too. Mike Berenstain will share the history of The Berenstain Bears, his personal journey to Christ, and how he incorporates his faith into Berenstain Bears books today through the Living Lights brand.

Burk, Jean

[College Prep Genius](#)

Bio: Author Jean Burk is a homeschooling mother and creator of the revolutionary and award-winning College Prep Genius curriculum which has helped thousands of high school students prepare for the SAT & PSAT/NMSQT. Her expertise has been featured on FOX, CBS, NBC, ABC, Forbes Living TV, UShopTV, and The Homeschool Channel. She has been a keynote and featured speaker at numerous homeschool conferences, schools, clubs, college nights, etc. Jean currently travels across the United States speaking about how to go to college for FREE! As a homeschooling mom, Jean did not have the financial resources to send her children to college. When she discovered the SAT & PSAT were the keys to getting huge scholarships, she began to research the tests to understand how to prepare her children for them. She discovered that these tests could be taught! They weren't IQ tests, but rather critical thinking exams. After both her children received full-ride scholarships, Jean began teaching

these secrets to other homeschool, public, private and charter school students. Her program College Prep Genius is the culmination of more than a decade of research, classroom experience and SAT expertise. Her daughter also Earned free grad school and her son earned free law school!

FREE COLLEGE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

(For parents - Learn different ways to get scholarships as well as FREE college!) Are you ready to make \$500 an hour? Although it sounds too good to be true, it's possible to earn this much in scholarships for college. Author, Jean Burk, will teach you two important concepts: how to get into the college of your choice and how to find the scholarships to pay for it. You will learn methods of receiving substantial scholarships that go beyond tuition and may include room and board, graduate school, and money to study abroad! Unlock the keys to finding free college at your fingertips!

HOW TO ACE THE "NEW" SAT

(For parents and teens. Discover how this is a learnable test and every question can be answered in 30 seconds or less.) Test-prep Guru, Jean Burk, will share her secrets of SAT success that have helped tens of thousands of students raise their test scores as much as 600 points! Learn how to find shortcuts in test patterns and save time on all types of questions. Math, Writing, and Verbal sections are all covered in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If you have kids in high school, you can't miss this seminar about preparing them for the SAT!

SECRETS TO THE SCHOLARSHIPS SEARCH!

(For Parents - Learn the keys to easily finding and receiving college scholarships.) There are 24 billion dollars' worth of scholarships each year. Learn how to find money from the cradle to cap n gown. Discover key words to search for little-known scholarships and find out the key that the library holds to unknown money. No matter how old your child is, you can't miss out on the money that is available NOW!

BUILD AN AMAZING HOMESCHOOL TRANSCRIPT

(For Parents - Don't fear the high school years but learn little-known information that can give your student an edge.) There is only ONE secret ingredient to giving credibility to a homeschool transcript. If you don't know it, author Jean Burk will share the answer in this incredible lecture. Discover the insider criteria that Harvard uses to judge applicants and why summer break needs to be more than just a vacation. Learn the differences between AP, Dual Enrollment, and CLEP courses and the pros and cons of adding them to your schedule. Find out about the 3-Tier credit plan, so you can correctly build a portfolio that will impress any admissions counselor. If your kids are planning to go to college, you cannot afford to miss this engagement.

THE BEST KEPT SECRET TO FREE COLLEGE: THE PSAT

(Parents and teens will learn about amazing scholarships from this misunderstood test.) Imagine throwing away seven trash bags full of college offers! It happened to my family and it could happen to yours. How? The PSAT. Contrary to popular belief, "P" does not stand for practice. In reality the PSAT is a scholarship qualifying test, and it can write you a ticket to just about any college. Discover the 3 little-known secrets about the PSAT and 11 steps to success! Learn how to get colleges begging you to enroll and pick up the tab at the same time.

C

Cadet, Shanda

[Homeschool Business](#) / [Business Babies & Beauty](#)

Bio: As an Entrepreneur, Empowerment Speaker, Wife, and Mother of 6, Shanda Cadet is the epitome of a millennial renaissance woman. Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and currently residing in Atlanta Georgia, her diverse portfolio includes operating a heating & air conditioning company, a baby lifestyle brand, a printing company as well as handling real estate investments. Most recently she has also created an empowerment brand, *Business, Babies & Beauty*, as an effort to empower mothers to dream it all and have it all.

Through this innovative brand she travels the country to speak at empowerment events including the *Yes! Women on the Rise Conference*, *Atlanta Brunch for Elite Entrepreneurs* and the *All White Miami Business Brunch*.

Through it all she finds it great joy to be able to homeschool her 6 children. Teaching them and finding their God-given passions early in life. She has been a mom-entrepreneur for 10 years building successful businesses to benefit her family and her community. Shanda loves partnering with parents in helping them to create a legacy of entrepreneurship. She is excited to build her own homeschool merging academic and entrepreneurial education.

In addition, she also offers business coaching that assists women with beginning entrepreneurial endeavors and starting a homeschool and has released her debut effort as an Author, *Homeschool Business: Everything You Need To Know About Homeschooling*.

Professionally mentored by Business Moguls Nathaniel Bronner, Oprah Winfrey and Marshawn Evans Daniels; Shanda likewise wants her name to have a place in history through owning businesses and schools across the country. A serial entrepreneur at heart, she is committed to leaving a legacy for her family, permeating the business world with great innovation while empowering other moms to do the same.

The Blessing of Homeschool

Homeschooling is a complete blessing! In this exciting talk parents discover the benefits of homeschool and uncover God's plan for your child's education. Learn the history, the laws, and the simple process to begin homeschooling your children today! If you are on the fence about the decision to homeschool or just need a gentle reminder of the benefits, book this session!

Home Business for Homeschoolers : Merging Academic and Entrepreneurial Education

Every child should get an academic and entrepreneurial education. Learn how to start and build your own family business, to raise your children to become entrepreneurs, and to teach them how to manage money. Your family can very easily start a home business!

Campbell, Janice

[Everyday Education](#)

Bio: Janice Campbell and her husband Donald homeschooled their sons from preschool into early college using a lifestyle-of-learning approach influenced by Charlotte Mason, classical learning, and the Thomas Jefferson method. Her books and resources reflect Janice's focus on twaddle-free, literature-based active learning (she did have boys, after all!).

Janice speaks at conferences nationwide on subjects including literature and writing, high school and early college, teacher training for a learning lifestyle, microbusiness, and multiple streams of income for homeschool families. She is the author of the *Excellence in Literature* curriculum for grades 8–12, *Transcripts Made Easy*, and *Get a Jump Start on College*, among other things. She is also Director of the [National Association of Independent Writers and Editors](#).

Whether teaching high school students to love literature or teaching writers and entrepreneurs how to create multiple streams of income, Janice's focus is on lighting lamps so that others can more easily find their way. Her website, www.Everyday-Education.com, offers inspiration, resources, and a free e-newsletter.

How to Plan Your Homeschool Year

Once you have committed to teaching your students at home, how can you possibly fit in everything you need to teach? We'll talk about how to set realistic goals, establish focused planning sessions and regular check-ups, and how to create a simple yearly overview and weekly routine that can help you stay relaxed and on track.

How to Choose and Adapt Curriculum

Whether you're just beginning to homeschool or have been teaching for a few years, choosing curriculum for a houseful of different personality types and learning styles can seem like navigating New York City without a map. How do you make sense of all the choices and find the best options for your family? Join us to learn four questions you need to answer before buying anything; the essential skill your student must learn before graduating; and five things to remember in order to wisely choose and adapt curriculum.

How to Teach Writing (and Pretty Much Everything Else) with Living Books

Charlotte Mason advocated teaching with living books, and it remains a simple, effective, and inexpensive way to learn. Join us to learn a four-step Model-Based Writing process that will help you teach writing as your students study literature, history, geography, science, and life skills through living books. We'll also take a look at how to use helpful writing tools such as mind maps, graphic organizers, rubrics, and writer's handbooks.

How to Make a Simple High School Transcript that Fits Your Student

Transcripts are not just for college admissions — every student needs one. An effective high school transcript highlights your student's talents, strengths, and skills in the same way a résumé does for a prospective employee. Come and learn a step-by-step process for planning and creating the transcript, including how to assign grades, calculate a grade

point average, name classes, and grant credit. You'll discover how to create an accurate overview of high school experience and tailor it to fit, whether your student is headed for college, military academy, technical school, music conservatory, entrepreneurship, or an apprenticeship program.

How to Cultivate Habits of Lifelong Learning

If education is an "atmosphere, a discipline, and a life" as Charlotte Mason suggested, it is much more than just a few hours of school each day. What are the qualities of a lifelong learner, and how can you help your student become one? We'll look at how to affordably build a quality home library, cultivate creativity, and learn through delight directed real-life projects, and more.

Clark, Jerusha

[Jerusha Clark - Helping Families with Tweens and Teens](#)

Bio: Jerusha Clark co-authored four books with Jeramy, including three bestsellers, prior to launching her own writing and speaking ministry, focused on helping others glorify and enjoy God, one thought at a time. On quiet days, you can find Jerusha body-boarding, reading, or singing around a bonfire at the beach, her absolute favorite place. Jeramy and Jerusha have two amazing teenage daughters and love ministering together at churches, retreats, schools, and conferences.

Maximizing the Powerful Potential of Your Adolescent's Brain.

In this seminar for parents with students ages 10-18

, Jerusha Clark will give you practical tips for maximizing your child's marvelous brain. You will learn about the radical neurological changes happening in their students beginning at 5th grade and continuing through college. Combining the latest scientific research with the timeless truths of Scripture, Jerusha will equip parents to homeschooling with confidence, compassion, and clarity.

Understanding Your Child's Brain Can Make You a Better Homeschooling Parent

This seminar will prepare and equip anyone with students 5th grade or higher to homeschool well. Cutting-edge science, educational psychology, and rock-solid principles of faith will come together in this encouraging seminar. You will leave not only a better homeschooler, but also a better parent.

Happy Homeschooling Starts with a Healthy You

It's easy to lose "you" when homeschooling, but your loves ones (including the students you want to teach) suffer when you do. This uplifting session will help homeschoolers make practical changes in their thinking, daily decisions, and health. An integrated, no-guilt approach to body, mind, and spirit health will leave you feeling ready to jump back into homeschooling with new energy, attitude, and focus.

What to Expect When You're Homeschooling Grades 5-12

Expectations play a major role in homeschooling. In fact, studies show that what you expect changes your success, as well as your students. This seminar will help parents develop appropriate expectations based on cutting-edge scientific research regarding students ages 10-18, the best educational psychology has to offer, and the timeless wisdom of faith.

Homeschooling and Mental Health: Dealing with Depression, Anxiety, and Other Concerns Your Family Faces

Statistics indicate that the majority of American families deal with some form of mental health concern. Whether it's you, your child, your spouse, or an extended family member who struggles with anxiety, depression, or another mental health issue, this encouraging and informative seminar will equip you with information that can transform your experience. Mental health issues don't have to be a source of shame or fear; in fact, some of the brightest and most brilliant thinkers or artists of our time have battled mental health issues. Don't miss the chance to see what could be a battle turned into a source of strength for you and your family!

Crain, Natasha

Bio: Natasha Crain is a popular blogger, author, and speaker who is passionate about equipping Christian parents to raise their kids with an understanding of how to make a case for and defend their faith in an increasingly secular world. Her first book, *Keeping Your Kids on God's Side: 40 Conversations to Help Them Build a Lasting Faith*, was released by Harvest House in March 2016.

Natasha discovered the importance of apologetics after starting the blog *Christian Mom Thoughts* in 2011 to share ideas for building a Christ-centered home with other parents. As her blog grew in popularity, she started receiving a constant stream of comments from skeptics challenging the truth of Christianity—challenges she realized she couldn't answer. Natasha set off on an intense reading journey, earned a certificate in Christian apologetics from Biola University, and shifted her blog's focus to equipping other Christian parents with the same knowledge. Today her blog attracts more than 25,000 readers each month.

Natasha has an MBA in Marketing and Statistics from the Anderson School at UCLA. She was a marketing executive before leaving the corporate world to focus on writing and speaking about apologetics for parents. Natasha, her husband, and three young children live in Southern California.

SPEAKER FOCUS: CHRISTIAN PARENTING IN A SECULAR WORLD

The following sessions should be offered in the proposed sequence. They naturally build on each other for those who are looking to go deep on this subject (especially the first three, though the last two would still best be offered last for those who need the rest of the background first).

Introduction to Christian Apologetics: Why Kids Today Must Learn to Make a Case for and Defend Their Faith

First Peter 3:15 says that we should always be prepared to give *reason* for the hope we have in Christ. In an increasingly secular world that is vigorously challenging the validity of faith, this call to understand *why* there's good reason to believe Christianity is true is more important than ever. In this session, parents will be introduced to 1) what exactly apologetics is—and, importantly, what it *isn't*; 2) how and where kids will encounter challenges to their faith; and 3) a strategic framework for teaching apologetics at home (in Session 3 of this series, we'll get into practical ideas that support this framework).

What Your Kids Will Hear About Christianity: Understanding the 5 Big Challenges Posed by a Secular World

There is no God. All religions are basically the same. Miracles are impossible. The Bible is hopelessly ancient and unreliable. Science disproves God. These messages (and many more) are constantly being promoted by a secular world and are likely to challenge your kids' faith eventually...especially if you haven't prepared them first. This session will address what parents most need to understand about each of the "big 5" challenges to faith today and how to effectively talk about them with your kids.

Equipping Kids for a Secular World: Practical Ideas for Teaching Christian Apologetics at Home

Kids today clearly need an understanding of apologetics in order to navigate the tough questions they're certain to encounter from a secular world (see Sessions 1 and 2). But what, specifically, can parents do to develop that understanding in daily home life? This session will provide highly practical ideas that parents can begin using immediately.

Teaching Kids to Think Well about Faith: 3 Critical Thinking Skills Every Child Should Have

Every parent wants to raise good thinkers—kids who know *how* to think, not simply *what* to think. Learning how to think well about *faith* is especially important given that kids today are being bombarded with conflicting truth claims. While Christian parents can do much to prepare their kids to encounter specific claims against Christianity (see Sessions 1-3), it's simply not feasible to prepare them for *every* possible attack. In this session, we'll talk about three of the most important critical thinking skills kids should have in order to evaluate *any* claim about the truth of Christianity.

Helping Kids Who Are Struggling with Faith Doubts: 5 Things Parents Should Know

When kids struggle with doubts about faith, parents often panic and aren't sure how to begin addressing their questions. In this session, we'll take a (calming) step back to look at the big picture of how parents can best guide their kids spiritually through a difficult time.

D

Dawson, Peg (Dr.)

Bio: Peg Dawson, Ed.D., NCSP, received her doctorate in school/child clinical psychology from the University of Virginia. She worked as a school psychologist for 16 years in Maine and New Hampshire, and since 1992 has worked at the Center for Learning and Attention Disorders in Portsmouth, New

Hampshire, where she specializes in the assessment of children and adults with learning and attention disorders.

She has many years of organizational experience at the state, national, and international level, and served in many capacities, including president, of the New Hampshire Association of School Psychologists, the National Association of School Psychologists, and the International School Psychology Association.

She is the author of numerous articles and book chapters on a variety of topics, including retention, ability grouping, reading disorders, attention disorders, the sleep problems of adolescents, the use of interviews in the assessment process, and homework. Along with her colleague, Dr. Richard Guare, she has written several books for parents and professionals on the topic of executive skills, including *Smart but Scattered* and *Smart but Scattered Teens*.

Peg is the 2006 recipient of the National Association of School Psychologists' Lifetime Achievement Award.

Smart but Scattered: Executive Dysfunction at Home and at School

Youngsters with poor executive skills are disorganized or forgetful, have trouble getting started on tasks, get distracted easily, lose papers or assignments, forget to bring home the materials to complete homework or forget to hand homework in. They may rush through work or dawdle, they make careless mistakes that they fail to catch. They don't know where to begin on long-term assignments, and they put the assignment off until the last minute, in part because they have trouble judging the magnitude of the task and how long it will take to complete it. Their workspaces are disorganized, and teachers may refer to their desks, backpacks, and notebooks as "black holes." Students with executive skill deficits present tremendous challenges to both parents and teachers who often find themselves frustrated by children whose problems in school seem to have little to do with how smart they are or how easily they learn.

Learning Objectives:

As a result of this workshop, participants will:

- **Understand executive skills within the context of brain development.**
- **Be able to identify how executive skills impact school performance and daily living.**
- **Have access to a repertoire of strategies to improve executive skills in students. These will include strategies to modify the environment to reduce the impact of weak executive skills and procedures such as coaching that can be used to teach children how to improve specific executive skill deficits in the context of home or school performance expectations.**

Coaching Students with Executive Skills Deficits

Coaching is an evidence-based intervention strategy in which a coach (either an adult or a peer) works with a student to set goals (long-term, short-term, or daily) designed to enhance executive skills and lead to improved self-regulation. Originally designed to help underachieving students achieve academic success, it has been expanded to include a variety of formats, such as peer coaching and group coaching, to achieve both social and academic goals.

Through the use of didactic presentations, practice exercises, and group discussions, this workshop will:

- Provide an overview of coaching and how it is ideally suited to helping students improve executive skills.
- Give the audience a chance to work with the goal-setting process and to understand how the key elements of coaching combine to form an effective intervention.
- Present an array of coaching strategies aimed at students from elementary school through the college level.

De Gree, John

[Classical Historian](#)

Bio: John De Gree is the founder of The Classical Historian. Originally from California, he studied history and language and worked and lived in Turkey, Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia for five years. Working in private, public, and homeschool education for over twenty years, he saw the great lack of critical and independent thinking in history education.

He founded the Classical Historian to promote the best that is offered in the great tradition of Western education: honesty, virtue, patience, logical analysis of evidence and conclusions, and belief in the truth. John De Gree teaches that the American experiment of self-government under law is a result of its Judeo-Christian and Greco-Roman heritage.

John and his wife Zdenka have been married for 23 years and they raise and home school their seven children in San Clemente, California.

How to Teach History to Different Ages and Levels at the Same Time

John De Gree and his wife of 23 years are raising 7 children and have been home schooling for over 13 years. When they teach history, they have learned that it is much easier and educational when they have the entire family learning one history time period during the school year. In this talk, veteran teacher John De Gree will show you how to teach all age levels in your family the same history time period. He will explain how your older kids will benefit by teaching the younger ones, and how the younger children will benefit by teaching the older kids. Using this approach to teach history to the entire family is educational, saves time, and teaches Christian values and practices!

How to Teach (history) with Games

John De Gree and his wife of 23 years are raising 7 children and have been home schooling for over 13 years. When they teach, they have learned that games are an excellent way to teach students of all ages. This informative and very practical talk will give the home school teacher many easy-to-use and free games to teach all subjects, including leadership skills for students of all ages. These games are efficient, time-saving, and fun. What is most important, John De Gree will show you how to use games to teach Christian behavior towards parents, siblings, and with others.

How to Teach the Socratic Discussion in History in Five Steps

John De Gree is a home school Dad of seven children, and for 24 years he has been teaching history to a wide variety of students, in both Europe and the United States. In this informative and practical talk, John will show you how to teach the Socratic discussion in history in five "easy" steps. These steps are easy if the teacher believes that there is a truth and wants her students to recognize it in history. Using the Socratic discussion in history is the best way to not only teach history, but more importantly teach Christian beliefs and practices and to teach history.

How to Teach History in a Co-op Setting

John De Gree is a home school Dad of seven children, and for 24 years he has been teaching history to a wide variety of students, in both Europe and the United States. In this

informative and practical talk, John will show you how to teach history in a Co-op setting, with practical ideas for teachers of home school groups with children of different ages. The talk also includes tips regarding student discipline, how to handle rambunctious or even rude kids, and how to create a loving environment where all students can learn.

DiNoia, Dennis

[Mr D Math](#)

Bio: Dennis DiNoia, M.A.Ed has been immersed in education for almost 30 years. He holds a M.A. in Education from the University of South Florida and has been a Florida State Certified Secondary Mathematics Teacher since 1988. He is affectionately known to all of his students as "Mr. D".

After recording over 500 instructional videos, writing thousands of quiz questions and course practice problems with step-by-step solutions, the Mr. D Math curriculum ranges from PreAlgebra to Pre-Calculus. His online students are across the United States and Mr. D has worked with students on 3 different continents! This math program infuses problem solving and treating math as a language as the basis for its delivery and offers the equivalent of a personal teacher in one's home or co-op. Mr. D is a master of distance-learning platforms with his highly successful live online classes for students.

Mr. D is also a test prep expert! Students repeatedly have significantly improved their scores on the SAT, ACT and other standardized testing, after taking one of his test prep programs. With this reputation for results, Mr. D was asked to serve as the Standardized Testing Consultant for the Kamaile Academy PCS, a K-12 charter school program located in Waianae, HI from 2012- 14. In this position he was given the task of transforming the pupils' standardized test results. This school was in the bottom 5% of the state with regard to test score results. Using his proven test taking strategies, Mr. D redesigned the school's test preparation, administration, and implementation for the 2012-13 school year. The school has now seen the most dramatic test score improvement in its 30 plus year history and was awarded the "Most Improved Charter School" in all the Hawaiian Islands. Waianae has the highest population of native Hawaiians in any of the Hawaiian Islands. In an area where only 6% of the population attends college, Mr. D has literally shifted the paradigm of learning and education for the students and staff members. High school students are now taking college courses while still in high school.

Mr. D is always one of the most loved and well-attended presenters as featured presenter for the FPEA and HEEA conventions. Mr. D is proud to be added as a featured speaker for Great Homeschool Conventions in 2017. Mr. D has presented in Texas, Pennsylvania and several organizations across Florida. Attendees enjoy his hands-on presentations, his upbeat style of speaking and leave his sessions inspired to be homeschool parents and students.

Making Your Test Scores Soar!

Mr. D, as he is known by his students and families, is a test-prep specialist! He was also the standardized testing consultant from 2012-2014 to the Kamaile Academy PCS in Waianae, HI, which had the most dramatic test score increase in its history and was named most improved charter school for all the Hawaiian Islands. This is a hands-on workshop giving those attending simple strategies for any testing situation. Learn Mr. D's easy to follow 2-step method for test taking. The focus will be on math and reading comprehension standardized tests.

Goal Setting - A Family Event!

Goal setting is often thought of as a great idea and something everyone needs to do but we rarely do it and when we do, we usually lose track of the goal along the way. In this workshop, goals are brought to life through creation and conversation. Everyone participating will create a goal and a visual display for that goal during the workshop. This process can be done with family members over and over again as well as with other homeschool groups as activities. The process is created in a fun and fast paced style with everyone having an opportunity to create and share their goal that will leave each participant inspired by their goal and by the goals of others.

How to Think and Talk Math!

What if math was its own language? Learn to speak math similar to the way you learn to speak other new languages. Learn the basic foundations on which the math language is created and how to see Algebra skills in basic math. This workshop will give participants wanting to expand their thinking to higher levels of math using basic operations they already know. Learn how the "secrets" of mental math and how to apply them in everyday situations. Participants access a common math language that can be used at any grade level.

SAT Math – It's Not the Math, it's the Question that is Confusing!

Join Mr. D for a mini-SAT Boot Camp. Mr. D will be showing the tips and techniques from his SAT Boot Camps. This workshop will focus on math, the language behind the questions and show participants what they really need to know before taking the math section of the new 2016 SAT. Find out the words on the test that give tips for how to solve the questions as well learning what formulas you really need to know before the taking the SAT. Students and parents alike will learn how to unravel the questions being asked into something they can solve quickly and easily. These techniques can be used for other testing situations and subject areas as well.

Learning How You Learn!

Learning styles will be presented from neuroscience-based research. Discover what kind of learner your child is and how to interact with them based on their unique learning style. A math learning style assessment will be done during this session by parents and their children with immediate results. It is fun and easy to complete! Participants will be learning how to adapt curriculum that meets the needs of their child.

Prime Numbers – The Gateway to Algebra and Beyond!

This hands-on workshop will show how to use prime numbers to simplify both numerical and algebraic fractions, greatest common factors, least common multiples, simplifying roots and determining patterns in sequences. This workshop is for anyone who is pre-algebra to pre-calculus. The workshop is fast paced and fun whether you are a middle school student, high school student or parent. This is a must for parents of younger children preparing for pre-algebra!

Student Led Learning

This hands-on workshop will give parents strategies, guides and the outline for having their children be self-directed learners who have ownership of their learning and assessments. This session will cover portfolio development and presentation skills for students. The session will also give students what they need to assess their own work in a meaningful way discovering their own unique learning potential.

E

Eckenwiler, Kristen

[The Struggling Reader](#)

Bio: Kristen Eckenwiler graduated with honors from the University of Central Florida, where she earned a Masters degree in Reading. She has taught first-, second-, and fourth-graders in the public schools, as well as a variety of courses in elementary education at the collegiate level. Additionally, she has taught writing and literature classes for the homeschool community.

For the last 11 years, she has stayed home to homeschool her two sons, while also staying very busy testing, tutoring, and collaborating with her husband, Dr. William Eckenwiler, as they provide a variety of products and services through their educational business, [The Struggling Reader, Inc.](#) Kristen brings both a wealth of knowledge and a visible passion to all of her workshops.

Reading: Am I Doing This Right?

Does your son or daughter seem to be faltering in their efforts to learn to read? Is it the curriculum? Is it you? Based on current research, Kristen and her husband have designed this workshop to help parents better understand the most essential elements of the reading process, along with those critical ingredients that must be emphasized to produce a successful, capable reader. Attend this workshop and receive an additional 10% discount on any of The Struggling Reader products found in our booth in the vendor hall.

Could it Be a Learning Disability?

When a homeschooled child seems to flounder for no easily identified reason, parents often exhaust themselves in their search for answers. At some point a parent may wonder if there might be a learning disability at the root of their child's struggle. Kristen and her husband have designed this workshop to help parents sort out the difference between routine struggles and those that could well be a learning disability.

Teaching Children That Struggle

A learning disability presents many unique challenges to any teacher as they search for the most effective way to teach their child. Based on solid research, Kristen and her husband have designed this workshop to present teaching strategies and adaptations that have been shown to effectively meet the needs of students who struggle with various learning disabilities.

Homeschooling Truths That I Keep Re-Learning

Whether you are a beginning homeschooler, or a seasoned veteran, there are core truths that call you back to your greatest success. Join Kristen Eckenwiler as she shares her personal list of seven insights she wishes someone had told her about homeschooling. Her passion for homeschooling and encouraging spirit is sure to help you move forward with renewed enthusiasm.

Why Is Reading So Hard?

Learning to read is a complex, amazing accomplishment even for those that seem to catch on easily. For those that struggle it can be terribly discouraging for both the teacher and the student. As you seek to understand the nature of your child's learning issue, what is often overlooked is a true understanding of the reading process itself. This workshop is designed to better equip you to understand how we learn to read, and why it can be difficult for some.

Strategies To Teach a Struggling Reader

By request, this workshop is offered to provide practical application of the five key elements of reading discussed in the workshop, "Why is Reading So Hard?" Whether you attended the earlier workshop or not, you will be blessed by learning about teaching strategies and innovative activities that not only gives you fresh ideas for more effective teaching, but will also help you better understand the essentials for reading success.

The Gift of Multi-Sensory Teaching

For decades, learning specialists have understood the power of multi-sensory teaching. Often associated with learning disabilities, this dynamic teaching strategy has found a home in many non-disability settings as well. Kristen and her husband have designed this workshop to explain the research-based thinking behind multi-sensory teaching methods. Practical suggestions will be given for adding this powerful strategy to your own classroom.

What We Know About Powerful Teaching

What makes some teachers so much more effective than others? How much of it is personality and how much is a matter of skills anyone can learn? Kristen and her husband have designed this workshop to share some of the most compelling research on effective teaching. Practical and encouraging. Come expecting to change the way you teach.

How to Assess Your Child's Reading Abilities

Perhaps your child struggles to read, but you are not sure why. You see the symptoms: slow, word-by-word reading, weak comprehension, poor decoding, etc., but are not sure what is really going on beneath the surface. Kristen and her husband have designed this workshop to help you take command of your child's reading progress through research-based assessment that you, the parent, can administer.

Packing Smart for the Struggling Learner Journey

Whether you have an official diagnosis, or simply suspect that something is just not clicking the way it should, your journey with a struggling learner is unique. Beyond the search for an effective curriculum, there is much more to learn in order to be the most effective parent/teacher for your beloved child. Join us for a helpful and encouraging discussion of the challenges you face with a struggling learner.

How to Teach Your Child to Think

It is one thing to know when Columbus discovered America, but quite another to be able to talk about the challenges and unexpected variables that accompanied the explorer(s). Learning to think, to consider multiple causes and possibilities, and to connect the dots in an informed and imaginative way is a skill that can be taught. Join us to learn about effective strategies for teaching our children to think.

Teach the Way You Were Taught? NO!

Teaching the way we were taught is almost inevitable. It's what we know ... what we're most comfortable doing. Not everything we experienced in the classroom as children was wrong, but there is so much more we can bring to our own children. Come and learn what research, and experience, have to say about the most effective way to teach in a homeschool environment.

Franzese, Michael

Bio: Michael Franzese grew up as the son of the notorious Underboss of New York's violent and feared Colombo crime family. At his most affluent, Michael was generating an estimated \$5 to \$8 million per week from legal and illegal businesses and in 1986, was named one of the biggest money earners the mob had seen since Al Capone, by Vanity Fair. At the age of 35, Fortune Magazine listed him as number 18 on its list of the "Fifty Most Wealthy and Powerful Mafia Bosses," just 5 behind John Gotti.

All that was to change when Michael met a beautiful dancer from California named Camille Garcia who's beauty and faith would turn his world upside down causing Michael to do the unthinkable – walk away from the mob. Nobody of his rank had ever just walked away – and lived. Until now.

This former "Prince of the Mafia" is now a man on a mission determined to use the compelling experiences of his former life for the benefit of others seeking redemption and forgiveness and continues to bring record attendance to events all over the country.

This is a True Story About Mafia, Money, Love, Loyalty and God – The Michael Franzese Story

Michael Franzese grew up as the son of the notorious Underboss of New York's violent and feared Colombo crime family. At his most affluent, he generated an estimated \$5 to \$8 million per week from legal and illegal business. It was a life filled with power, luxury...and deadly violence. He is now on a man on a mission. Meet him in person and hear his compelling story!

Fraze, Randy

Attending with [Zondervan](#) / Senior Minister at [Oak Hills Church](#) in San Antonio, TX

Bio: Randy Fraze is the Senior Minister at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas. He is the architect of two best-selling whole-family Bible Engagement experiences – *The Story* and *Believe*. Randy is the author of *Think, Act, Be Like Jesus*, the *Believe Storybook*, and he co-authored with Max Lucado *The Story for Children Storybook Bible*. He is passionate about the discipleship of the entire family and a big fan of home school families. He has been married to his wife Rozanne for thirty-five years. They have four grown children whom they homeschooled, and two grandchildren.

Situational Parenting

Randy Fraze has been a pastor for twenty-eight years and a home school parent of four children who are now adults. In this biblically-based talk, Randy will walk you through the four stages of parenting and how to apply this concept to the unique bent of each of your children. As the architect of two highly successful Bible engagement programs (The Story & BELIEVE) that were built out of his fathering experiences, Randy will show you how to weave God's Word in all the stages of your child's development.

G

Gamache, Dale

[La Clase Divertida \(The FUN Class!\)](#)

Bio: Dale Gamache has more than 34 years experience teaching the Spanish language. He has taught elementary, middle and high school students in the Volusia County , FL school system including the past 29 years at Seabreeze High. Señor Gamache and his family established their own private Spanish language after-school program where they taught public, private, and home school children in the Daytona Beach, Florida area. They have instructed hundreds of elementary and middle school students in these after-school programs. They developed the LA CLASE DIVERTIDA DVD curriculum in 1999 while teaching these classes. Their program has reached tens of thousands of families all over the World. He and his wife Robin have also developed a survival Spanish computer program in conjunction with the Florida Baptist Children's Homes with a focus on missions for adults. Sr. Gamache instructs high school students from all over the country live (NOT virtual) thru internet classrooms for HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH I, II and III credit.

Sr. Gamache has been a featured speaker on Foreign Language Acquisition at both homeschool and public school conventions throughout the country.

Dale and his wife Robin live in the Daytona Beach area and have one daughter, Erin (Jason) and a grandson Jensen born in 2014.

What Foreign Language Credits Will Be Accepted by Colleges and Universities? All Courses Are NOT Equal

Many changes are happening in the computer age to Foreign Language instruction but not all are acceptable to colleges and universities. Dale Gamache will share his research on this very important topic in this interesting and informative workshop. He will also try to ease the anxiety these ever-changing requirements can cause by sharing how these requirements can be met in the homeschool arena.

How Can I Teach My Kids a Foreign Language When I'm Not Fluent In That Foreign Language?

Not many parents have the language skills to teach their children a foreign language. In my seminar, we will explore the different options out there to teach foreign language at home. I will give encouraging answers to many of the questions I have heard repeatedly during my 32 years of Spanish instruction of children ages 4-18 and my 15 years of homeschooling.

- *What is the best age to start teaching a foreign language?**
- *What language should I teach?**
- *Should I teach Greek, Latin or some other language?**
- *How can I teach a language that I don't know myself?**
- *What should I look for in a language program?**
- *How can I help my children become fluent in a language?**
- *How do I teach Foreign Language to my high schooler at home?**
- *Do my children need a foreign language to graduate from high school or to be accepted at a Community College or University?**

Gonzales, Angela (Dr.)

[Dr. Angie's Place](#)

Bio: Dr. Angela L. Gonzales (Dr. Angie) is a Pediatrician, Licensed Davis[®] Facilitator, Licensed Davis[®] Autism Approach Facilitator/Coach, parenting specialist, transformational speaker, and mother of three.

Currently, Dr. Angie owns and runs [Dr. Angie's Place](#) in Norco, CA. Dr. Angie's Place is a Learning and Wellness Facility where Dr. Angie uses her Davis Facilitator license, medical expertise, and life experience.

Through Dr. Angie's Place, she is able to empower clients, educators, and parents with skills and techniques that help overcome the obstacles of learning and social interaction that can accompany the unique thinking styles of those with Dyslexia, ADD/ADHD, and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Dr. Angie's Place programs utilize multiple, non-pharmaceutical, techniques that are tactile, fun, and unique to each client. The programs also include help with focusing, comprehension, math skills, reading and handwriting skills, and social intelligence.

As a motivational and instructional speaker and educator, Dr. Angie has dedicated herself to helping others, of all ages, to find joy and peace in their lives...especially parents. Through Dr. Angie's Place, she offers multiple educational courses and workshops that aid individuals on their path to total wellness of mind, body, and soul.

Background

Prior to running Renaissance Mind, Dr. Angie received her B.A. in Physiology from the University of California at San Diego and then went on to obtain a doctorate in medicine from Drew/UCLA School of Medicine. She completed her pediatric residency at Martin Luther King Hospital and then spent an additional year as Chief Resident to aid in teaching pediatric residents.

Following her medical training, she worked in Downey, CA, as a general pediatrician for ten years. During this time she served on multiple committees both at the clinic and hospital.

Dr. Angie was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA, and is a product of the Los Angeles Unified School District. She currently resides in Riverside, CA, with her husband of 26 years, her three children, and four dogs.

The Turning Point

As Dr. Angie's family grew, she transitioned her time from the clinic to time with her children, trading her full-time practice for part-time work covering other physicians' practices when necessary. As her youngest child's school experience increased in difficulty, she left medicine to aid in his education.

Despite her efforts at home-schooling, her son continued to have learning challenges. It wasn't until she found a Davis[®] Facilitator that her son began to have success in school.

She saw the success in her son defined by increasing reading ability, appropriate coping mechanisms, and improving self-esteem and confidence. Her son's success was her inspiration to go back to work, but as a Davis[®] Facilitator, not as a physician.

As she began her journey providing answers for those with learning differences, she realized that the sum total of the individual was far more than just their ability to learn.

In 2014, Dr. Angie began to share the concepts and principles that she has learned to live her days in joy and happiness while parenting her amazing boys by providing programs, workshops, and lecture series for parents.

She continues to expand her purpose by igniting empowerment within individuals through understanding, knowledge, and wisdom.

She is a contributor to the online parenting website [Kids in the House](#) and can be seen in the short film documentary, [Exploding The Reading Paradigm](#).

She is also the creator of the e-course entitled [The Everyday Parent Fix-it Manual: Three Stages to finding joy and balance in life](#).

She is the author of the e-book [3 Simple Secrets Moms and Dads of Children with Dyslexia, AD\(H\)D, or Autism Know that Keep Them From Worrying About Their Child's Future](#).

Dyslexia, AD(H)D, Processing Disorders – Overcoming the Obstacles and Embracing the Gifts

What are the common characteristics shared by individuals with dyslexia, AD(H)D, and other processing disorders? How can they be so smart, yet struggle to read, learn and/or focus? This presentation will give you new insight, understanding and techniques to help your children find their potential and overcome their obstacles. It is time for a paradigm shift in understanding these amazing kids. It all starts here!

AUTISM, Sensory Processing Disorders, Sensory Integrative Disorders and Social Integration – Facilitating Missing Developmental Milestones and Participating Fully in Life

Whether your child has a diagnosis of ASD, PDD, PDD-NOS, Sensory Processing Disorder, and/or Sensory Integrative Disorder or just struggles with social integration/social communication, this presentation will provide you with a new understanding. What if the foundational issue is that there are missing developmental milestones? What if there is a way to facilitate your child through these missing milestones? What if there is a way to help them participate more fully in life? Let's start the conversation.

The Everyday Parent Manual – A Return to Parenting from Love and Compassion

What if you never had to search online or consult a parenting specialist with the question of, "What do I do when my kid...?". What if you had tools that empowered you with the KNOWING of what to do in any situation? This presentation is about beginning the journey within yourself to reconnect with your children, significant others, family and friends. It is the beginning to returning to parenting from a place of Love and Compassion. Learn the difference between Situational Parenting and Compassionate Parenting because every child is different and there is no one-size-fits-all.

Gurian, Michael (Dr.)

[Gurian Institute](#)

Bio: Michael Gurian is a marriage and family counselor in private practice and the New York Times bestselling author of twenty eight books published in twenty two languages. The [Gurian Institute](#), which he co-founded, conducts research internationally, launches pilot programs, and trains professionals. As a social philosopher, Michael has pioneered efforts to bring neuro-biology and brain research into homes, schools, corporations, and public policy. A number of his books have sparked national debate, including [The Wonder of Boys](#), [The Wonder of Girls](#), [Boys and Girls Learn Differently!](#), and [Leadership and the Sexes](#). His latest book, [Raising Boys by Design](#) (with Gregory Jantz and Ann McMurray;

published by Waterbrook), reveals insights and strategies from both the Bible and brain science.

Michael is a dynamic, warm and humorous presenter. He provides keynotes and consulting throughout the world, and his work has been featured in nearly all professional journals and major media, including the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, Catholic Magazine, Forbes Magazine, Time, Newsweek, Educational Leadership, Psychology Today, Family Therapy, and on The Today Show, The 700 Club, Good Morning America, CNN, PBS, and Fox News. He has been called "the people's philosopher" for his ability to bring together scientific principles and people's everyday lives. He lives in Spokane, WA with his wife, Gail, and they have two grown daughters.

The Minds of Girls: Effective Strategies for Teaching Girls

Some girls learn very well no matter how you teach them. In specific areas, however, including science and math learning, girls benefit from girl-specific strategies and techniques.

Dr. Gurian's book, *Boys and Girls Learn Differently*, was the first major resource to call for gender-specific teaching and learning for school age children. His *Strategies for Teaching Boys and Girls: Elementary and Secondary Level* (with Kelley King and Kathy Stevens) further specified science-based techniques that had been proven, with more than 20,000 girls, to improve female learning, from early childhood through college age. This session brings these ideas and strategies to life, connecting them to the newest research on how the female brain learns and grows. PET and SPECT scans in this session will blow your mind as you see the female brain learning and growing in its unique way.

Handling Girl Drama and Relational Issues

Girls strive to develop strength, self-confidence, and comfortable relationships under increasing stress today. They must navigate the development of character against a backdrop of in-out friendships, relational aggression, and girl drama. The good news: some of this is normal for any girl in any time, including Biblical times. The bad news: some of it is not normal, and can damage a girl's happiness and growth. Utilizing insights and tools from Dr. Gurian's *The Wonder of Girls* and *Nurture the Nature*, this session explores relational aggression, cyberbullying, and "girl drama" from a strategic and science-based perspective, providing insights, principles, and strategies you can use tomorrow in your home and community. Key areas explored in the session are: core personality development, media and technology use, techniques for handling girl drama and aggression, and the roles of mother, father, and mentors in helping girls build self-confidence through adversity.

THE MINDS OF BOYS: TEACHING BOYS EFFECTIVELY

The male brain is a wonderful and challenging learning tool that benefits from our deep understanding of how it works. From that understanding come boy-specific strategies and techniques that help boys successfully learn the whole curriculum. Dr. Gurian's book, *Boys and Girls Learn Differently*, was the first major international resource to call for gender-specific teaching and learning for school age children. His *The Minds of Boys* further specified science-based techniques that had been proven effective with more than 20,000 boys. His latest book, *Saving Our Sons*, goes even more deeply into what boys need, especially in a technological world. In this session Michael reveals strategies and techniques to help the male mind learn and grow most effectively. Come prepared to have your own mind expanded by the PET, SPECT, and fMRI scans Michael will show of male and female brains.

SAVING OUR SONS: PROTECTING THE EMOTIONAL LIVES OF BOYS

The development of social-emotional skills in boys is a foundation of not only the healthy adult life of a male but of a civilization as a whole. We want and need to raise boys who can be emotionally expressive as well as emotionally strong. In this session, Dr. Gurian shows scientific evidence of differences in male and female emotional intelligence that match Biblical teaching. Understanding how emotions work and develop in the male brain, you will be able to better protect and enhance your son's emotional development. In *The Wonder of Boys*, Dr. Gurian first presented his eight strategies model for helping parents develop social-emotional skills in boys. In *Saving Our Sons*, he adds information from the field of epigenetics to help parents go deeply into understanding their son's core personality. In this workshop, he reveals insights and practical strategies that you can use tomorrow to better understand how to communicate with your son, draw emotional life out of him, and see male emotions and male emotional health in a new way.

BUILDING A HERO: CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-DISCIPLINE

"What kind of man will my son become?" This is a question that parents of boys ask themselves constantly. We need to raise boys who will become both tough and tender; challenge the universe but also pay attention to the small responsibilities that make up a man. We need boys who will be servant leaders; in short we need boys to become *heroes*. As Dr. Gurian writes in *Raising Boys By Design*, "We parents and mentors are the hero makers." Following up on this principle, Dr. Gurian will use his unique science-based model of HERO--Honor, Enterprise, Responsibility, and Originality—in this session, connecting its scientific foundation with the Bible. Utilizing new information in his newest book, *Saving Our Sons*, he will discuss how to motivate males and protect them from neuro-toxins. He will help you parent and mentor boys to develop character and self-discipline from infancy through early adulthood and explore specific areas of boys' lives such as videogame use, social media and technology, and channeling male aggression.

The Wonder of Marriage: How to Have a Healthy, Happy Marriage

Marriage is a mystery, and no two marriages are alike, but some ancient and modern wisdom about marriage is undeniable. Dr. Gurian, married to his wife, Gail, for thirty years, brings alive the science and wisdom of healthy and happy marriage in this entertaining and deeply enriching workshop. Based on his most recent book on marriage and relationships, *Lessons of Lifelong Intimacy*, this workshop explores the nine principles of a happy, healthy marriage. Dr. Gurian provides a new science-based model for understanding one another's emotions, communication patterns, goals, and needs from the inside out. Beginning with the secret to lifelong love—*Intimate Separateness*—the workshop then explores the nuts and bolts of living the twelve stages of healthy marriage; communicating and doing conflict effectively together; balancing the uniquely different relationship-styles of women and men; ending the power struggles that can derail our happiness; and ensuring fun and joy together in long and healthy partnership.

H

Holinga, Karen

Bio: Dr. Karen Holinga is a Reading Specialist and has a doctorate from The Ohio State University in Developmental Reading, Curriculum, and Professional Development. Reading Recovery trained, she is the author of the new *Spelling You See* program recently published by Demme Learning.
www.demmelearning.com

She currently owns and operates her own business called The Reading Doctor, Inc. where she works full time tutoring children with reading disabilities and counseling homeschool families in curriculum development.

Karen successfully homeschooled her own three children for twelve years and has been doing Narrative Assessments since 1992. After struggling to teach one of her own children to read, Karen determined that she was going to help others with the same problem. Now she does over 700 assessments each year, focusing primarily on solving reading problems among homeschoolers. In August of 2003, and again in 2005, Karen was featured for a week on the www.homeschoolheartbeat.com radio program with Attorney Michael Farris of the Home School Legal Defense Association.

Dr. Holinga has taught classes at Ohio Wesleyan University and at The University of Dayton. She is frequently invited to do workshops and seminars throughout Ohio. Dr. Karen has also done many workshops at the state [Christian Home Educators of Ohio](#) convention.

www.thereadingdocinc.com

[Demme Learning/Spelling You See](#)

My Child Can Read, So Why Can't He Spell?

Did you know that 47% of high frequency words in English are NOT phonetic? And did you know that no matter how well you read, research says you STILL have to 'go through' spelling stages to get those tough words into long term memory? We will explain the five spelling stages and then discuss the most efficient way to get your child quickly to the next level....without tears or tests!

Why is Reading STILL not fun?

If we've worked on phonics and my child has 20/20 vision, why is reading STILL so hard? This workshop will discuss the critical neurological and developmental milestones necessary to make reading fun and fluent. Then we'll discuss specific alternative strategies when traditional methods don't seem to be working.

Hudson, Paige

[Elemental Science / Sassafras Science](#)

Bio: Paige Hudson first acquired an interest in science while watching a flaming gummy bear shoot across the room during her first day of high school chemistry class! Her interest quickly developed into a passion, which led to her receiving a BS in Biochemistry from Virginia Tech.

A week after graduating from college Paige married her best friend, Brad Hudson. Several years and a kid later, she began her homeschooling journey. After researching the science options and coming up empty-handed, she decided to put her degree to good use by writing her own science plans for their daughter. Thanks to encouragement from Brad, those plans became the basis for the programs of Elemental Science, which is now one of Cathy Duffy's Top 102 Picks for homeschool curriculum.

Paige's passion for science has grown into a drive to equip homeschool teachers with the tools they need to see their students excel in and enjoy the sciences. She does this through sharing sessions that her attendees describe as "encouraging and helpful" and simply "wonderful." And through writing curriculum that users describe as "easy-to-use" and "highly recommended."

Paige and her family make their home in the Appalachian Mountains, where you can find her along with her husband and two children enjoying frequent hikes on the trails and walks to the library. On the web, you can find Paige mixing up solutions for homeschoolers as they seek to teach science in their homes at the [Elemental Science](#) and [Sassafras Science](#).

Inspiring your student to love science through living books

In this session, Paige defines what qualifies a book as "living" and shares how to use these resources effectively in your homeschool. She also gives several examples of how to foster a love in science in your students through the use of living books as spines or supplements in your homeschool. (Presented at GHC in 2016.)

The Homeschooler's Guide to Experiments

In this session, Paige explains the benefits and difficulties of incorporating experiments into the homeschool setting. She removes the fear of doing experiments at home by sharing the different types of scientific tests you can do at home. Along the way, she provides tips for adding experiments into your homeschool routine from preschool through high school, including a live demonstration on how you can use one experiment with multiple ages of students. (This session was well received at the Space Center Homeschooling Day.)

Nature study – the natural way to learn about science

In this session, Paige explains what nature study is and where this method fits into science education. In the process, she shares about nature journals, how to use nature study with the whole family, and what nature study can look like in each of the seasons. You'll be inspired to add this beneficial tool to your bag of science-teaching tricks!

K

Keliher, Rebecca

[Well Planned Gal](#)

Bio: Rebecca, the Well Planned Gal, has inspired and supported thousands of homeschool moms each year through her speaking, talk show, daily planners, magazines, and online resources.

Each year Rebecca travels to homeschool conventions and women's conferences sharing her inspirational story of grace. Challenging women to discover the unique journey God has for them, Rebecca mentors women in their work, marriage, parenting adventures, and life.

Rebecca's personal journey and day-to-day life can be found in the pages of Family Magazine, her website wellplannedgal.com, and through social media.

Well Planned Day, Yes It's Possible

Having a productive day is so much more than buying a planner or a tool for organization. In this workshop, Rebecca, the Well Planned Gal, takes listeners a few steps back, helping them begin with a philosophy and understanding of the uniqueness God has created in each family. From there, Rebecca explores ten essentials for having a Well Planned Day.

Well Planned Early Years

Mothering little ones is a glorious season of life, but it can also be the most challenging. In this workshop, Rebecca, the Well Planned Gal comes prepared with spit-up clothes and wipes as she shares with young moms how to make the most of these early years with simple and practical tips for daily life.

Well Planned Middle Schoolers

The tween years are the beginning of autonomy, responsibility, and a smart mouth. In this workshop, Rebecca, the Well Planned Gal, shares her experience and a bit of wisdom for raising and training girls and boys during this unique season. Parents will learn the most important thing they can do in preparation for the teen years.

Well Planned High Schoolers

None of us wants our kids gaming on the basement couch at the age of thirty. In this workshop, Rebecca, the Well Planned Gal, gives parents a plan for navigating the high school years with wisdom and purpose. Parents can learn how to discover their child's passion for the future, train them in time management, and help them understand how to handle money.

Kessler, Colleen

[Raising Lifelong Learners](#)

Bio: Colleen Kessler is an explorer, tinkerer, educator, writer, creator, and a passionate advocate for the needs of gifted and twice-exceptional children. She has a B.S. in elementary education, a M.Ed. in gifted studies, and is the founder of the popular blog Raising Lifelong Learners as well as Raising Poppies, a community of support for parents of gifted children.

The author of more than a dozen books for teachers, parents, and kids, Colleen left teaching after more than a decade to write and speak about parenting, education, giftedness, and hands-on learning and play. Homeschooling is an adventure she hadn't planned on, but she has embraced the opportunity to learn alongside her kids every day, and is inspiring other moms and dads to do the same.

Her recent book titles include *Super Smart Science: 180 Days of Warm-Ups and Challenging Activities* (Prufrock Press) and *Real-Life Science Mysteries* (Prufrock Press). Watch for *Gifted Kids at Home: Everything You Need to Know to Understand Your Quirky Children and Help Them Thrive* (RLL Media) and *The Coolest, Dirtiest, Creepy-Crawliest Backyard Nature Science Activities for Kids* (Page Street Press/Macmillan) coming soon!

You can find more about her, upcoming projects, and where she'll be speaking in the coming months at RaisingLifelongLearners.com and connect with her on social media @ColleenKessler.

If He's REALLY So Smart, Then...? | Why Gifted Kids Struggle and What to Do About It
Many gifted children have other special needs, making learning a challenge and bringing about extreme frustration when they can't meet their own and others' expectations. That, combined with the frustration of adults who don't understand why a bright child does not achieve, can lead to conflict, misunderstandings, and failure. Together, let's explore the different needs of twice-exceptional children, and figure out how to help them be the fantastic learners they're meant to be.

Finding Peace in a Life Filled with Intensity | Managing Gifted Kids Who Are So Much MORE Than Others

While not all gifted kids exhibit what Polish psychologist Kazimierz Dabrowski called over excitabilities, they are more prevalent among the gifted population than any other. Gifted children and adults may possess one or more of these, and see reality differently. They tend to experience the world in a stronger and more multi-faceted way than others. One of the most difficult challenges to overcome, though, is the belief that these intensities need to be cured. Experiencing the world this way can be very frustrating for a kid, but it can also be very rewarding. Learn how to help harness it and lead to peace, success, innovation, and wonderful creativity in your home.

When Your Gifted Child Seems "Many Ages At Once" | Living with – and Teaching – Asynchronous Kiddos

Gifted kids are asynchronous. Their development is uneven and out-of-sync compared with age peers. When your kiddo can solve advanced mathematical equations, argue about injustices in our world, but can't tie his shoe or hold a pencil correctly, you might wonder if it's even possible to teach 10th, 8th, 3rd, and 1st grade in different subjects all to the same precocious 7 year old in one year. It's possible, but probably why that boxed, or grade-level based, curriculum you've been eyeing will never work well for him – no matter how amazing it is. Instead, homeschooling parents of gifted children need to get creative...

Kern, Andrew

[Circe Institute](http://CirceInstitute.com)

Bio: Andrew Kern is founder and president of the [CiRCE Institute](#), the founding author of *The Lost Tools of Writing*, a co-author of the best-selling book *Classical Education: The Movement Sweeping America*, which he wrote with Dr. Gene Edward Veith, and is on the board of The Society For Classical Learning (SCL). Since establishing CiRCE as a research and consulting service to classical educators, Andrew has trained teachers, led board retreats, and assisted with institutional development and start-up in over 100 schools since 1996. He has been directing the CiRCE Institute full time since the summer of 2000. Andrew helped start Providence Academy in Green Bay, WI, in 1993, where he served as “Lead Teacher”; Foundations Academy (now Ambrose School) in Boise, ID, where he served as Director of Classical Instruction from 1996–2000; The Great Ideas Academy in Charlotte, NC, where he served as Headmaster from 2001–2003; and The Regent Schools of the Carolinas, where he served as Dean of Academics from 2006–2008. He and his family live in North Carolina.

Your Word Is Too Small

The Bible teaches us that Christ is the Logos (the Word) and we often speak of our teaching and curriculum being Christ-Centered. But what does it mean to say a curriculum is Christ-Centered? This workshop takes this question seriously and seeks an answer that blesses our children and glorifies God.

Attention: Why It Comes First and How to Cultivate It

Why Memory and Imitation Are Any Student's Most Important Skills

Truth & Harmony: The Goals of a Christian Education

Kuhl, Kathy

[Learn Differently](#)

Bio: Kathy Kuhl equips and encourages parents of children with learning challenges. She speaks to parents internationally, combining a wealth of information and insight with practical suggestions, humor, and personal experience. After homeschooling a bright, dyslexic, creative, and highly distractible son for grades 4-12, she interviewed 64 families homeschooling students with learning difficulties to write *Homeschooling Your Struggling Learner*. This handbook helps anyone supporting teens and children with challenges—including learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, autism, and giftedness—and others who “learn differently,” diagnosed or not.

Kathy founded [LearnDifferently.com](#) to help parents help their children. She gives private consultations by phone and Skype internationally. Whether your child struggles or has given up, now is a great time to homeschool an exceptional child. Homeschooling lets us customize our children’s education, not only to their needs, but also to their strengths and gifts. Kathy’s latest books are *Staying Sane as You Homeschool* and *Encouraging Your Child*. Both are short, practical guides to help parents, children, and teens thrive and enjoy their time together.

Kathy graduated from William and Mary with teaching certificates in secondary mathematics and English. She has taught secondary math and English in public school and in homeschool groups, and helps lead two homeschool groups in Northern Virginia, where she enjoys reading and hiking with her husband. They wed in 1981 and have two grown children and a granddaughter.

***Raising Never-Give-Up Kids**

How do you nurture resilience, so your kids can discipline themselves, not to quit in adversity? How do you encourage them toward a realistic view of themselves, and help them better handle emotions and relationships? Is your child struggling in one or more academic areas? Kathy Kuhl, the author of *Encouraging Your Child*, shares lessons for everyone, based on her research and experience with homeschooled students with learning problems.

Teens Overcoming Learning Challenges

Teens who struggle with reading, writing, focusing, or organizing can make great progress when homeschooled. Veteran homeschooler Kathy Kuhl gives strategies for teaching teens who don't get on with textbooks, or struggle with time management, attention, handwriting, and other issues. She discusses life skills and social skills, as well as helping your teen get accommodations for college boards, in college, and at work.

Help Distractible Students Succeed

Is your child's mind a million miles from your lesson? Learn how to change your homeschool to curb distractibility, help your child improve his or her focusing power, and make your homeschool more friendly to that wandering mind, without building a 3-ring circus. Veteran homeschooler and author Kathy Kuhl also discusses related character issues, and how to teach if you're distractible.

Staying Sane as You Homeschool

Losing the joy of learning? Veteran homeschooling mom Kathy Kuhl shares common sense Biblical strategies—and tips from parents who homeschool children with disabilities—to help you take care of yourself, be a better teacher, parent, and spouse, and have a happier, healthier family.

When Writing Doesn't Come Easily

Does your child struggle to write, to form letters, or to compose a clear paragraph or an essay? Learn about causes of writing problems, handwriting tips, accommodations for problems with handwriting, memory, organization, spelling and vocabulary. Kathy Kuhl homeschooled her dysgraphic son (who loves to write), taught composition and English, and has written three books.

What Good are Labels? Understanding your Child's Learning Problems

Wish you understood your child's difficulties better? Want to find strengths amidst problems? Do "labels" help? Join author and homeschool veteran Kathy Kuhl in exploring the process and benefits of diagnosing learning problems. Unravel your child's learning puzzles!

Planning Homeschool with Learning Challenges

Your child struggles with some part of learning, or has given up. How do you help them begin again? How do you establish wise goals? How will you tell when you've reached them? Learn how to work around areas of weakness, strengthen them, and adapt curriculum. Get tips on how to keep going and to help your child keep going.

Math workshops:

***Teaching Algebra: Hands-on Makes Functions Meaningful**

In this hands-on workshop, learn and practice strategies to help your child grasp how functions work, what they're good for, and how to solve them. Great for kids (and parents) who hate algebra or don't understand what good it is.

Fractions, Decimals, & Percents: Hands on Methods to Master Concepts

Fractions, decimals, and percentages are topics where many students struggle with math. These core skills enable students to proceed to algebra and higher math. Veteran homeschooler and math teacher Kathy Kuhl shares and lets you try multisensory strategies you can incorporate into any math curriculum.

Negative about Negative Numbers? Multisensory Methods for Arithmetic

Are you (or your child) confused by signs? Learn how to explain why negative plus negative is negative, yet negative times negative is positive, and more. Learn multisensory, structured language methods to help your kids master integers from arithmetic to algebra from veteran homeschooler and math teacher Kathy Kuhl.

Word Problems: Distance and Rate and Time, Oh My!

Word problems woes? Figuring out how to apply math to real life is a neglected skill, which can leave us and our kids puzzled or petrified. Learn hands-on ways to clarify concepts, decipher the clues, find the patterns, and make math fun. Kathy Kuhl's experience helping students with learning challenges and making algebra interesting for homeschooled kids can help, whether you or your child struggle with math.

Leith, Shelley

Attending with [Zondervan](#)

Bio: Shelley Leith and her husband Greg are the proud parents of five young adults who are all in ministry or in grad school preparing for ministry. Out of their experience of building character into their children through their Family Mission Statement, Shelley wrote the curriculum *Head to Soul Makeover: Helping Teen Girls Become Real in a Fake World*, and she is a national speaker on character and spiritual formation. Shelley developed whole-family spiritual formation programs for churches called *The Story* and *Believe*, and she was also the lead developer of *40 Days of Purpose*, the spiritual growth experience that has been used in 30,000 churches to go through Rick Warren's best-selling book of all time, *Purpose Driven Life*.

Stop Parenting Like a Whack-a-Mole

Do you feel like you're a Whack-a-Mole parent who plays the wait-and-act game whenever your kids pop out and do something bad? Become proactive instead of reactive by developing a Family Mission Statement that envisions what kind of young adults you want to launch from your home. Learn practical ways to build character into your children, adjusting your strategies as they grow through their stages.

Bonus Material: Receive a copy of the Leith Family Mission Statement, with the character and spiritual formation elements built into the shape of a house.

The Art of Flourishing in the Season You're In

Many people live frustrated, wishing for fruit from a season we are not in. Drawing lessons from her own life journey as a failed career woman and a perplexed mother, Shelley Leith will help you discover how to flourish where you are planted now, whether you're in a season of Reality, Failure, Purpose, Transition, The Season You Don't Think You Want to Be In, or Fruitfulness.

M

Mackenzie, Sarah

[Classical Academic Press](#) [Amongst Lovely Things](#)

Bio: Sarah Mackenzie is a smitten wife, a homeschooling mother of six (including twins), and the author of *Teaching from Rest: A Homeschooler's Guide to Unshakable Peace*, published by Classical Academic Press. She writes about homeschooling, large family life, and cultivating an intellectual life at amongstlovelythings.com.

On her popular podcast, [The Read-Aloud Revival](#), she interviews inspiring leaders about the many benefits of reading aloud to build up a family culture around books. The podcast has been rated #1 in "Kids and Family" on iTunes. She serves as Editor-in-Chief at Scholé Sisters, a community for homeschooling mothers committed to modeling delight, nurturing minds, and ordering loves, and is a regular contributing writer at Classical Academic Press, The CiRCE Institute, and Simple Homeschool.

Sarah lives in the northwest and you can usually find her sipping (another!) cup of coffee, reading a stack of good books, or hiding behind her camera lens, finding extraordinary beauty in an ordinary day.

Restful Teaching, Restful Learning: Unshakable Peace for the Homeschooling Mom
Get clear on where you're headed, create a vision for your family culture, and pare back and do less (but better). Most importantly, turn the whole operation over to One who can- and will- turn water into wine. In this session, Sarah Mackenzie will walk you through the fundamental principles of teaching from rest and homeschooling with unshakable purpose, passion, and peace.(POPULAR)

Awake: Loving Your Life as a Homeschool Mom

We jump into homeschooling with energy and enthusiasm, but something happens along the way. How can a homeschool mom do this for the long haul with delight? In this session, Sarah will help homeschooling mamas wake up to the beautiful life they're living, and give practical strategies to help them live fully and love well all year long. (NEW)

Inspiring Wonder through Children's Books

Stories have a profound impact on the life and soul of a child. Sarah discusses the beautiful simplicity of a well-read childhood, and shows how ordinary parents can give their children an extraordinary childhood with the right books and a nourishing environment. (NEW)

Mora, Beth

[Here To Help Learning](#)

Bio: Meet Beth Mora, wife to one, mother to eight, nana to one, and a Homeschool Purple Heart Recipient for multiple moments where she thought she wasn't making a difference in her children's lives. Beth is indebted and salutes the homeschooling vets in her life that carried her through and simply desires to return the blessing.

This former city girl, wannabe homesteader, basset hound co-owner, who drinks way too much coffee, will bring you to tears one moment and laughter the next. Her New York moxie communicates with enthusiasm, you can do it! And her zeal for your family's success will fill your heart and charge you up to face the next year of homeschooling with confidence and passion.

Beth pulls from her past experiences as a Certified Rehabilitation RN, homeschool mom, co-op leader and teacher, Marriage Ministry Director, Women's Ministry Programmer, Children's Ministry Leader, Drama Team Member, creator and author of Here to Help Learning's Writing Program for grades 1-6, and most presently, "Mrs. Mora", the on-camera teacher for Here to Help Learning's filmed instruction where she lives out her dream of becoming Mrs. Frizzle from the Magic School Bus. She loves blogging at Home to Home, and Peak Performance, HTHL's blogs for moms and homeschool businesses. As well as writes weekly for HTHL's Writing Tip of the Week Newsletter. Occasionally, you can find her blog hopping or writing for a homeschool magazine. Everything she does, whether laughable or heart gripping, is done to honor One, without apology. God's grace is the salve that has healed her own life and God's grace is what she offers liberally to others.

Treating Writing Allergies

Do you have a student who is allergic to writing? You are not alone! It seems there is an epidemic, especially in the elementary grades. Could it be that we as educators might have lost sight of the goals of writing in the younger years? Join Beth Mora, 20-year homeschool veteran and the creator/author of Here to Help Learning's Writing Program, as she shares effective teaching strategies that will unlock your child's ability to write. She'll also unpack the latest research in elementary school writing education. You won't leave this workshop empty-handed because you'll walk away with ten teaching techniques that you can immediately implement and see results on Monday!

Finding Pieces to the Puzzle, How to develop an educational plan for your student with dyslexia, dysgraphia, ADHD, and other special needs.

Beth Mora brings her background as a registered nurse, case manager and certified rehabilitation specialist (C.R.R.N.) to this workshop. She is a student of her patients and has learned a great deal from the families she has served. Overwhelming needs can feel like you are putting a puzzle together without the picture on the box. In this workshop, Beth will introduce the S.O.A.P. method to help you develop an educational plan for your child with special needs and help you find that missing puzzle piece. Plan to leave this workshop feeling strengthened and empowered to continue your special needs journey.

The S.O.A.P. method stands for Subjective, Objective, Assessment, and Plan. It is an effective assessment tool used in the medical field and applicable for complex educational planning.

Richards, Lesli

[The Homegrown Preschooler](#)

Bio: Lesli Richards is the award-winning author of *The Homegrown Preschooler* and *A Year of Playing Skillfully*. A homeschooling mother of five, she enjoys encouraging other homeschooling families to cultivate wonder in their children through intentional play. She is an advocate for special needs families as they navigate the best educational opportunities for their children. She has spent five years as a Director for Classical Conversations Challenge Program, and enjoys writing and speaking on Classical Education. A sought after speaker across the country, Lesli is described as a knowledgeable, humorous and passionate voice of encouragement. She lives with husband Brendan in North Georgia.

Stop Juggling and Start Thriving- Schooling Across the Ages

One of the most common stressors for parents is trying to meet all their children's needs at once. Join me for an engaging session that will help you not only survive schooling multiple children but enrich your family culture at the same time. You will walk away with a new perspective and tools in your toolbox to help you cultivate wonder from preschool to high school.

A Year of Playing Skillfully – Getting Organized for Young Learners

From scheduling to home organization, this workshop gives parents the confidence that they can provide a rich early education for their little ones. Lesli provides an overview of what every child from 3-7 needs to cover over the course of one year, and how to fit it all in. Lesli provides solutions for the many challenges parents with young learners face, such as time management and schooling multiple ages at the same time.

S

Sarden, Judy

[Sarden Publishing](#)

Bio: Judy Sarden has been a corporate attorney and entrepreneur for over twenty years. After feeling the need to home educate her children, Judy left her corporate legal job and began working for herself

at home as a contract attorney, business advisor, writer and career coach. She is passionate about families developing an entrepreneurial spirit and teaching kids to think entrepreneurially. An avid supporter of home education, Judy encourages all families, and especially African American families, to consider educating their children at home. Recognizing that many families need two incomes, Judy works with parents to help them discover how best to use their talents to generate income. Judy is a wife and mother of 2, who have been homeschooled since the oldest began kindergarten. Going into her 5th year of homeschooling, she changed homeschool styles and curriculum several times, but after a couple of years, discovered what works best for her family and loves the adventure. Judy enjoys running, traveling, reading and photography. She and her daughter have recently started learning to sew.

Working while homeschooling – teaching your kids while helping to support your family

Not only can the homeschool parent work, but seeing the parent, at home, working on their passion, helps to teach children how to be entrepreneurial. It also teaches kids how to be patient and how everyone can do their part to keep the family going. In this session, I will discuss how to figure out what you can do, provide resources for those looking for an at-home opportunities, and encourage a general entrepreneurial thought process. I'll also discuss how working while homeschooling may impact homeschooling and discuss different ways to approach the homeschool schedule to accommodate work.

Homeschool challenges in the African American community

In this session, I'll discuss the unique challenges that face the African American family when making the decision to homeschool, how to start homeschooling and the challenges that many African American families face while homeschooling.

Why African American families should homeschool

After years of struggling to gain equality in the public education system, African Americans applauded the passing of Brown vs. Board of Education. Now, however, many African American families are deciding that they are still not being served by the public school system. Schools are failing African American children. We often hear news reports that speak to the low test scores and more severe disciplinary action that plague African American children. In this session, I will elaborate on the reasons why African American families should strongly consider homeschooling.

Using the Socratic Method: teaching your kids to think

A carry over from law school, I use the Socratic method extensively in my homeschool. The Socratic method teaches kids how to think, how to analyze and synthesize information, how to organize their thoughts and how to clearly articulate them. You can do this with young kids as well. In this presentation, I'll discuss what it is, why it's a great method to incorporate, and how to effectively use it.

Competition is a good thing: Allowing your kids to fail

I meet many homeschool parents who abhor competition of any kind. In this presentation, I'll discuss how competition can be a good thing for our kids. How it will prepare them for the "real world," no matter what they choose to do. I'll also discuss the concept of failure and how kids actually learn from it and how allowing kids to deal with failure while still under the guidance of their parents helps to prepare them for life. I'll also give several examples of successful people who failed but used that failure to grow multimillion dollar businesses, large church congregations, etc.

Changing careers: making the transition from the corporate world to homeschooling parent

I never planned to homeschool my kids. But life circumstances and a calling from God put me on my path to homeschooling. I'll discuss how to plan financially and professional for the exit from the full time corporate world. I'll also discuss ways to keep yourself relevant in the corporate world so that you can reenter if needed and other considerations for the corporate parent.

You do have the patience to homeschool

This is the MOST often used reason why people tell me they can't homeschool. Even from stay at home moms whose kids are struggling in school. I plan to address this myth by discussing the difference between helping kids with homework and after school enrichment academics and actual homeschooling.

Life skills and the homeschooler

I feel very passionately about this one! Here I will discuss the types of life skills that homeschoolers can acquire by virtue of living in the world. I'll prepare a top 10 list and how to help kids gain these skills.

Shoemaker, Tim

Tim Shoemaker, Author, Speaker

Bio: By God's grace, Tim is the author of ten books and speaks at conferences for parents, men, pastors, children's pastors, and writers across the country. Tim is a regular speaker at Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conferences, Moody Bible Institute's Pastor Conference, national writers conferences and at schools and homeschool co-ops. Happily married for over 35 years, Tim has three grown sons. He is active in leadership in his home church, and has worked as a volunteer with junior high and senior high youth combined for over 20 years.

Family Devotions That Blow Up the Box

Teaching our kids about God and the principles he's given us to live by...we know we need to do this—but how do we do it in a way where kids will listen—even teens? Tim will demonstrate practical, powerful object lessons in this "how-to" and "hands-on" session so that you leave equipped to do the job at home—even if you've tried and failed before. Simple things like a microwave, leaf blower, toaster, and more will be used to teach lessons kids will never forget!

Here are some things we'll cover...

- The kind of character we want our kids to develop... and how to help them get there.
- The practical mandate to train our kids spiritually and how it protects our kids
- 4 positive payoffs to teaching our kids spiritually
- 8 live demos of object lessons you can do—*now*
- 13 tips maximize your effectiveness teaching the kids... & to keep you from quitting

Why Dad's Resist Teaching Kids Spiritual Truth ... and How You Can Help

Many women want their husband to pick up the ball when it comes to teaching their kids about God and the principles he's given us to live by—but some men seem to avoid it. Tim will help you understand why—and how to help your man over some of the hurdles that are holding him back. "Hands-on" and "how-to", we'll demo an approach that works with men.

Here are some things we'll cover...

- 4 reasons why men seem reluctant to teach kids spiritual truth
- How to approach him to turn that around... and it's likely not what you think
- The kind of character we want our kids to develop and how it protects our kids.
- The practical mandate to train our kids spiritually—why it makes so much sense
- How to teach kids spiritual truth if your husband *won't* pick up the ball
- 4 positive payoffs to teaching our kids spiritually
- 8 live demos of object lessons you can do—*now*

-13 tips maximize your effectiveness teaching the kids... & to keep you from quitting

Write Powerful Fiction... Secrets to Showing the Story, not Just Telling

So you want to write fiction? Great. Learn practical tips and techniques from a published author. Tim won't just tell you how to strengthen your writing skills, he'll show you. Tim is a regular contributor for Focus on the Family Clubhouse Magazine and has a middle grade novel series with Zonderkidz. Workshop is ideally suited—and must be limited to junior or senior high school students (not younger) who have a desire to write.

Smith, S.D.

[Story Warren](#)

Bio: [S. D. Smith](#) is the author of the middle-grade adventure fantasy novels, [The Green Ember](#), [The Black Star of Kingston](#), and [Ember Falls \(The Green Ember: Book II\)](#). Despite spending time as one of the top 100 best-selling authors on Amazon and seeing the audiobook for *The Green Ember* hit #1 in worldwide sales on Audible, Smith remains an award-winning author. His debut novel was a runner up for both *World Magazine* and Audible's Kid's Book of the Year Awards.

Smith's collaborative website, [Story Warren](#), is an artful ally to parents who are eager to foster holy imagination at home.

Smith lives with his wife and four kids in West Virginia, because it would be weird to live with someone else's wife and four kids in West Virginia. (Or anywhere else, right?)

From Critic to Curator or Creator

How to Stop Noticing Everything That's Wrong & Start Making or Supporting Something Good

(mostly geared toward adults/parents)

Is your first instinct to evaluate and critique? Do you find yourself ferreting out flaws in stories, sermons, and people? The ancient Christian virtues of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness are best sung in harmony. An over-emphasis on any one, combined with a neglect of the others, is a recipe for a warped cultural posture. There is such a thing as being overly obsessed with getting everything exactly correct at all times. We have sometimes become so obsessively analytical of True *information*, that we have neglected the crucial role of Beauty and Goodness *information*. As an example, some churches speak the technical truth about Grace, while actively fostering an environment mostly characterized by its absence. Truth is essential, and discernment is likewise crucial. However, an over-emphasis on criticism is a self-destructive culture to foster. Similarly, a snootily high view of the arts can lead to a culture of impotent evaluations that paralyze efforts at creation. This talk is about moving on from being (overly) critical and into the hospitable vocations of creator and curator. We need more creators and curators, and fewer critics.

Rabbits With Words

Hot Tips On Writing From S. D. Smith, Author of The Green Ember's #RabbitsWithSwords
(For parents and older kids)

This talk is a highly practical focus on the vocation of writing with reflections on the nature of this calling for Christians. In it, best-selling author S. D. Smith walks through tips and tricks for writing stories that are hospitable. Hospitality, Smith argues, is a key foundation for authors who follow Christ. "Writing stories, for children or older folks, is a calling to serve." How does one serve readers well? "It starts with loving them enough to do the hard work of clearing obstacles from their path. Those obstacles can appear as crummy writing, or an over-indulgence in obtuse prose. Clarity is kindness." Smith will walk through observations aimed at helping writers connect with their audience, with advice including:

- *This happens *because* that happened, not this happened *then* that happened. Weave a causal thread through each scene.
- *Scenes need sequels. Action, then rest. Nonstop action in stories is like nonstop action in real life, impossible to appreciate or apprehend.
- *We are attracted to characters with limits, with flaws. Superman without kryptonite is a snooze.

Living Like A Character In A Story Becoming The Characters We Love (For parents and kids)

Our favorite characters in stories call us to virtues we sometimes see as unreachable in our own lives. In this talk, we will explore the connection between our favorite stories and the story we are living. We will identify what makes a great character compelling, and work to bring those characteristics into the arena of our real lives. For children, who depend so keenly on the decisions and whims of others, life can feel like a journey with few choices for adventure. And it's true for all of us that we are *not* the authors of our own stories. But we *are* characters. And our favorite characters are *not* passive. Adventure is not just "out there," it's right where we are.

For Parents/Families

Imagination at Home: The First Place for Seeking the Kingdom First

Why our homes are havens for anticipating the Kingdom of God and how we might live in that reality with joy, saying: "The kingdom of God is our family's heart, the end and aim of all our art."

Somerville, Michael

[Tapestry of Grace](#)

Bio: Michael Somerville serves as the president of Lampstand Press which publishes the well-known integrated unit studies curriculum, *Tapestry of Grace*, which enables families to study the humanities through the lens of a biblical worldview.

Home-educated through high school by Scott and Marcia Somerville, authors of *Tapestry of Grace*, Michael went on to academic success, graduating at the top of his class from the University of Maryland's Smith School of Business before going on to complete his Master's in Science in Systems Engineering from the Johns Hopkins University with a 4.0 GPA.

Michael's professional career in systems engineering and project management encompassed seven years working for defense contractor Lockheed Martin, as well as several years as an independent contractor and as a project manager for a small business. Michael's home education prepared him well, equipping him with the tools to understand people, communicate effectively, write clearly, build effective teams, and creatively solve problems in the real world.

As an actively homeschooling father of three daughters, Michael and his wife Jessica are second-generation users of *Tapestry of Grace* and worked together to develop *Tapestry Primer*, which adapts the principles and practices of *Tapestry* for families that are just starting their homeschooling journey. Together, they love raising their daughters to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, strength, and mind.

In his role with Lampstand Press, Michael leads the company's development of new products, and efforts to tell homeschoolers about the joys of a story-driven, whole-family worldview education built around an authentically Christ-centered study of the humanities and the Great Conversation. Michael is passionate about sharing his perspective as a second-generation homeschooler with others, and about encouraging families in their pursuit of home-based education.

How to Teach the Fall of Rome to a 5-Year Old (A New Teacher's Guide to Unit Study)

This practical, hands-on session takes an important, but complicated, moment in history and shows how this complex topic can be explained to even a young child in a way that makes sense and extends their knowledge of their world. We show how to use the Unit Study approach to interweave materials and make the story come alive. This session introduces the use of techniques such as: 1) teaching sequence and pattern, 2) bridging from what they know to what they don't know, 3) world-building, 4) roleplay and acting, and 5) hands-on projects. Parents who are unfamiliar with Unit Studies will enjoy this practical, fun demonstration of an important educational technique.

7 Lessons We Learned From the First Four Years

Michael and Jessica Somerville are entering their fifth year of homeschooling their three daughters. In this session, Michael reflects on some of the lessons that they learned along the way. As second-generation homeschoolers, Michael and Jessica thought that their learning curve would not be all that steep. Wrong! Listen in as Michael shares what we hope will inform and encourage others. Lessons include: 1) set a shared (but flexible) vision, 2) don't panic: focus on the basics first, 3) husbands, care about your wife's curriculum, 4) make time for planning, 5) space matters; what it looks like doesn't, 6) expect setbacks, 7) remember who you're working for. We may add to this list or remove topics from it. We are excited to share and, ideally, to have some discussion on other lessons that younger families are learning.

Teaching with Tapestry of Grace (Vendor Workshop)

In a wonderfully personal and practical look at a premier humanities and worldview curriculum, Michael Somerville, son of the author of *Tapestry of Grace* and one of the early "guinea pigs" for the program, reviews the heart behind *Tapestry of Grace* and some of the key goals of this classically-aligned, whole-book, unit-study humanities program. Outlining the core methods and concepts of the program, this vendor workshop is a great introduction for those considering teaching with *Tapestry of Grace*, or for veterans who are looking for a reminder of the important first principles behind this well-tested curriculum.

Speake, Wendy

Wendy Speake – Author, Speaker

Bio: As a trained actress and heartfelt Bible teacher, Wendy ministers to women's hearts through storytelling and Biblical life application. She utilizes drama, comedy, and the study of God's Word. During her career in Hollywood, Wendy found herself longing to tell stories that edify and encourage women. She now writes books that move her audiences closer to Jesus.

Author of Triggers: Exchanging Parents' Angry Reactions for Gentle Biblical Responses and Life Creative: Inspiration for Today's Renaissance Mom.

Wendy resides in Southern California with her husband and their 3 ruddy boys. Follow her homeschooling adventures and faith journey at WendySpeake.com

"Learning to Limbo" (THURS.)

Learning to lower our *extraordinary* expectations helps us rediscover our joy each *ordinary* homeschooling day. And, as a bonus, our children discover how fun learning can be! So lower the bar, and, if need be, limbo under it! If you need grace and inspiration for real life learning, this talk is for you. Come laugh, take notes, and lighten up a little – your kids will be glad you came to this one!

"Fitting Mom Back into Motherhood" (FRI.)

You take care of all those little people, and that big guy too, but sometimes mom gets lost. We call these seasons, "The Dark Ages." But you know from your children's history lessons that the literal Dark Ages always preceded a Renaissance! This session walks you through simple self-care to deep soul care, that we might journey out of the dark and into the light again. PS - We will even cover how to communicate our often elusive needs to our husbands.

"Confessions of an Angry Homeschool Mom" (SAT.)

From math meltdowns, learning disabilities, backtalk and disrespect to getting out the door for church on Sunday mornings, we'll journey together through some of the most common parenting pitfalls. Wendy discusses ways to respond gently, even when we're feeling triggered, rather than joining our children in the battle. Inspired by the new book, "Triggers: Exchanging Parents' Angry Reactions for Gentle Biblical Responses."

Stotts, Dave

Products at [Good Steward Books](#)

Bio: Dave Stotts has spent the last two decades in professional media production. His career in documentary films has taken him to nearly 30 countries to shoot and edit programs on a wide variety of topics. Dave is the host of [Drive Thru History](#), a fun, fast-paced, content-rich history show that speeds through ancient civilizations, the Holy Land, and the founding of America, allowing students to experience the people, places, and events that shaped our world and the Christian faith.

Hi, I'm Dave Stotts—host of *Drive Thru History*[®]. I've spent over 15 years traveling the world to share the awesome stories of history at the sites where they happened. While producing 54 episodes over four different series, I've journeyed through America, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East to uncover the people, places, and events that shaped our world and the Christian faith. My passion is teaching history, on-location, in the context of adventure.

My latest project, *Drive Thru History*[®]—“[The Gospels](#),” is my greatest adventure yet! We set out to produce the ultimate resource for homeschool families to learn about the life of Jesus, together. I was blessed to spend about two months driving around Israel in a '76 Land Rover, uncovering the most widely read collection of history in the last 2,000 years—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Why did I spend over two years creating this series? As a dad, I realized the greatest legacy I could leave my family is sharing the biographies of Jesus in the most compelling way imaginable. What an incredible journey, exploring the evidence for the stories surrounding the most significant person in history—Jesus of Nazareth.

Join me at all four Great Homeschool Conventions this year – I'd love to meet you and tell you some stories from my adventures.

In the meantime, enjoy free streaming of 12 episodes of our original “Ancient History” series, and free streaming of one episode of our all-new series, “The Gospels.”

Also, join us at [DriveThruHistory.com](#) for video clips, behind-the-scenes, and free bonus content from all our shows. You can also follow me on [social media](#) and subscribe to our [newsletter](#) for other exclusive giveaways.

I'll see you at Great Homeschool Conventions 2017 - have an awesome day!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first letter 'D' being particularly large and prominent.

Dave Stotts -- The Power of Adventure Learning

Dave Stotts has spent 15 years traveling the world to share history, on-location, in its worldview context. While producing 54 episodes of Drive Thru History, Dave has developed an “Adventure Learning” approach to education, designed to equip homeschool families with entertaining supplements for their history curriculum. In this session, Dave uses video clips to share stories, insights, and helpful hints for engaging students in the “Adventure of History.”

T

Tobias, Cynthia

[Cynthia Tobias](#)

Bio: Best-selling author and popular speaker Cynthia Tobias offers practical and encouraging strategies for understanding the way we learn and work, and bringing out the best in almost anyone. (Author of **Focus on the Family's** best-selling book ***The Way They Learn*** and in their **Best of Broadcast for 4 years in a row**)

Cynthia Tobias has a successful background that includes over 30 years of private practice, 8 years of teaching high school, and 6 years in law enforcement. She has authored 13 books and is a featured guest on radio and television, a popular presenter for business, government agencies, churches and schools throughout the U.S. and the world. She is the mother of twin sons, now young adults, and she and her husband Jack live in the Seattle area.

Cynthia's educational clients have included a large number of public and private schools across the country and around the world. She has taken her educational expertise to many international schools and organizations, including those in South Africa, Bolivia, Trinidad, South Korea, Australia, and more. Her skills and experience have allowed her unique teaching opportunities for Loma Linda Medical School, Washington State Criminal Justice Training Center, the Marine Corp Civilian Law Enforcement Command School, Eastside Fire and Rescue, and other similar organizations.

Cynthia's corporate clients have included Seattle Police Department, Los Angeles Police Department, International Association of Women Police (IAWP), General Motors, Walt Disney, Merrill Lynch, and BNSF Railroads, as well as numerous government agencies, law enforcement and fire & rescue services.

Cynthia received her B.A. at Northwest Nazarene University, her Master's Degree at Seattle Pacific University, and an Honorary Doctorate from Northwest Nazarene University in 2015. She is currently serving on the Advisory Board of the Washington State Chaplains Foundation Advisory Board (primarily serving the Washington State Patrol & Fish and Wildlife Chaplains) and is a Trustee at Northwest Nazarene University.

Who Gets to Decide What's Normal?

Finding Success for All Kinds of Learners

What if how well you do in school doesn't turn out to be what makes you successful in life? Here's an entertaining and informative look at how individual learning styles can reveal some surprising and amazing keys for motivating all kinds of students to love learning for the rest of their lives. (Thursday)

MoreThan Just Another Day of School

Immediately Useful Strategies for Teaching Them The Way They Learn

Insights and practical strategies for recognizing and appreciating all kinds of learning styles. You'll receive a quick and invaluable profile for identifying natural strengths for learners of all ages, and ideas for motivating them to take charge of their own success. (Friday)

Middle School: The Inside Story
What Kids Tell Us, But Don't Tell You

Insight and practical tools for deepening your relationship with your children during one of the most critical times in their lives—with direct quotes and real-life anecdotes fresh from the hearts and minds of middle school kids and those who love them. (Friday)

Reasons Why and Things to Try
Creative Solutions to Familiar Problems

A practical and hands-on session using interaction, anecdotes, success stories and problem-solving to identify and use individual learning style strengths to bring out the best in everyone. (Saturday)

You Can't Make Me! (But I Can Be Persuaded)
Turning Conflict Into Cooperation

In this intensely practical session, you'll gain insight into how the mind of a Strong-Willed Child works, and how to turn conflict and confrontation into cooperation by using simple, practical and proven techniques that work for strong-willed individuals of any age. (Saturday)

W

Wakefield, Norman

[Spirit of Elijah Ministries](#)

Bio: Norm is the founder and executive director of The Spirit of Elijah Ministries, International. He and his wife Alma live in Bulverde, TX, and have four children (three married), who are walking with Jesus, and seventeen grandchildren. They began homeschooling in 1984 and are still involved in the homeschooling of their grandchildren. Norm has been a keynote and conference speaker at state and international homeschool conventions since 1992. God has given him a pastor/teacher's heart to teach how the gospel applies to all relationships and circumstances in life. His knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Scriptures coupled with his homeschool experience enables him to specifically speak to the many challenges homeschool parents, children, and young adults face on a daily basis. What makes Norm unique is that he speaks from his heart to the hearts of his listeners with a reliance upon the Spirit and presence of Jesus Christ. You'll find his messages biblical, practical, inspirational, and encouraging.

How to Build a Foundation of Faith in Your Children

One of the goals of Christian home education is to lay foundations for faith that will stand the tests of life. You'll learn how to teach your children to draw near to Christ and hold fast to the foundational tenets of the Christian faith.

The Transforming Power of Love in Your Home

The Apostle Paul wrote that the goal of his instruction was love, and that ought to be the same for our instruction at home. You'll learn the difference between the world's kind of love and God's kind of love as well as three powerful, relationship-transforming thoughts about loving your children.

Homeschooling From a Heavenly Perspective

What makes Christian home education distinct from other educational philosophies is the perspective from which we teach and live—a heavenly perspective. You'll learn how to live in heaven while you are on the earth and bring the presence, perspective, and power of God near to your children as you live your life before them and teach them daily.

The Power of Humility in Parenting

When parents display humility, their children are attracted not only to them, but to Christ. You'll be encouraged as you see the power of humility in the lives of Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul. You'll learn how you can grow in humility and add tremendous value to your relationship with your children.

The Most Powerful Words You Can Say

Do you know what the most powerful words are that you can say to your children? God said them to all of the Hebrew fathers. Then He said them repeatedly through His Son to His disciples. These words will encourage your hearts and fill you with faith as you homeschool and disciple your children. (By the way, it's not, "I love you.")

What's a Mom to Do with Teenage Sons?

Blossoming young men can be very challenging to a mother. What's a mom to do with her son's seeming disrespect? How should she correct him? Does there come a time when a mom can no longer tell her son what to do? Wives have similar questions about relating to their husbands. What's a mom or wife to do? Norm provides answers to these questions and more.

How to Build Security in Your Children

One of the greatest needs of children is to feel secure. When they feel secure they are more teachable and more responsive. You'll learn four powerful, practical ways you can make a difference in their lives—ways that build security in them.

Preparing Teens for Christ-Centered Relationships

Navigating your teens in their relationships with the opposite sex can be very blessed and faith building season if you know how to prepare your teens for Christ-centered relationships. Norm unpacks eight Scriptures that specifically relate to young adults and walking with Christ in guy/girl relationships before marriage.

Wallace, J. Warner

Cold Case Christianity

Bio: J. Warner Wallace is a cold-case homicide detective, adjunct professor of apologetics at Biola University, popular national speaker, and author of *Cold-Case Christianity*, *God's Crime Scene*, and *ALIVE*. His professional investigative work has been featured repeatedly on Dateline, FOX News, and Court TV. J. Warner's professional investigative work has received national recognition; he's been awarded the Police and Fire Medal of Valor "Sustained Superiority" Award, and the 2015 California Peace Officers Association COPSWEST Award for Cold-Case Investigation of the Year. J. Warner also continues to appear as an expert in a number of crime-based television series and is featured in *God's Not Dead 2*. He's part of a three-generation law enforcement family and has a Master's Degree in Theological Studies from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jim wasn't raised as a Christian. In fact, he was a conscientious and vocal atheist until he was 35 years old and always considered himself to be an "evidentialist." His experience in law enforcement only served to strengthen his conviction that truth was tied directly to evidence. But J. Warner eventually took a serious and expansive look at the evidence for the Christian worldview and determined that Christianity was true. J. Warner eventually served as a youth pastor for several years and planted a church in 2006. Along the way, he created and built the ColdCaseChristianity.com website as a place to talk about the evidence he discovered supporting Christianity.

Jim speaks at churches, retreats, and camps as he seeks to help people become "Christian Case Makers." J. Warner's work is focused on the historicity and deity of Jesus, the reliability of the Bible, the evidence for the existence of God, and the truth of the Christian worldview.

J. Warner's first book, *Cold-Case Christianity*, provides readers with ten principles of cold-case investigations and utilizes these principles to examine the reliability of the gospel eyewitness accounts. Jim's second book, *God's Crime Scene*, examines eight pieces of evidence in the universe and makes the case for God's existence. Relying on over two decades of investigative experience, J. Warner's books provide his readers with the tools they will need to investigate the claims of Christianity and make a convincing case for the truth of the Christian worldview.

Jim is married to Susie (the love of his life since 1979) and has four children. He lives in Southern California, where he enjoys running on the beach and the trails and walking his trusty Corgi, Bailey.

The Case for Truth

In this presentation, Cold-Case Detective J. Warner Wallace will make the case for objective truth as he describes the distinction between objective and subjective truth claims, three lies about truth told in universities across America, and false definitions of truth. J. Warner will lay the foundation for the Christian worldview in this opening presentation

God's Crime Scene – Part 1

In this presentation, Cold-Case Detective J. Warner Wallace will present a detective's approach to determining if God exists. In this first of two parts, J. Warner will examine the appearance of design in biology in order to see if God's existence is reasonable.

God's Crime Scene – Part 2

In this presentation, Cold-Case Detective J. Warner Wallace will continue his examination of the universe to determine the existence of God. In this second part of the investigation, J. Warner will examine the presence of evil to see if it eliminates the reasonable existence of God.

Cold-Case Christianity

In this presentation, Cold-Case Detective J. Warner Wallace will apply a detective's eyewitness reliability template to the authors of the Gospels to see if the Bible can be trusted.

Cold-Case Resurrection

In this presentation, Cold-Case Detective J. Warner Wallace will teach students how detectives use abductive reasoning to determine if an explanation is reasonable. J. Warner will apply this approach to the Resurrection of Jesus to see if the Christian explanation for the Resurrection is the most reasonable.

Wile, Jay

Berean Builders

Bio: Dr. Jay Wile learned about his love for chemistry when his dedicated parents bought him his first chemistry set. Many stink bombs and a few explosions later, he was hooked! Although he loved chemistry, he also had many other interests. For a while, he thought about becoming a concert pianist, but unfortunately, his fingers were not long enough (no kidding!). As he was finishing up his high school years, he became extremely interested in the theater and began to pursue a career in acting. Partly because he learned the science behind some of the special effects of the plays in which he performed, he eventually went back to his first love: chemistry.

He went to the University of Rochester in upstate New York to study chemistry, and while he was there, he began working on nuclear chemistry experiments. He became so fascinated with nuclear chemistry that he stayed at the University of Rochester and got a Ph.D. in that field. For several years, he did research in the field under the auspices of the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation. This research led to several grants and many publications. While doing research, Dr. Wile was also an assistant professor of chemistry.

Dr. Wile's love of science is demonstrated by the many awards he has won for excellence in teaching and research. He has also presented numerous lectures on the topics of Nuclear Chemistry, Christian Apologetics, Homeschooling, and Creation vs. Evolution. He has published 30 articles on these subjects in nationally-recognized, peer-reviewed journals, and has 9 books to his credit, most of which belong to the award-winning "Exploring Creation with" series of junior-high and high-school science courses.

Do I Really Have To Do Experiments?

Many homeschooling parents don't like experiments. They are messy, they take a lot of time to prepare, and often, they simply don't work. Are science experiments really worth all the trouble? In this talk, Dr. Wile will discuss why science educators think experiments are necessary, and then he will give you a realistic assessment of when experiments are important and when they are not. He will also give you tips for how to make the science experiments you do more likely to actually work. Finally, he will give you some excellent resources that will make your life easier when it comes to science education. Whether your children are in elementary school or high school, you will benefit from this talk.

What I Have Learned About Homeschooling Over The Past 22 Years

Dr. Wile first learned about homeschooling when he was on the faculty at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. He started experiencing a few

science students who were head and shoulders above the rest and found out that they were graduates of home education. At the time, he didn't know anything about homeschooling, but seeing its products made him want to learn. He started studying the education literature to see what research was being done on homeschooled students, he started working with homeschooling families, and he kept track of homeschooled students who graduated and became adults. This talk represents a survey of what he has learned since his introduction to homeschooling. Dr. Wile will discuss what research tells us about homeschooling, the amazing things that homeschool graduates are doing, and the wisdom that homeschool graduates have shared with him.

Homeschool: The Best Environment for Learning Science

Many homeschooling parents feel inadequate when it comes to helping their children learn science. As a result, they think that their students should eventually go to school to learn it. In this talk, Dr. Wile draws on various sources to demonstrate that in fact, homeschool is the ideal environment for learning science. He discusses studies that indicate homeschool graduates excel in science, shares his own personal experiences with homeschool graduates who are studying science at the university level, and gives some case studies that illustrate his point. He also surveys the various options homeschoolers have at their disposal for teaching science, especially at the junior high and high school levels.

Ten Tips to Improve Your Homeschool Year

Dr. Wile has been working with homeschoolers for more than 20 years. As a result, he has been able to learn from the pros. He also homeschooled his daughter from the time she was adopted until she graduated high school. Blending his personal experience with the things he has learned from veteran homeschoolers, Dr. Wile discusses ten things you can do to make your homeschool year more enjoyable and effective. Whether you are a new homeschooler or an experienced one, this talk will help you make the most of your homeschool year!

Homeschooling: The Environment for Genius

In 1957, psychologist Dr. Harold McCurdy investigated the lives of twenty geniuses like John Stuart Mill, John Quincy Adams, and Blaise Pascal. He wanted to find out if there was something about their childhoods that made them become geniuses. In the end, he found three things that all of them had in common while growing up. What's fascinating is that these three elements are typically present in the lives of modern homeschooled children. In this talk, Dr. Jay L. Wile will present the details of the study and its conclusions, and he will give anecdotes and practical advice that will help you incorporate these elements into your homeschooling experience. He doesn't promise that you will raise geniuses, but he does promise that your homeschool will be better for it.

What I Learned by Homeschooling My Daughter

Homeschooling parents are understandably concerned about what their children learn during their homeschooling experience. In this talk, however, Dr. Jay Wile discusses how he heard about homeschooling, when he started homeschooling his daughter and, most importantly, what he learned in the process. Dr. Wile not only discusses some of the academic things he learned, but he also discusses what he learned about his daughter and the process of homeschooling.

Teaching Elementary Science Using History as a Guide

There are two main ways that science is taught today. The first method, called the spiral approach, teaches a wide range of topics every year, and students spend a little time on each topic. However, every few years, the topics are revisited, and students learn them in more depth. This method produces a high level of recall but is generally boring for students, as they feel that they are repeating a bunch of material unnecessarily. The second method, called the immersion approach, has students spend all semester (or even all year) on a single topic. Students learn that topic in depth and then move on, never revisiting the topic again. This is less repetitive, but it produces lower recall, and students tend to learn the later topics better than the earlier topics, because they mature as time goes on.

In this seminar, Dr. Jay L. Wile discusses a different method for teaching science in the elementary years: covering science topics chronologically. Science was learned in a definite, chronological sequence as early scientists developed ideas that were tested and improved by later scientists. If science is taught this way, students cover a wide range of topics each year and then revisit many of them as they were improved by later scientists. This has a lot of similarities to the spiral approach, but when students revisit a topic, it is not just repetition with a little more depth thrown in. The student learns the topic in the context of a new scientist and his improvements on the idea. This produces the high levels of recall that the spiral approach produces, but it is more interesting to the students. It also gives students a more realistic view of how science is done in the real world.

How Are Homeschool Graduates Doing?

Dr. Wile became involved in homeschooling because while he was teaching at the university level, his best students were homeschool graduates. Since then, he has expected homeschoolers to become the true leaders of their generation. To investigate whether or not his expectation is coming true, Dr. Wile tracked down several homeschooled students who are now adults and learned what they are doing. In this talk, Dr. Wile tells you what he learned. You will be amazed at what these young adults are doing and how they have already impacted the world. He also shares the results of a large study that has been done on homeschool graduates. If you are wondering

whether or not homeschool graduates can make a difference in the world, you should definitely listen to this talk!

Teaching Science at Home

If there is one subject that most homeschooling parents feel inadequate at teaching, it is science. Most parents don't know how science should be covered throughout a student's schooling, and many don't think they know science well enough to teach it. In this seminar, Dr. Wile gives you an overview of how to teach science at home from the earliest years through high school. He stresses the differences between elementary and high school science and how to use the middle school years to bridge the two. He also surveys the curricula available to homeschooling parents and makes recommendations.

Why Homeschool THROUGH High School

Homeschooling parents are often faced with a difficult decision when their children reach high school age. Typically, the parents feel they are just not able to teach the more demanding courses that are required at the high school level. As a result, many parents feel that they must send their children to school for a proper high school education. In this seminar, Dr. Jay L. Wile, a former teacher at both the university and high school levels, will explain why such a decision is not in the best interest of the student. Using data gathered from many different sources, including his own experiences, Dr. Wile demonstrates that homeschooled students are better academically prepared and better socialized than their publicly- or privately-schooled counterparts. These facts allow Dr. Wile to make a compelling case that the best thing for a homeschooled student is to stay in homeschool, regardless of the parent's academic abilities.

"Teaching" High School at Home

Once parents decide to homeschool their children through high school, they are faced with several challenges. Many parents do not know what subjects a child should cover in order to attain a rigorous high school education. In addition, once parents decide which subjects their children should cover, they find that they either never covered those subjects themselves or have long since forgotten the details. In this seminar, Dr. Jay L. Wile, a former teacher at both the high school and university levels, discusses the subjects that make up a rigorous, college-preparatory high school experience. In addition, he will give you helpful tips on how you can help your child learn these subjects, even if you are not familiar with them. He will also discuss the record-keeping that must be done at the high school level. This is a real "nuts and bolts" talk that will give you lots of excellent ideas on how to implement high school in your home.

"Teaching" the Junior High & High School Sciences at Home

In this seminar, Dr. Jay L. Wile explains how any parent can help his or her children learn science at the upper levels. As a former University teacher and a former high school teacher, Dr. Wile is a staunch advocate of homeschooling a student all the way through the high school years. He agrees that most parents do not have the ability to teach the high school sciences at home, but he also contends that this is not a problem. By the time a homeschooled student reaches high school, he or she should have the ability to learn independently or with the help of another. Thus, Dr. Wile admonishes the parent to learn the subject right along with the student. With both the parent and the student helping each other learn, an upper level science experience can be equally rewarding for both! In order to help the homeschooling parent plan his or her science curriculum, Dr. Wile provides study timelines for both the science-oriented and the non-science-oriented student. In addition, he discusses the mathematical skills needed in order to maintain the proposed timeline.

Homeschooling: The Solution to our Education Problem

In this seminar, Dr. Jay L. Wile, a former university professor and high school teacher, explains why homeschooling is the best means by which a child can be educated in America. This seminar is filled with statistics that show homeschooled students are better academically prepared and better socialized than their publicly- or privately-schooled counterparts. These facts will bolster the resolve of homeschooling parents while equipping them to counter arguments from their detractors. Based on the data and his own personal experiences with homeschooled graduates in his university level science courses, Dr. Wile is convinced that home education is the best means of educating a child in America, and after listening to this seminar, you will be inclined to agree with him!

Teaching Critical Thinking

One of the biggest failures of our public and private school systems is that they do not teach students how to think critically. In this seminar, Dr. Wile gives you specific suggestions as to how you can teach your child to think critically, regardless of the subject matter. You will learn how to help your student evaluate statements, look for hidden assumptions, find political/social agendas, and discover faulty logic. Although Dr. Wile's area of interest is science, he will show you how critical thinking applies to all academic areas, as well as all facets of your life.

Homeschooling: Discovering How and Why it Works

Dr. Wile became involved in the homeschooling movement because of the excellent homeschool graduates he encountered while he was on the faculty at Ball State University. Over the years, he has followed the academic and professional literature to see how others have evaluated homeschooled students, and the results are clear: homeschooling works very well. On average, homeschooled students are academically superior

to their peers, they are more likely to be involved in their community than their peers, and they are more likely to be enjoying life than their peers. They also have some very encouraging things to say when they are asked to evaluate homeschooling. In this talk, Dr. Wile reviews some of the studies that demonstrate these facts, and he also speculates on why homeschooling works so well. In addition, he shares some words of encouragement and advice from homeschool graduates.

Our Story

Dr. Wile discusses the circumstances around which he and his wife adopted their daughter, Dawn, and began homeschooling her. As the main person in charge of Dawn's home education, Dr. Wile shares the things that he did to encourage critical thinking, research skills, and study skills in Dawn. He also discusses what he saw as the major benefits of home education for Dawn. He then shares Dawn's own evaluation of her homeschooling experience, including what she thought was better than her public school education as well as what she thought was worse.

The Most Exciting Science Related To Creation

In this lecture, Dr. Wile discusses what he thinks is the most exciting scientific evidence that supports creation. He reviews the groundbreaking study that indicates that the vast majority of human DNA is functional, which directly contradicts what evolutionists have been teaching for more than 40 years. He discusses how radioactive carbon in dinosaur bones demonstrates that they can't be millions of years old, which leads to a discussion of the exciting soft tissue that has been found in many different dinosaur fossils. He then ends with a discussion of the mutually beneficial relationships that exist between different species and how they demonstrate the original design of creation.

College and Faith – What's the REAL Story?

It is almost universally accepted that when a student goes to college, he or she is more likely to give up the Christian faith. In this talk, Dr. Jay L. Wile shows that the data say just the opposite: those who attend college are less likely to give up the Christian faith than those who do not attend college! Dr. Wile discusses the reasons for this, and he also discusses strategies that will help you and your college-bound student decide what type of college and what situations at college will promote a vital spiritual life as well as a rewarding academic experience. If you are concerned about how your child's college plans will affect his or her Christian faith, you should definitely attend this talk.

Reasonable Faith: The Scientific Case for Christianity

This seminar is based on Dr. Jay L. Wile's book, *Reasonable Faith: The Scientific Case for Christianity*. It provides a step-by-step argument that shows science provides an enormous amount of evidence for the validity of

the Christian faith. He first demonstrates how natural science clearly points to the existence of a Creator. He then shows how historical and social science show that the best source of information regarding the Creator is the Holy Bible. Finally, he shows the objective medical and historical evidence that indicates the Bible has, indeed, been inspired by God. Pulling from such broad scientific disciplines as nuclear physics, chemistry, biology, archaeology, literary criticism, sociology, medicine, and historical science, Dr. Wile's argument is extremely persuasive. Everyone who leaves this seminar will have increased faith in the reality of the Christian experience.

The Bible: A Great Source of Modern Science

In this lecture, Dr. Jay L. Wile examines many of the rules and regulations found in the Old Testament and demonstrates how these rules are in perfect agreement with our most modern scientific knowledge. For example, Dr. Wile shows how the rules regarding circumcision are based on medical knowledge that has been uncovered within the last 30 years; he shows that the Bible knew about germs long before people knew of them; and that the Bible was the first document to contain modern ideas of sanitation. This lecture makes it clear that the Bible was NOT authored by men!

Building a Biblical Worldview

This is not your standard "Biblical worldview" talk! In fact, Dr. Wile doesn't think that a Biblical worldview is built with courses and books about worldviews. In Dr. Wile's opinion, a Biblical worldview is built by studying the Scriptures seriously and studying the academic subjects that relate to Christianity seriously. Thus, he suggests that a student truly needs to build his or her own worldview, rather than being taught what worldview he or she should have. This leads to a Biblical worldview that might be slightly different from his or her parents' worldview, but it will be one that the student will be more likely to believe throughout the rest of his or her life. I Told You That Was Going To Happen! In this seminar, Dr. Wile explores several Old Testament prophecies that have already come true in history. He demonstrates the incredible detail and accuracy of the prophecies, which were written hundreds of years before the events took place. You will see how the Bible accurately predicted the fates of famous cities as well as the details regarding the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. In fact, these prophecies are so precise that they actually predicted the very day that Christ entered Jerusalem! The point of the message, of course, is to demonstrate that the Bible could only have been written by God, as God is the only one who knows the future!

Creation Versus Evolution

In this seminar, Dr. Jay L. Wile, a nuclear chemist, explores the complicated Creation Versus Evolution debate. He discusses Christian

attempts to make the Genesis account compatible with the theory of evolution and what he dislikes about them. He then presents strong scientific evidence that discounts the theory of evolution. He discusses evolutionists' attempts to explain away these data and how such attempts fail. Perhaps the most intriguing part of this seminar comes when Dr. Wile details some of the fantastic life forms on this planet and how their existence can never be explained using the hypothesis of evolution. Regardless of how science-oriented you are, this seminar will strengthen your faith and give you an even deeper appreciation for the marvelous Creation that God has given us.

Creation Versus Evolution: Religion Versus Science or Religion Versus Religion? In this seminar, Dr. Jay L. Wile, a nuclear chemist, shows that the creation versus evolution debate is really a debate between two religions. He shows that from a scientific method point of view, evolution is no more than an unconfirmed hypothesis. This puts it on the same ground as creation, which is also an unconfirmed hypothesis. He then demonstrates that those who believe in evolution have the same essential characteristics as religious believers. In the end, then, he concludes that the whole concept of evolution is a religious one.

Evolution: The Enemy of Truth and Science

This seminar explores the theory of evolution from an historical and educational viewpoint. Dr. Jay L. Wile, a former university professor and high school teacher, gives accounts of the lies promulgated by evolutionists in their attempts to cover up the weakness of their case. He discusses the censorship that occurs daily in our public schools and our institutions of higher learning. This censorship is aimed primarily at creationists, because the bulk of the scientific evidence regarding the history of life stands firmly in their favor. From the anecdotes told by Dr. Wile to the statistical evidence that he presents, this seminar clearly shows how the proponents of the theory of evolution do all they can to cover up the truth. This makes them the enemy of science.

Organisms and Biological Structures That Evolutionists Won't Show You

Although designed for the general audience, biology teachers have reported the most benefit from attending this seminar by Dr. Jay L. Wile, a former university teacher. In his talk, Dr. Wile highlights some of the most amazing life forms that exist on earth. He shows how their complex biological structures and survival mechanisms are powerful evidence for the existence of a Creator. He talks about sensory mechanisms in creatures that are infinitely more precise and powerful than the most high-tech gadgetry produced by modern science. He discusses many examples of symbiosis and how evolution can never hope to explain them.

Why I Am A Creationist, When So Many Other Scientists Are Not

In this lecture, Dr. Wile uses his development as a scientist to explain why most scientists are not creationists, even though the scientific evidence for creation is so compelling. His frank discussions of indoctrination, discrimination, and bias show quite clearly that most scientists do not reject creationism on the basis of science. If you've ever wondered why evolution is so heavily entrenched in the scientific community, you will want to hear this lecture!

Can You Trust The Textbooks?

In this talk, Dr. Wile surveys the three most popular biology books used in public schools, concentrating on the statements made regarding the origin of life and evolution. He highlights the errors, lies, and omissions that work together to make the case for evolution appear much stronger than it actually is. When those errors, lies, and omissions are highlighted, it becomes clear that the textbooks are not interested in communicating the science related to evolution. Instead, they are simply trying to force the students to believe in evolution, even when the data do not support it.

Creationism: The Best Way to Teach Science

The National Center for Science education says, "...creationism--whether it be old-fashioned Young Earth creationism or its Intelligent Design descendant--is simply not science." The Iowa Academy of Science says, "Creationism is not science and the Academy deplores and opposes any attempt to disguise it as science." The common refrain is that unless you teach evolution, you are not teaching science. In this seminar, Dr. Jay L. Wile (who holds a PhD in nuclear chemistry) shows that absurd statements like these are demonstrably false. First, creationism gave us the science that we have today. Second, creationism teaches us not only the laws of nature, but also the source of those laws. Imagine teaching a course on United States law without ever mentioning the United States Constitution, the source its law! If you could manage to construct such a course, it certainly would not be very informative. To truly understand the laws of nature, you must understand their source. Finally, and most importantly, it works. Time and time again modern science confirms the creationist view.

Recent News in Creation Science

Every year, new scientific discoveries are made. More often than not, those discoveries have little bearing on the creation/evolution or age-of-the-earth debates. However, every now and then, a new discovery relates to one or both of those controversial topics. In this talk, Dr. Wile discusses the recent scientific discoveries that are directly related to these subjects and shows how they generally support the young-earth creationist view.

Life and Its Amazing Design

When scientists first realized that life is made up of tiny building blocks called "cells," they thought that cells were very simple. One scientist said

that the cell was just a “simple lump of albuminous combinations of carbon.” Somehow, they thought, simple cells could join together to make complicated living organisms like animals and people. As scientists have learned about the cell, however, they have found that it is anything but simple. In fact, it is more complex than the most technologically up-to-date city in the world. In this talk, Dr. Wile takes you on a tour of the cell, showing you its amazing design. In addition, he refutes the two most common objections to the obvious fact that life is the product of design.

Wilson, Melanie

[Fun to Learn Books](#)

Bio: Dr. Melanie Wilson is a Christian psychologist turned homeschooling mother of six. Two of her sons are now attending college, leaving her with a 5th grader through a high school junior she is still homeschooling. She credits God and her husband of 24 years for the time to write, speak, and homeschool too. While she doesn't practice anymore, she does share sanity-saving ideas at her blog, Psychowith6.

Melanie is the author of *So You're Not Wonder Woman*, detailing the failure of psychology to change her own life; *The Organized Homeschool Life: A Week-By-Week Guide to Homeschool Sanity*; and *Grammar Galaxy: Adventures in Language Arts*, an elementary language arts curriculum.

She also hosts a podcast for homeschoolers, *The Homeschool Sanity Show*, and regularly broadcasts on Periscope and Facebook. She enjoys leading the Facebook group, HomeschoolScopes, for homeschoolers who enjoy live broadcasts. Melanie is passionate about encouraging mothers in their homeschooling, family life, and faith. She loves scrapbooking and tennis, and has discovered a new hobby in Bible journaling.

10 Benefits of a Natural Approach to Teaching

The natural approach to learning is founded on the desire to follow your child's developmentally appropriate timetable. This approach is based on proven educational principles from Dr. Ruth Beechick, Charlotte Mason, Dr. Benjamin Bloom and others. Natural learning does not mean learning without goals or structure. It means learning is customized, multi-sensory and engaging. Come to this workshop to hear the top ten reasons why a natural approach will enable you and your family to flourish.

Practical Ways to Develop Critical Thinking

Thinking skills are buzzwords in education today – everyone wants to include them in their curriculum plans! In this seminar, Ashley will explain what thinking skills are and how to incorporate strategies into daily life that will bring great results in your child's ability to think. Include these ideas to add critical thinking to any curriculum!

How to Make Language Arts Fun, Whatever Your Curriculum

You want your child to be good readers and writers, but they don't seem to share your goal. In this session you'll learn the secrets to motivating reluctant readers and writers. Forget

grammar groans and the eww's that English gets you now. Your kids will learn to love language arts.

How to Organize Your Homeschool Life

One of the biggest obstacles to long-term homeschool success is disorganization. If you keep saying this is the year you'll get organized and it doesn't happen, you won't want to miss this session. You'll learn simple steps for getting every aspect of your home and life in order, even if you weren't born organized.

Conflict Resolution Skills You Must Teach Your Child

As a psychologist, I spent much of my time teaching clients how to resolve conflict – in marriage, families, and with peers. When your child learns to manage conflict, he will get along better with his siblings, his friends, and with you. But she will also avoid the high cost of not learning these skills early on. In this session, you'll learn how to teach this critical life skill.

Z

Zacarro, Ed

[Hickory Grove Press](#)

Bio: Ed has taught students of all ages and abilities since graduating from Oberlin College in 1974. He holds an Iowa teaching certificate with K-12 endorsement in Gifted Education and a Masters degree in Gifted Education from the University of Northern Iowa.

Ed is a popular presenter at homeschool, math, and gifted education conferences around the country, and has approached gifted education as a parent, teacher, and school board member. His students will testify to his ability to make math fun and challenging for them as well as his unique sense of humor, which comes through in his classes and workshops.

Ed is the author of several books for mathematically gifted students. All are currently used by parents and teachers across the country.

Math -- When Will We Ever Use It?

This session will answer the frequent complaint of math students: "When will we ever USE this?" High interest math investigations that will help students see the importance of learning and understanding mathematics. Students will need insight, creative problem solving, and collaboration to find solutions for each investigation. Session will include: (1) The serious consequences that 19th century whalers faced due to their poor knowledge of fractions. (2) How people manipulate math statistics to deceive others, blurring the lines between "true" and "false." (3) Math mistakes in the media and their repercussions. (4) How to keep from making a serious financial mistake with college loans.

The Ten Things All Future Mathematicians and Scientists Must Know (But are rarely taught)

Mathematicians and scientists have been closely tied to many famous disasters. The Challenger explosion, the failure of the Mars Explorer, and the Kansas City Hyatt Regency walkway collapse all involved thinking errors. Our future mathematicians and scientists

must know how to prevent tragedies such as these from occurring. Because science and mathematics instruction is often dominated by facts and calculation, children are rarely exposed to these important concepts. You will leave this session with many high interest stories and activities that will fascinate your children and show them the strong connections between math and science and the world we live in.

Nurturing a Mathematical Gift into a Passion

Research shows that thousands of hours of meaningful practice are the key to excellence in mathematics. Because of this, children who are talented in mathematics must not only progress through their curriculum at the proper pace, but also must be exposed to material that lights a fire and nurtures their gift. A failure to find mathematics challenging, interesting, or relevant are significant factors when children lose interest in mathematics. Children who are talented in mathematics must be exposed to material that lights a fire and nurtures their gift. This session will give parents information that will help them nurture their students' passion for mathematics.

The Missing Part to Most Algebra Instruction - How to Use It in Real Life!

The invention of algebra is the most powerful problem solving tool ever created. Unfortunately, algebra is too often taught as an abstract concept with no practical uses because children are rarely taught to think algebraically. Learn how to incorporate real-life uses of algebra into your algebra instruction. This session will give you the answer to the question frequently asked by children: When will we ever use algebra? Also included in the session will be several other powerful problem-solving techniques that will help students be more successful at solving word problems.

THANK YOU! Check back OFTEN for Lots of Great Speaker and Workshop Additions.