

Volume 12, Issue 1


The Virginia Home Educator

Home Educators Association of Virginia News Magazine

Helping Your Child
Connect With God
Favorite Resources
Resources from HEAV
Start Your Own Family
Internet Business



CONVENTION INFO INSIDE

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Please pray for us!

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FROM THE EDITOR

Mary Kay Smith



How is it that you can look and look for something, only to discover it was there all along? This year, I finally found a resource I've wanted—a wonderful guide to world literature called *The New Lifetime Reading*, by Clifton Fadiman and John S. Major. I was so excited that I bought two copies and gave one to my “literary kindred spirit,” Laura Baldwin. And we're on our way. How satisfying to see how much we've already read; how invigorating to see how far we still have to go! And what a great resource for the literature classes we teach.

And that brings me to the theme of this issue. Did you know that one of the many services HEAV provides, is to sift through family life and homeschool material, choose among the best, and then offer them to you? Well, you're about to find out! In this issue, we highlight every single resource available through HEAV. You're sure to find something you need—maybe even something *you've* been looking for that has been there all along.

Also, take a look at the recommendations from our readers. They are homeschooling families just like you; their needs are probably just like yours. If their suggestions spark ideas of your own, send them to me at editor@heav.org, and we'll try to include them in the next issue.

And once again I want to introduce to you Gary Thomas. If you haven't already discovered this man, you are in for a treat. Here we offer an excerpt from his book *Sacred Pathways*, one of my favorite resources for our family and ministry. It not only totally transformed our expectations of our own children, but has also been a guide for me in children's ministry too. Gary is one of those authors whose books are so well-liked in our household that my husband and I—and now our son—each have our own copies of every book he has written.

This is the perfect time of year to discover good resources. Make a cup of tea, get out your highlighter, settle your kids on the sofa with their own books, curl up by the fire, and read. ☺

The Virginia Home Educator

Home Educators Association of Virginia News Magazine

The purpose of *The Virginia Home Educator* is to provide a forum for the discussion of Virginia homeschool issues. The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the Home Educators Association of Virginia.

The Virginia Home Educator is sent quarterly to Virginia's homeschooling families without charge. To receive a free subscription, sign up at www.heav.org.

To inquire about advertising or submitting an article, please contact HEAV at PO Box 6745,

Richmond, Virginia 23230-0745; or e-mail us at office@heav.org. HEAV reserves the right to edit for style and space, and to refuse any submission deemed inappropriate for our publication.

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On the Cover

Homeschooler, Leah Bentley, browses through books in the HEAV Resource Center.



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LETTERS

THANK YOU TO HEAV

My family went to the homeschool day at the State Fair this year...a huge THANK-YOU and "WAY TO GO" goes out to all homeschoolers who went. I've been a homeschooler for 12 years and I remember when homeschooling was seen in a much more negative light in the public eye, and we were watched closely everywhere we went.

This year at the fair, a National Guardsman talked to me about homeschooling. This gentleman had never heard of homeschooling until he moved to the East Coast a few years ago. He was absolutely impressed with the homeschooling families that he met and observed at the fair. He thought homeschooled children are "smart, intelligent, full of morale, and highly moral." Of course, we all think so, but it is still a nice thing to hear when you remember being "put under the microscope" as a young homeschooler.

Teresa Riddle

I want to thank you for helping Ashli regarding the PSAT. I truly appreciate your helping us, speaking up for us, and driving to our city to support us. Thank you for all you do.

Margaret & Ashli McAllister

The City of Virginia Beach is the only school district of which we are aware that denies administration of the PSAT to homeschooled students. HEAV Director of Government Affairs, Yvonne Bunn, testified before the Virginia Beach School Board appealing to them to revise their discriminatory policy against homeschoolers. The school board has indicated they will review their policy prior to administration of next year's PSAT. In order to prevent this from happening in other districts, HEAV, the Organization of Virginia Homeschoolers, and HSLDA are working together to clarify the language in the Virginia Code by introducing HB 1588. ☺

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VIRGINIA KIDS DID IT!



Lady Breakers—back row: Anna Calvert, Rachel Roberts, Kelly Mann, Coach Bob Leedom, Madison Petsos, Coach Debbie Leedom; front row: (Hostess) Lauren Smith, Rachel Kelley, Rebekah Gard, Gretchen Olson, Rebecca Leedom

The undefeated **Lady Breakers** (20-0) became the first homeschool sports team to be ranked by the *Virginian-Pilot* as an area top-ten team in their respective sport. The Beach Breakers were also the only non-public school team recognized. This recognition came after the Breakers defeated both the Metro and TCIS Championship teams during the regular season, and won the EVAC (Eastern Virginia Athletic Conference) regular season and conference tournament.


To culminate their season, the Breakers traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, to compete in the seventh Annual Home School National Girls Volleyball Tournament. This year's tournament had an all-time high of 28 teams competing for the championship.

The girls went 3-3 in a preliminary round against a strong team from Kansas and two strong teams from Texas. This round was designed to seed the teams for the next day's play. The girls then played in a bracket to determine which teams advanced to the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Brackets.

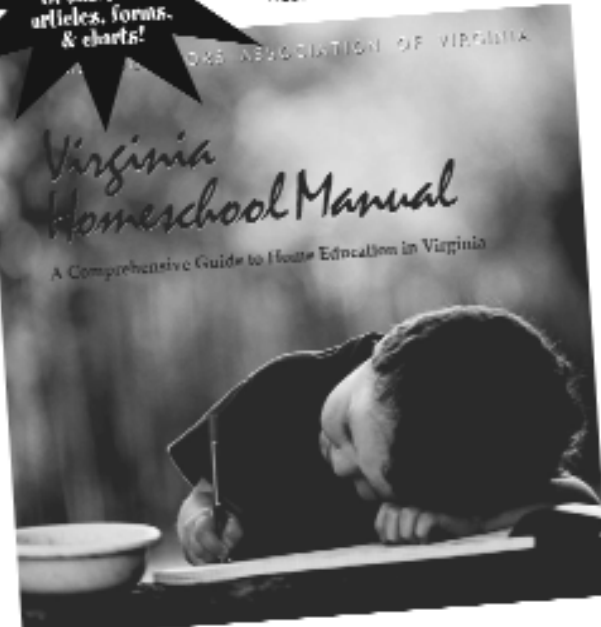
The Breakers advanced to the eight-team Gold Division by going 5-1 against teams from Missouri, Nebraska, and Indiana. The girls were then placed in a quarter-final match against a favored Kansas City team who had defeated the Breakers in the preliminary round (and won the tournament two years ago and came in second last year). The Breakers played inspired volleyball—perhaps the best they played all year—and defeated Kansas City 25-16, 25-15, 25-20 to advance to the Final Four.

In the semi-finals, the Breakers had to play the only undefeated team. The Breakers again played inspired volleyball and split the first two games 23-25 and 26-24, but lost the hard-fought contest by losing the final two games 25-20, 25-20.

Without a break, and having to play three successive matches in a row, the exhausted Breakers then lost to the Omaha home team for third place 25-14, 25-22.



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A Comprehensive Guide to Home Education in Virginia

This revised 560-page manual is the most complete, single reference on home education in Virginia—there is nothing else like it! Divided into sixteen sections, the manual covers all the basics on how to begin—from choosing curriculum to learning styles to socialization to gifted education at home. We cover kindergarten, high school, apprenticeships, and college. You'll find information and resources on homeschooling special-needs children, along with in-depth sections on "Virginia Law" and "Testing and Evaluations." All in an easy-to-use three-ring binder with divider tabs so updates and revisions are a snap to insert.

This comprehensive guide also includes three cassette tapes (How to Begin; How to Choose Curriculum; and The Law, Evaluation, and Testing), and a BONUS CD that contains the entire 560-page manual plus 417 additional pages of articles, forms, and helpful charts—1007 pages in all!

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The Beach Breakers played some awesome volleyball during their three days in Omaha, and came away with many fond memories, not to mention a fourth-place finish out of 28 teams. Breakers co-captain **Rebecca Leedom** was selected to the national all-tournament team, voted in by the 28 team coaches. The Breakers had an extremely successful season, and—most importantly—glorified Jesus Christ throughout the year with their hard work, tenacity, teamwork, and demeanor.



Congratulations to **Maranda and Meghan Steely** (Midlothian), who won several ribbons at the 2005 Virginia State Fair in the Youth Arts and Crafts division. Maranda's entries won first, second, and third place; Meghan won

two firsts and two second-place ribbons for her entries.



The **Beach Breakers boys' varsity soccer team** also completed a very successful season. The Breakers were undefeated in all EVAC (Eastern Virginia Athletic Conference) games during the regular season and were awarded the 2005 EVAC trophy.

The Breakers competed in the NCHAA (National Christian Homeschool Athletic Association) national tournament in Bellevue, Nebraska. The team went undefeated in the national tournament, scoring 22 goals and allowing no goals to be scored against them. This marks the Breakers' second national championship in their two trips to the national tournament.

Jeremy Blackburn was awarded the NCHAA National Tournament MVP trophy, and NCHAA All-Tournament medals were awarded to **Miles Lewis**, **Derrick Morris**, and **Chas Sawyer**. **Joel Barr** was honored with the Christian Character Award.

Congratulations to **Home Town Robots of Hampton**, who won second place for the Robot Design Award of First Lego® League's 2005 Virginia Regional Tournament! Teams of students



Back row: *Kenneth Jermstad*
Front row: (left to right): *Ethan Vollette, Richard Jermstad, Aaron Klimchock, Steven Jermstad, and Timothy Klimchock*

designed, built, and programmed robots using Lego® hardware and software. In keeping with the theme of this year's contest, "Ocean Odyssey," the robots were programmed to perform underwater tasks. To find a league in your area, go to www.firstlegoleague.org.

Five **Classical Cottage School** students were among more than 1300 Latin students from Virginia's middle and high schools who met for the annual Virginia Junior Classical League convention in Richmond in November. They brought home 57 awards, including six Best-in-Show medals, and the top awards for academic excellence, for graphic arts, and for overall achievement at the convention. Classical Cottage School, Berryville, is a one-day-per-week school for homeschoolers interested in pursuing classical subjects.

Max Heidelberg placed first in Other Media among ninth graders with his scratch art "Thracian Gladiator," and fifth on the Mythology test among Latin Three students.

Sarah Mickahail's quilt, based on a Roman mosaic in Ravenna, placed first among eleventh-grade entries. She also captured first place among Latin Two girls in Dramatic Interpretation of Latin. Her presentation in Latin Oratory ranked second, and she placed ninth on her level on the Roman Daily Life test.

David Herman edged Sarah out for first place in level two Latin Oratory, and his presentation was judged Best-in-Show among all levels of Oratory. He also captured first place among Latin Two boys in Dramatic Interpretation of Latin. Competing among sixth- to eighth-grade delegates, he won first place in Storytelling and Games. David's Modern Myth placed fifth among middle school entries. In academic competition, he won second place in Roman History, fourth in Mythology, and sixth in Pentathlon, a test which covers mythology, Roman history and life, and Latin grammar, vocabulary, and derivatives. All these accomplishments won for David the fourth-place overall sweepstakes ribbon among delegates in grades six through eight.



Emma Leahy as Narcissus and Ingrid Heidelberg as Echo

Ingrid Heidelberg shared a Best-in-Show medal with **Emma Leahy** in the Couples Costume contest for their interpretation of the mythical characters Echo and Narcissus. Her other awards in creative arts include fourth in Dramatic Interpretation of Latin Prose and sixth in Advanced Latin Oratory. Competing among Latin Three students in academics, Ingrid placed second

in Reading Comprehension of Latin Prose, third in Grammar, and seventh in both the Latin Derivatives and the Latin Vocabulary tests. Her sculpture won second place among students in grades six to eight in graphic arts. Ingrid won the seventh-place overall sweepstakes ribbon for delegates on her grade level.

Emma Leahy brought home the “gold,” with the first-place ribbon in sixth- to eighth-grade overall sweepstakes, four Best-in-Show medals, the Hugh Himwich Award for overall top achievement in academics, the Mary Julia Pomfrey Award for overall top achievement in graphic arts, and the Annie Aldridge Award for being the top winner among all delegates to the convention. In Latin Three academic tests she placed first and Best-in-Show in Roman History and Pentathlon, first in Classical Architecture, Mythology, and Latin Literature, and second in Classical Geography. In creative arts she paired as Narcissus with Ingrid’s Echo to win first place and Best-in-Show in Costumes. She also placed first for her Modern Myth and her Advanced Latin Oratory, and second in Dramatic Interpretation of Latin Prose. In graphic arts, grades six to eight, she won first place and Best-in-Show for her Illustrated Quote. Also taking first place were her watercolor, pencil, ink, doll, T-shirt, jewelry, sculpture, pottery,



Classical Cottage School students Max Heidelberg, Ingrid Heidelberg, Sarah Mickahail, Emma Leahy, and David Herman show off their ribbons from the Virginia Junior Classical League annual convention.

and small model entries. Her entries in oil/pastels and mixed media art placed third.

The CCS delegation won first place in the small-chapter division of the JCL-spirit contest, third place for its 2004-05 scrapbook, and fifth place for publicity. The Classical Cottage School motto is “Sui generis, nulli secunda” (One of a kind and second to none). This year’s Virginia Junior Classical League convention results are testimony that the CCS students took that motto to heart.



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Congratulations to the **Disciples** (Richmond), who became the first 11-man homeschool football team in the nation this fall. The team was the vision of homeschool mom Traci Hollis, her son, Nathan, and his friend, Levi Scott. They advertised on the Christian radio station 89.7, and prayed until enough boys expressed an interest. Dave Hollis, Nathan's dad and experienced football coach, became the head coach for the team. A large donation from Family Focus provided all the necessary equipment. The ROC (Richmond Outreach Center) provided a practice field. Even though only a few of the boys had ever played football before, the team tied with Collegiate School, and beat Benedictine, Christchurch, and the eight-man (arena-style) homeschool team in North Carolina. Their only defeat was from Colonial Beach, a state-ranked public school team.

Members of the Disciples football team are **Mike Durette, Nathan Hollis, Justin Belski, Reginal Hudson, Minnell McClure, Matthew Reber, Jason Higley, Josh Harris, Nick Rollogas, Stephen Franklin, Joe Patteson, Mike Watson, Ira Felty, Tevin Evans, Adrian Gill, Jacob Tawes, James Schlueter, Jared Simmons, David Norfleet, Ben Crane, Jon Watson, Eric Ollenberger, Matt Kcraget, James Metzger, Matthew Boyd, Kevin Metzger, Devin Griffin, Levi Scott, and Alez Cominsky.** ☺

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HOMESCHOOL SUPPORT

Yvonne Bunn



“I found the **BEST** resource!” When I over hear a conversation like that, it makes me want to move closer so I can listen. Sometimes I smile in agreement, and other times I tuck the information away until I can check it out. A good resource is a treasure, and something compels us

to share it with others.

That’s why I have to tell you about a resource that every homeschooler should know about. This resource will encourage you, help you know how to homeschool more effectively, keep you in-the-know about homeschool issues and events, and even protect you. It will give you answers to your questions, and offer you help and practical, workable solutions.

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For 23 years our legislative action has increased homeschool freedoms and protected parents’ rights to homeschool. We have:

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- Protected religious exemption from threats of change;

- Changed the cut-off score for option (i) achievement tests from 40th to 23rd percentile, allowing parents to teach a broad range of average students;
- Amended driver’s license laws to give parents the opportunity to submit alternate evidence of compliance with compulsory attendance laws;
- Petitioned the governor to declare Virginia Home Education Week the fourth week of January each year;
- Instituted the first annual Day at the Capitol 10 years ago;
- Helped defeat daytime curfews throughout the state;
- Initiated legislative approval of parent-taught classroom and behind-the-wheel driver instruction for homeschoolers;
- Opposed and defeated SOL testing requirement for homeschooled students at state colleges;
- Opposed and defeated numerous attempts to amend legislation requiring SOL testing for homeschoolers;
- Helped pass major changes to the homeschool statute during the 2006 General Assembly session; and
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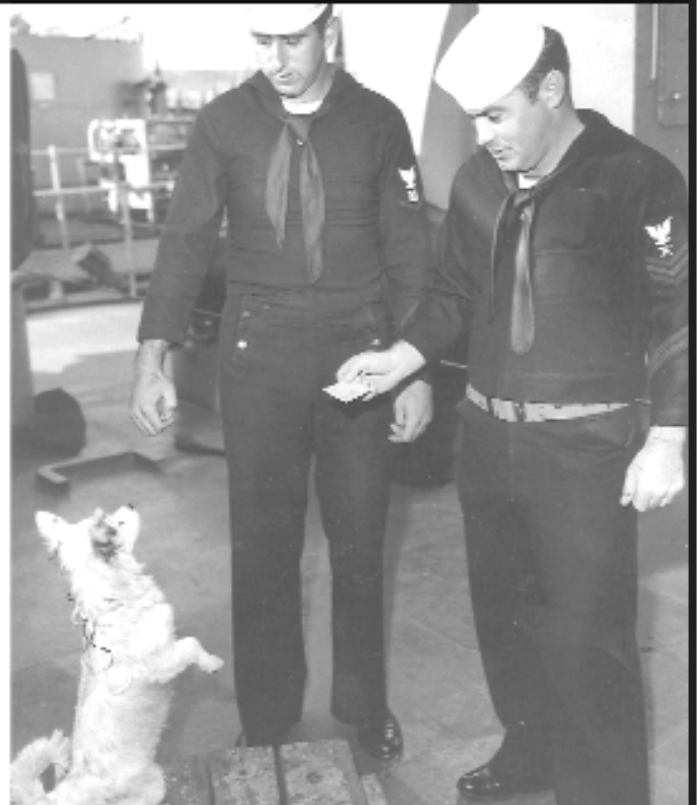
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- The *Virginia Home Educator* is published by HEAV and mailed to 14,000 homeschoolers each quarter.
- The HEAV Update is filled with activity and resource information, and is mailed free to 5,000+ families each week.
- HEAV's Website, www.heav.org, is a tremendous source of information and encouragement, and includes curriculum contacts, the law, forms, support-group connections, and links to other sites.
- Legislative Updates keep members apprised of the most recent General Assembly activity.
- Leader Updates provide support-group leaders with encouragement and pertinent leader information.
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- "Homeschooling with Babies and Toddlers," "Child Discipline," and "Hands-On Character Building" give parents practical ways to strengthen their families.
- "Homeschooling through High School," "Creating Transcripts," and "Getting a Jump Start on College" provide solid information for parents of high school students.
- "Evaluating Your Special-Needs Child" and "Strategies that Work with Special-Needs Children" equip parents to work with students who learn differently.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Our annual state convention provides practical, "how-to" workshops and loads of encouragement. This year we're expecting to have:

- More than 7,000 participants;
- Nationally known keynote and workshop speakers;
- A curriculum exhibit hall with educational equipment, resources, and thousands of books;
- A statewide graduation ceremony;
- A children's program for five- to 12-year-olds;
- A teen track, a support-group leaders forum, a single-parents' luncheon, and free introduction-to-homeschooling workshops;
- A huge used-curriculum sale;
- And more grandparents in attendance than ever before!

REPRESENTATION AND SERVICES

HEAV provides homeschool representation with the Department of Education, in the Governor's office, and in the Virginia General Assembly. We have a lobbyist and support team at the General Assembly to initiate and support positive homeschool legislation and, when necessary, actively oppose threats to our freedoms.

We network with other state and national organizations in order to stay on the cutting edge of homeschool information.

HEAV's Richmond office staff fields thousands of phone calls and answers even more e-mails each year; they distribute free information and ship curriculum resources across the state.

Our Richmond Office and Resource Center provides a store for curriculum purchases, as well as a conference room for HEAV's Homeschool Success Seminars.

So what does it take to have a resource with all these services and benefits? The continued support of homeschool families like yours! Your \$35 membership and tax-deductible donations help us protect our homeschool freedoms, encourage and equip homeschool families, and promote home education throughout Virginia. And if you're like me, you'll want to have THE BEST RESOURCE available for your family. Won't you join us today? ☺

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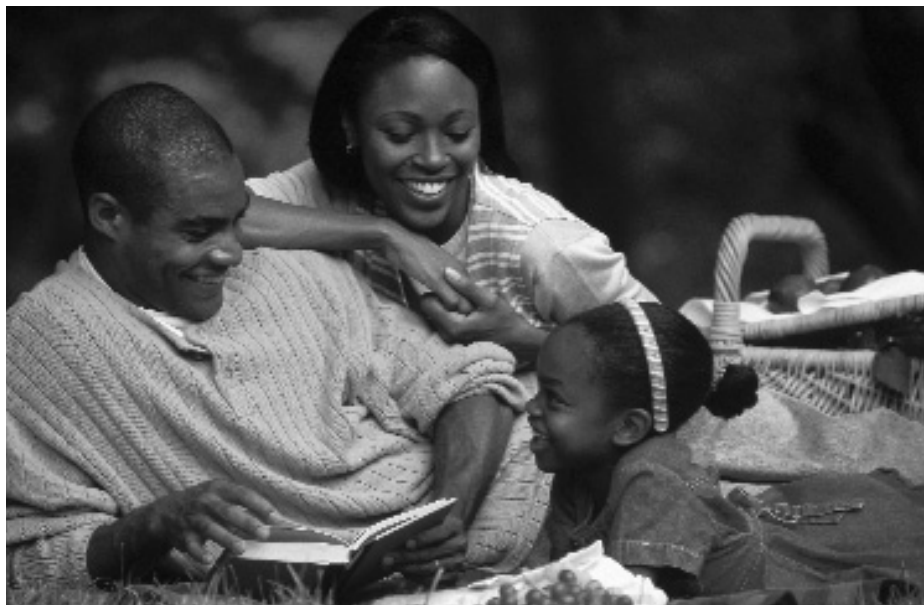
Helping Your Child Connect with God

Gary Thomas

It is amazing to me that when it comes to issues of faith, we often see things only a certain way—how to worship, when to pray, what to read, where to go.... But some of what seems right to us might be too noisy, too quiet, too liturgical, or too strange to someone else. When it comes to abilities, likes, and preferences, we are not the same. And when it comes to the issue of loving God, we should not get tense and uptight when we don't worship the same way as others.

When I read through the Old Testament, I see Abraham building altars, David dancing or writing a psalm; in the New Testament, I see Mary sitting contemplating, Martha and Peter's mother-in-law serving—yet all of these people loved God and were worshipping Him.

We wouldn't go to Zaire or Peru and expect the people there to worship God exactly the same way that a Baptist from Georgia or an Episcopalian from Boston



would, but often when we deal with our families, we expect the energetic kids and the meditative kids to fit into one mold when it comes to devotions or quiet time. I found that it just doesn't work that way. It's because God has created us different that we relate to Him in different ways.

You would take issue with me if I were to say that if you want to homeschool "God's way," then you have to use a certain curriculum. Yet, sometimes we think that if our kids don't use a particular devotional, maybe read the Bible for 15 to 30 minutes, and have a certain prayer time, that they just aren't committed. We become afraid. Yet every one of our hearts was made to love God, and every second of every day, God is reaching out to pull our children to Him. All we have to do is find the way to get them to connect.

Though always only through Jesus Christ, each of us is going to approach God a different way because of our spiritual temperaments. The challenge for us as we're raising children is to find the avenue that gives them the best chance to love God that we can. God loves our children passionately, and nobody else can give Him what our children can give—and that's their love. We want to

get them to the place where they have best chance of enjoying a relationship with Him.

Here are nine spiritual pathways for you to consider as you help your children respond to God in love:

The Naturalist

The Naturalist is someone whose heart is awakened to God when he gets out of doors. Rooms seem artificial to a naturalist, but when he is surrounded by what God has made, he comes alive in his faith.

Many of the Old Testament theophanies, or appearances of God, occurred in the wilderness—with Hagar, Jacob, and Moses. And Jesus often walked through the countryside as he was teaching others. The very picture of Heaven on earth was the Garden of Eden. We didn't start out in a fancy hotel or resort, but in a garden. Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork." Romans 1:20 says, "For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made." There is a sense that being out-of-doors does something to awaken our hearts to God.

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child to sit still at his desk, or he is bored with devotional books, go on a walk and use nature to awaken his heart.

The Sensate

These are people whose best avenues to God are through their five senses. Just as for some people, walking through a forest calls their heart to soar towards God, for the sensate, it would be walking through a museum or visiting a cathedral.

When I go through Scripture, I realize how loud and colorful God is. Some churches, by contrast, are so plain that, if you put down a different floor, you could have a gymnasium—there's nothing there except the walls. Yet Ezekiel shows God coming as a raging storm, and John shows Jesus in His glory, with eyes shining like stars. The reaction of both prophets was to be awestruck.

A sensate is someone who would like to be in a church with beautiful architecture and majestic music. She is drawn to the grand and intricate, and likes high quality. Sensates recognize there is a connection between beauty and holiness.

There are four stages of worship for a sensate: appreciation leading to humility; a call to something better; a different worldview because the beauty of God changes them; and then a response leading to action.

For your sensate children, put on classical music, light candles, give them something meaningful to touch—like a nail during the Easter season. One-third of the cerebral cortex—the highest level of our brain—is devoted to sight, so make sure their sight is stimulated.

Traditionalist

Be careful that you don't tune this worship style out. It's easy to do so when you say "Christianity is not a religion, but a relationship." But, to a traditionalist, religion is not a dirty word—it is an outgrowth of his relationship. Abraham is a good example of a traditionalist. Everywhere he went he built altars—his way to show a commitment to, and

remembrance of, the Lord. Moses, also, gave his people many elaborate rituals to follow.

Some people need a sense of ritual in order to foster worship. According to Acts, Peter and John had set times for prayer. They knew they didn't have to do this to be saved; it was simply an important part of their faith. And Paul, the champion of salvation by grace through faith, followed the custom of praying by the riverside on the Sabbath, and observing ritual purification. Some religious elements can be meaningful to your life.

There are three elements of a traditionalist to build in your children if you think this is their spiritual pathway. The first is *rituals*—like observing the Christian calendar.

The second is *symbols*. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said that he thought a good memory is essential for growth in holiness (otherwise, we forget powerful lessons and convicting words), so utilize meaningful symbols to remind your children of their faith.

The third part is *sacrifice*. Romans 12 teaches that our faith includes obligation. Giving an offering is one type of sacrifice that you can encourage in your children.

Ascetic

John the Baptist is an example of an ascetic. He was off on his own and liked solitude. Ascetics don't prefer the "group experience," but like to get away and be alone. They like austerity and quiet while they're in God's presence because they can be easily distracted. They also like strictness. Though this can look like legalism to others, they know they aren't trying to win God's favor through it, but are just worshipping Him.

If your child tends toward the ascetic, help him connect with God through night watches and retreats; through fasting and obedience; and in quiet work, so he can think and pray.

(continued on page 14)

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The Activist

For this type of person, church might look like the best place to stop and collect signatures for a cause. These are the movers and shakers who often worship through confrontation with evil, and who want to accomplish things for God. An activist appreciates that she serves a God of justice, and her favorite Scripture is often the account of Jesus cleansing the temple (Mark 11:12-17).

If you have a child who has an activist tendency, get her involved in a spiritual cause of evangelism or righteousness, because if you don't, she will find some other cause to take up. Her relationship to God will be more energized in a group and by interaction (including conflict) with others than by being alone.

The Caregiver

These people love God best by loving others. What would exhaust some of us, gets them excited and draws them close to the Lord, because they picture God's heart for others. The caregiver could take care of the sick, work on someone's car, help someone reconfigure her computer system, or babysit for tired parents. A caregiver is comforted by Jesus' words, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Don't mistake the caregiver as a person who cares for others because his low self-esteem needs a reason to validate his

existence. The Scriptural caregiver is expressing his love for God by serving others. Mordecai, from the book of Esther, is an example of a caregiver. He first cared for his niece, then his king, and then his nation.

The Enthusiast

An enthusiast is the cheerleader for God. He loves the excitement and celebration of the faith. He wants mystery—as in answered prayer; celebration—like those of the biblical feasts; and expectancy—to take risks for the Lord, like starting up a ministry on a small budget.

Sometimes we are so concerned for our children's holiness and character that we neglect their need for enjoyment and celebration. But they don't want to just know Scriptural concepts, they want to experience and be moved by them. Help your enthusiast children dance, sing, draw, write, and be creative in their worship.

The Contemplative

These are the people who want to sit still and just enjoy being in God's presence. More than they would stress obedience or obligation, they just want to love God. This is marked by a sense of desire for relationship. In Mark 15, Jesus calls us to this: "No longer do I call you servants, but I have called you friends."

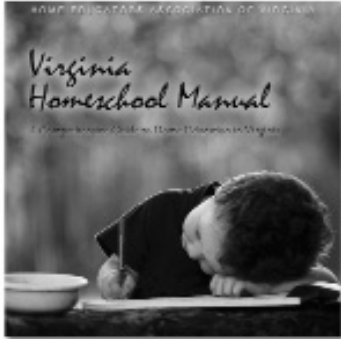
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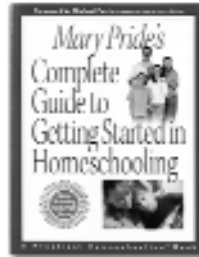
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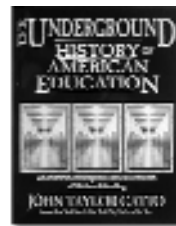
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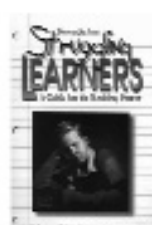


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Helping Your Child Connect with God
(continued from page 14)

For your contemplative child, encourage secret acts of devotion—like giving an anonymous gift, or writing a private song or poem between her and the Lord. Give her a present of a journal.

The Intellectual

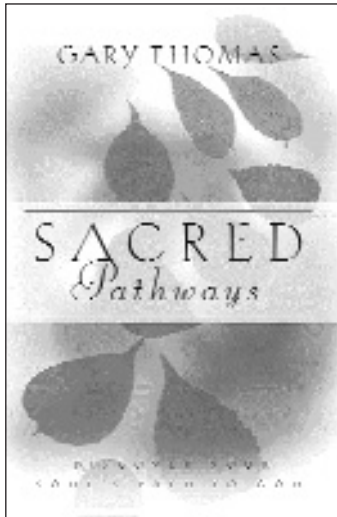
We can make a mistake with this person by thinking that his faith is “in his head and not in his heart.” But Jesus tells us to love Him with our minds as well as our hearts. Proverbs also encourages us to search for understanding as for hidden treasure. Solomon is a classic intellectual—one who learned to love God through his understanding. Intellectuals need their minds to be stimulated in

order to awaken spiritually.

For intellectual children, science class might be a strong tool to get them to awaken and connect them to God. Get these kids acquainted with the creeds; sign them up for a Bible correspondence course. Remember, that for intellectuals, “to know Him is to love Him.”

As parents, your biggest duty is to help your children fall in love with God. Find out which one, or combination, of these spiritual temperaments most captures your child, remembering that they (and you) might not stay that temperament their whole life. While prayer, Scripture, and obedience are three things that have to be a part of every temperament, they can be approached in different ways. Your goal

is to break down barriers of “You have to worship God only this way.” Instill and encourage a wide variety of worship in your home so you can give your kids the best chance to connect with, and love God. ☪



Gary Thomas is a writer of many outstanding Christian books and articles on spiritual formation, and the founder and director of the

Center for Evangelical Spirituality, a ministry that integrates Scripture, church history, and the Christian classics. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon. Read more about the spiritual temperaments in Gary's book, Sacred Pathways: Discover Your Soul's Path to God, available through his website at www.garythomas.com

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2006 General Assembly Session Summary

Martin Brown, HEAV Lobbyist

Any good football coach will tell you the way to win games is to have a good offense—and an even better defense. HEAV approached the 2006 General Assembly session with this strategy in mind. On offense, we were ready to score points with several bills that would advance the cause of homeschooling. On defense, our objective was to defeat any bill that would undermine, or further restrict the gains we have already achieved.

Our team for this year's session included representatives from HEAV, the Organization of Virginia Homeschoolers, and HSLDA. As we prepared for the session, the strategy was to have each organization “run” with specific pieces of legislation that further clarified or strengthened our current homeschool statute. If hostile legislation was introduced, we would play defense by working aggressively to defeat it.

Offensive Efforts

Our offensive strategy in this year's session was to build on the success of legislative wins in previous years, and address several concerns related to the current homeschool statute. HEAV led the charge on the first bills below, HB 1340 and SB 499, and the Organization of Virginia Homeschoolers led on HB 1483 and HB 1588.

HB 1340 and SB 499 are companion bills designed to give homeschooling parents with a high school diploma the same oversight as parents with a college degree. Currently all parents who meet the requirements under the homeschool statute can homeschool. However, if you have anything less than a college degree, the law unnecessarily requires more oversight.

We strongly support this bill because: (1) homeschoolers have accountability measures in place through yearly assessments; (2) Virginia is the only state that offers an option that requires a baccalaureate degree; (3) data shows homeschoolers are doing a good job; and (4) test results show that children, whose parents have a high school diploma, are scoring 15 to 19 percentile points higher than the average student on nationally normed standardized tests.

Your HEAV legislative team has been aggressive at garnering support for this bill, winning new votes from both democrats and republicans, briefing the Deputy Secretary of Education, and positioning this bill to pass with strong bipartisan support. **At this writing, HB 1340 has passed the House and SB 499 has passed the Senate.** One delegate attempted to attach an SOL amendment to HB 1340 on the House floor, but it was quickly defeated. We expect these bills to pass through each house again, and then be signed into law by Governor Kaine, who supported this language two years ago.

HB 1483 would increase options for parents filing under option (iv) of the homeschool statute, and clarify the language regarding mid-year withdrawal of children from public school. It will also allow homeschoolers to meet the option (i) testing requirement by using ANY nationally normed standardized achievement test. In previous years, homeschoolers were subject to use the test approved by the State Board of Education. This gives homeschoolers greater flexibility in the selection of tests. **This bill was voted out the full House 99-0, and we expect it to pass the Senate and be signed by Governor Kaine.**

HB 1588 will require school districts to make the Advanced Placement (AP) and Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) examinations available to homeschooled students. This bill clarifies last year's legislation, which required school districts to notify homeschoolers of the availability of these tests. Some school districts interpreted this language as not requiring them to administer the tests. **HB 1588 will require school districts to notify and make available these tests to homeschool students. HB 1588 passed the full House 99-0. We expect it to pass the Senate and be signed by Governor Kaine.**

Defensive Efforts

There was only one bill that attempted to restrict the freedoms currently enjoyed by homeschoolers in Virginia. **House Bill 537** would have required homeschool parents to notify the division superintendent anytime they changed curriculum. In addition, it gave the division superintendent new authority to terminate home instruction at any time if there was a “perceived” lack of progress.

HEAV vigorously opposed HB 537 by visiting extensively with the patron, Delegate Parrish, and other key legislators. When we could not resolve the issue privately, we openly testified against the bill at the sub-committee hearing, along with



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the Organization of Virginia Homeschoolers. We opposed it because it would reduce a homeschooling parent's ability to tailor instruction when appropriate, and it would increase the cost of education at the local level. The proposed probationary decisions extended the authority of the superintendent, while accountability measures already exist within the Virginia Code. **The bill was presented to the House Education, Students and Daycare subcommittee and was defeated by a near unanimous voice vote.**

In summary, your HEAV legislative team has worked hard to garner the support necessary to pass three very good pieces of legislation, and has helped to defeat the one bad bill in this year's General Assembly session. We are anticipating a winning record of 3-0. ☺



Martin Brown, HEAV lobbyist and homeschool dad (and former captain of the Howard University '84 and '85 football teams!), is president of the Providence Management Group, Inc., a company that assists non-profits and government-related organizations in communications, public relations, and government relations. Martin has served two Virginia

governors as policy advisor and Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Resources. He is also a former executive director of the Family Foundation.

Homeschool Graduates Now Considered "Preferred Enlistees"

HSLDA

After a long struggle, the military has now fully opened the door to homeschoolers. Homeschool graduates who desire a career with any of the four branches of the Armed Services are being treated as "preferred enlistees." This means that homeschool graduates who enlist in the military will be treated as Tier I candidates even though their formal status will remain Tier II. As a result of this change, homeschoolers will receive the same educational benefits, cash bonuses, and available

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Favorite Resources

A response from our readers

Character Training

For character training, our family loves the *Keepers at Home* and *Contenders for the Faith* program (www.keepersofthefaith.com). It is a wonderful help in training our daughters and sons to be of good moral character and to place God at the head of their lives. The program can be done by a family or in church groups. The children earn badges for memory verses, and for skills such as baking, needlepoint, horseback riding, archery, first aid, etc.

It is similar to the scouting program, except it is focused on our Christian faith. The children look forward to learning new skills for the glory of God.

The same handbook is used for all the years, and the skills they learn for their lifetime far outweigh anything else they have been involved with. It is very affordable, and you can do as little or as much as you want.

Morgan Wilson

Must-Haves

While networking with, and being mentored by, veteran homeschool moms proved to be the MOST effective resource for me during our transition into homeschooling, these books were very helpful and are now MUST-HAVES for my homeschool library. They can be found at the public library, but by my "rule of thumb," if I check it out three times, I need to buy it. I pray these books bless your family as they did mine:

Mary Pride's Complete Guide to Getting Started in Homeschooling, by Mary Pride

So, You're Thinking About Homeschooling, by Lisa Whelchel

The Well-Trained Mind, by Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer

Discover Your Child's Learning Style, by Mariaemma Willis and Victoria Kindle Hodson

Practical Homeschooling Magazine, by Mary Pride

Physical Activities for Improving Children's Learning and Behavior by Billye Ann Cheatum and Allison A. Hammond

Bringing Up Boys by Dr. James Dobson

The Homeschooling Father by Michael P. Farris

Angela Brown


Top Three Picks

My top three picks are:

Shepherding a Child's Heart by Ted Tripp, available at any bookstore or www.amazon.com. This book really taught me about heart-training my children and loving them better.

To Train Up a Child (and all the child-training books) by Michael and Debi Pearl. The Pearls' material must be read with an open heart, and in its entirety. If you do that, it is crystal clear how much they adore children and seek to teach others how to do the same.

The chapter on "Tying Strings of Fellowship" with your children really touched me, because I realized quickly that discipline will never be effective without a strong and loving relationship with one's children. These books have changed and convicted me deeply, and made me a better parent. They are available along with wonderful daily articles at their website, www.nogreaterjoy.org. Just the title of their website really says it all.



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Created to be His Help Meet, by Debi Pearl, is also available at www.nogreaterjoy.org. What better gift can we give our kids than a strong, joyful, and happy marriage?

Leyla Dorsey

Special Needs and Organization

My recommendations are:

Strategies for Struggling Learners, by Sutton & Sutton, BJU Press (www.bjup.com).

Delivered from Distraction, by Hallowell & Ratey, Ballantine Books (www.randomhouse.com/index.pperl).

Confessions of an Organized Homemaker: The Secrets of Uncluttering Your Home and Taking Control of Your Life, by Denise Schofield.

Kathy Kuhl

Inspiration and a Sensible Framework

Educating the Wholehearted Child, by Clay and Sally Clarkson, available in

bookstores and through Amazon.com, is a book I turn to when I feel like I am in a rut and need fresh ideas and inspiration.

The Well-Trained Mind, by Susan Wise Bauer (www.peacehillpress.net), provides a sensible and language-rich framework for our homeschool, and a plan for years to come

Nancy Reddy

Why Homeschool and Lifeschooling

One of our personal favorites is *A Covenantal Approach to Homeschooling*, by R.C. Sproul, Jr. This book clearly and simply sums up how and why God wants us to homeschool our children, even all the way through high school. If I handed any book to a family wondering about homeschooling, it would be this one!

Another favorite is Karen Andreola's *A Charlotte Mason Companion: Personal Reflections on the Gentle Art of Learning*, which is simplified and updated for today. So encouraging to read, it is mainly focused on how homeschooling is life-

schooling, and emphasizes time for the arts, reflection, and narration.

Dawn Keplinger

Child Training

My two best recommendations come in the category of child training. With so many approaches to parenting and character development, sound biblical doctrine is needed to steer through the myriad of worldly philosophies. I love to be refreshed as a mom and guided in the application of scripture to the task of training my children to love God and forsake worthless idols that are ever tempting little ones.

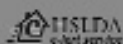
Shepherding a Child's Heart, by Ted Tripp, and *Don't Make Me Count To Three*, by Ginger Plowman, are two outstanding books that I highly recommend. We have so little time to direct our children—we don't want to waste our days on good-sounding advice that just isn't founded in God's Word.

September Robertson



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Also recommended in *The Well-Trained Mind*

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(70 minutes, \$14.95, CD)
- **The Young Carthaginian** by G. A. Henty
(8 hours, 7 CD Set, \$32.95)
- **Wulf the Saxon** by G. A. Henty
(8 hours, 7 CD Set, \$32.95)
- **Cat of Bubastes** by G. A. Henty
(6 hours, 6 CD Set, \$32.95)
- **In the Reign of Terror** by G. A. Henty
(8 hours, 7 CD Set, \$32.95)
- **Beric the Briton** by G.A. Henty **NEW**
(9 hours, 7 CD Set, \$32.95)
- **Rascal** by Sterling North
(Unabridged reading, 4.75 hours, CS Set, \$24.95)
- **Come On Seabiscuit!** by Ralph Moody
(Unabridged reading 3.5 hours, 4 CD Set, \$31.95)
- **Romeo and Juliet** (CD Only) **NEW**
- **Thomas Jefferson's America** (CD Only) **NEW**
- **Abraham Lincoln & the Heart of America**
- **Famously Funny: Stories and Poems**
- **Uncle Wiggly's Storybook**
- **American Tall Tales**
- **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer**
- **The Queen's Pirate:**
Queen Elizabeth I & Sir Francis Drake
- **The Prince and the Pauper**
- **Treasure Island**
- **Tell Me A Story!**
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- **Egyptian Treasures: Mummies & Myths**
- **Greek Myths**
- **She and He: Adventures in Mythology**
- **Arabian Nights**
- **King Arthur and his Knights**
- **Three Musketeers/Robin Hood**
- **Sherlock Holmes for Children**
- **Mystery! Mystery!**
- **Spooky Classics for Children**
- **Shakespeare for Children**
- **Fairy Tale Favorites in Story & Song**
- **Best Loved Stories in Song and Dance**
- **Glants! A Colossal Collection of Tales & Tunes**
- **Animal Tales**
- **Rip Van Winkle/Gulliver's Travels**
- **Tales from Cultures Far and Near**
- **The Jungle Book**
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How to Really Love Your Angry Child, by Ross Campbell and Rob Suggs, is not just a book for the parent of a really angry child. Rather it teaches parents that every child needs to be taught how to respond to the angry feelings that everyone experiences. It talks about how to recognize anger in our children and how to model and teach appropriate responses to anger, mainly using appropriate words instead of inappropriate words, actions, or passive-aggressive behavior. This book opened my eyes to the importance of teaching these skills, and even at ages three and four, our son is learning them.

Christine Edwards



al philosophies, but rather boils it down to why we would want to homeschool.

Stewart Depret-Guillaume

Only Children and Special Needs

These books have made a difference in our homeschooling days because of their rich volume of clear educational resources. And all special-needs books are a blessing!

Homeschooling Only One, by Donna Conner, is a small book, but very encouraging. It can be obtained through www.donnac.com.

Homeschooling The Child With ADD; (or Other Special Needs), by Lenore Colacion Hayes, is available in any bookstore.

Teenagers with ADD: A Parent's Guide, by Chris A. Zeigler Dendy, M.S., is available at Barnes & Noble Bookstore

Barbara


Marriage and Why Homeschool

Several books come to my mind, most of them having to do with strengthening my marriage. Our marriages are the foundation of our homeschools. To raise highly educated children is not my primary goal; raising adults who can have healthy relationships is.

Created to be His Helpmeet, by Debi Pearl, can be obtained at <http://shop.nogreaterjoy.org>. Obviously written to wives, it is hard-hitting but honest and life-changing.

Reforming Marriage, by Doug Wilson, can be obtained from Canon Press (www.canonpress.org/pages/family.asp), Veritas Press (www.veritaspres.com/store/home.asp), and other catalogs. This is written more to the husband, but both my husband and I enjoyed it.

When You Rise Up, by R.C. Sproul, Jr., can be obtained from The Highland Study Center (<http://highlands.gospel.com.net>), Timberdoodle catalog (www.timberdoodle.com), Veritas Press, and others. This is an excellent and well-written treatise on why we homeschool. I know there are many of that type of resource, but this one is succinct and to the point. It does not debate education-



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- All ongoing dental problems are accepted except for orthodontic treatment in progress.
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Periodic Oral Exam	\$90	\$12	80%
Initial Oral Exam	\$100	\$32	68%
X-Ray: Intraoral Complete Series	\$122	\$50	58%
X-Ray: Panoramic	\$110	\$50	55%
Regular Teeth Cleaning (Light Scaling & Polishing)	\$95	\$42	56%
Amalgam Filling (Silver Colored) 1 Surface (Anterior)	\$130	\$60	54%
Amalgam Filling (Silver Colored) 2 Surface (Anterior)	\$160	\$70	56%
Porcelain Crown with High Noble Metal	\$1,050	\$515	51%
Root Canal Anterior	\$690	\$325	53%
Root Canal Molar	\$900	\$375	53%
Orthodontic Braces by General dentist - children under age 19	\$5,000	\$2,100	58%
Orthodontic Braces by General dentist - adult 19 and over	\$5,500	\$2,250	59%

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- Save up to 80% on contact lenses including daily wear, extended wear, disposable, tinted, bifocals, and gas permeable.
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- Toll free number to locate participating network chiropractors.

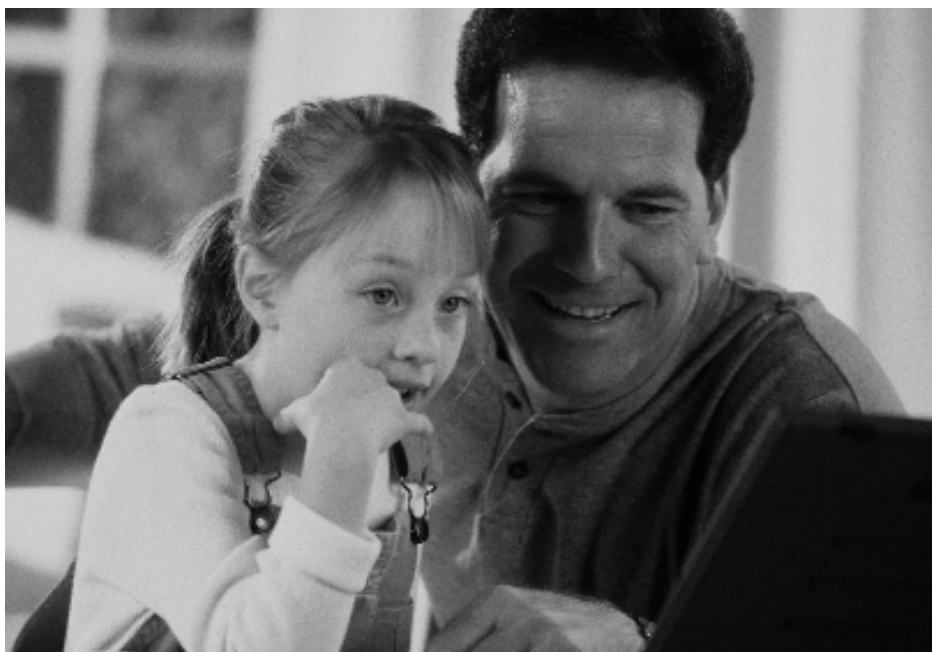
Start Your Own Family Internet Business!

Dr. Joel Orr

Anticipating the publication of my latest book (*Every Man a Hero, Every Woman a Coach* – www.everymanahero.com), I began researching Internet marketing at the beginning of last year. I have an advantage, in that the technicalities of Web-page design and construction are no mystery to me.

But what mysteries and confusion awaited me! I started with all the free stuff—e-books, teleseminars, and newsletters. And just when I'd think I was starting to understand some of the topics, someone would offer me a definitive guide to that very topic, for only \$47. And they'd throw in thousands of dollars' worth of bonuses, which were mine to keep even if I took advantage of their full-satisfaction refund guarantee! (I did do just that, more than once, and always without problems.)

Well, I bit. Hard. Again and again. I



refuse to say how much money I actually spent on this education, or how much time and energy I put into it. I'm just glad I have the opportunity to give you some of the benefit of my meanderings in this wonderland.

I'm not listing all the resources I found; the purpose of this article is to share with you how I got out of that mess!

But first, let me say this. I know for a fact that a surprisingly large number of people are making large amounts of money, in entirely moral and ethical ways, on the Internet. My guess is that the number of people making over \$5,000 per month is certainly in the tens of thousands, and may be higher.

Moreover, I personally know, and have seen the Paypal statements of, more than 20 marketers who are earning \$50,000 per month, and more. Regular people, not geniuses—but definitely action-oriented.

So I am thoroughly convinced that Internet marketing is a practical type of business for your family to explore.

But to give you an idea of what is so bewildering about it, consider this list of topics:

- Web-site design

- Search-engine optimization (SEO)
- Affiliate marketing
- Pay-per-click advertising
- E-book writing and marketing
- Ad tracking
- Ad testing
- Copywriting
- Long ad copy
- Teleseminars
- Audio and video on your site
- E-zines and newsletters
- Forums
- Articles and press releases
- Joint ventures
- Off-line events
- Coaching
- Autoresponders
- Shopping carts
- Banner and ad sales
- Fulfillment

That's just for starters. Then there's the joy of eBay; Amazon's Advantage and affiliate programs; Clickbank and Commission Junction; and much, much more.

Each of these topics has its own gurus, e-zines, e-books, forums, events, and coaches. And much to my amaze-

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ment, much of it is reasonably good stuff. That's what got me so confused.

None of it gave me the whole story. I'd head off in one direction, but immediately get distracted by someone's great new e-book on a different slant. Eventually, though, I ran into Dr. Ken Evoy's SiteBuildIt!—SBI for short.

Ken is an MD who gave up doctoring to do Internet stuff full-time some years ago. SBI gives you a soup-to-nuts package—everything from education, to supporting software, to handholding, to forums where you can exchange information with other SBI people.

His package costs \$300 for a year, and it includes a domain (a URL) and hosting, as well as video training modules, brainstorming software, e-books on every aspect of Internet marketing, and more. The SBI newsletter makes it superfluous to subscribe to other e-zines, because it gives you all the important stuff.

The most important aspect of SBI, and its greatest differentiator, is that it has a step-by-step action plan that actually works.

Ken calls his approach, "The Way of the Tortoise," because he categorically does not promise overnight riches.

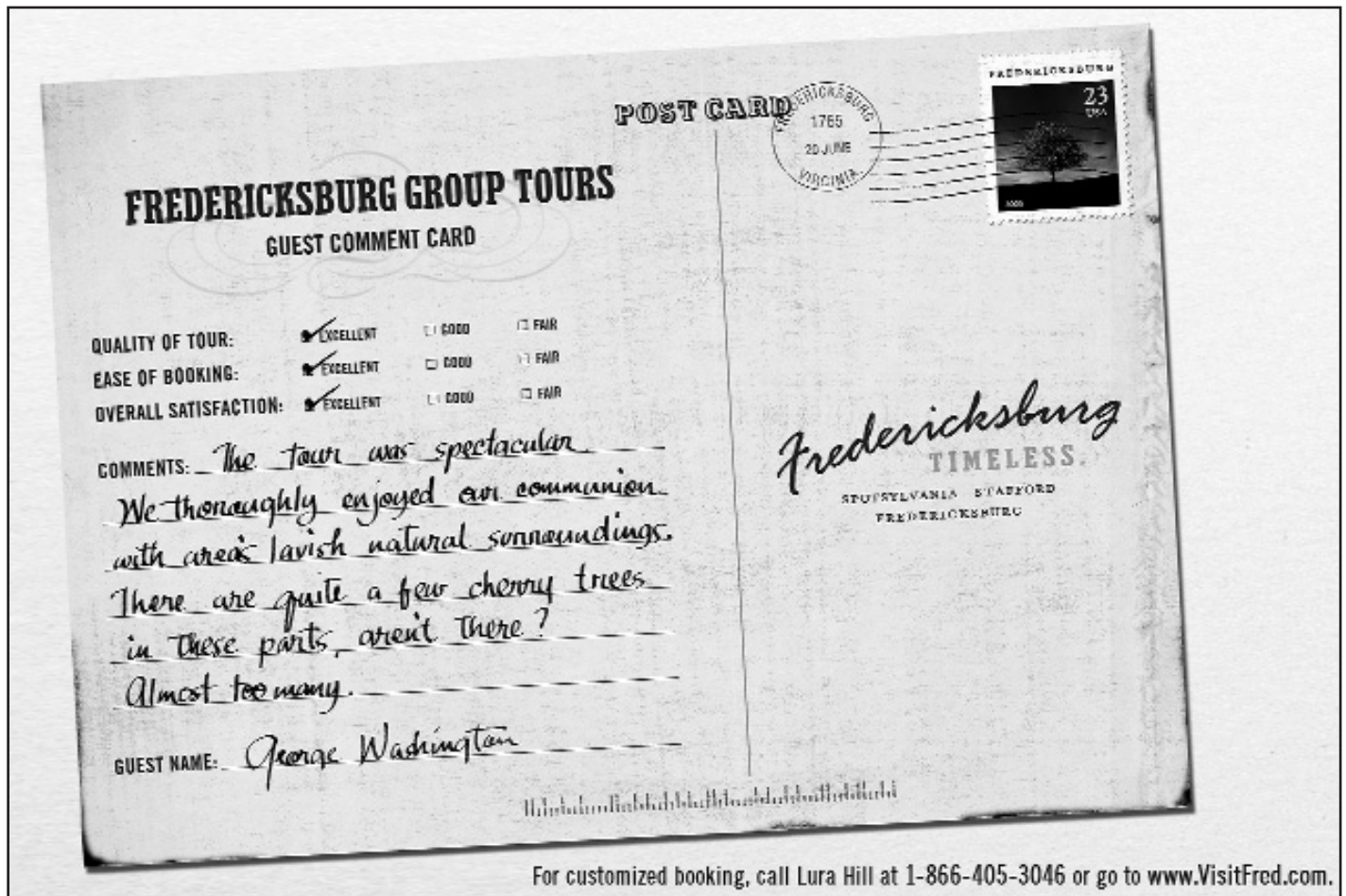
But 63 percent of his customers are in the top 3 percent of money-earners on the Web, so something is working.

Whether or not you buy his service, you should consider his formula: First, build content—useful information that people will find via search engines. That will give you traffic, enabling you to build a list of people who know you, like you, and trust you. Then you pre-sell them, by sharing detailed information about the stuff in your product category. Finally, you monetize your efforts, by telling your visitors, "Now that I've educated you about the products in this market, here's what I'm selling, and here's why."

Your product may be hard goods, software, services, or downloadable information products—the possibilities are endless.

I've felt tremendously relieved, and am making genuine progress, since acquiring my SBI site. I haven't found anything as comprehensive as this package.

If you are considering Internet marketing as a possible source of income, you should explore more than one approach. But be careful that you don't get lost in the jungle of opportunities. And if you have any questions, feel free to write me—joel.orr@gmail.com. ☺



Coming to Virginia

Kennedy Center Programs

Did you know that the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts offers discounted tickets to school groups for select performances each year? The ticket price for these performances is usually \$5 (sometimes free). You must have a group of at least 10 to qualify as a school group, and there are restrictions on the teacher/student ratio. These programs are very popular, so you must plan your trip in advance.

Performances for school groups are designed to expand the students' and teachers' understanding of the performing arts, and assist in the development of critical-thinking skills and an understanding of the creative process. This year's programs have ranged from Peking opera and Chinese acrobatics, to selected scenes and a discussion of a Shakespeare play, to a full dress rehearsal of the American Ballet Theatre's *The Nutcracker!*

See the Kennedy Center Performances for School Groups at www.kennedycenter.com/education/schoolguide/schoolguide.html. More details about how to register, the target ages for each performance, and the show times can be found on the registration form itself, at www.kennedycenter.com/education/schoolguide/registration_05-06.pdf

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Carpenter Science Theatre Company:

Through March 3

Mysteries of Plasma: The Charles Drew Story.
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Freedom Watch

(continued from page 21)

positions in the Armed Services as any of their peers. Homeschool graduates are now able to compete on an equal footing with other types of graduates for the 80,000 positions in the Army, 30,000 in the Navy, 23,000 in the Marines, and 20,000 in the Air Force that need to be filled with new recruits annually.

HSLDA has been working with the military for several years to remove discriminatory barriers for homeschool graduates. Beginning in 1998, HSLDA secured a "pilot project" that lasted for six years where homeschoolers were experimentally treated as "Tier I" candidates—the same status as high school graduates from the public schools. In January 2005, the Department of Defense issued a letter stating that homeschoolers were considered "preferred enlistees" and that there were no "practical limits" to the numbers of homeschoolers who could obtain entrance into the Armed Services.

We expect the next defense bill, which is to be passed this year in Congress, to codify this arrangement to ensure that homeschoolers will continue to maintain preferred enlistment status and not be discriminated against when they seek entry into the military. ☺



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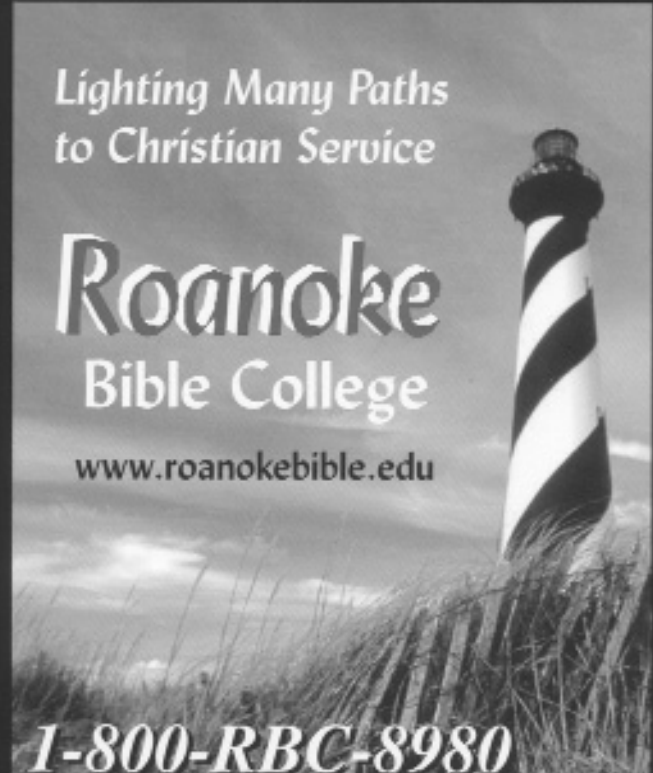
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WHERE CAN I FIND...?

In this column we introduce you to e-mail and Web listings from and for your area. If you want to know what support groups are out there, what field trips you can join, or where the closest used-book sales are, sign up for the listing(s) in your area. And don't forget the HEAV Update — there's something in there for everyone!

HELPFUL WEBSITES AND E-GROUPS

HEAV Update: Sign up at www.heav.org

HEAV Legislative Update: Sign up at www.heav.org

Children with Learning Disabilities:
visit www.ldcouncil.org

National African-American Homeschoolers Alliance:
Jennifer James, info@naaha.com; <http://www.naaha.com>

Northern Virginia:

Sharenet—Melissa Riemer, SHARENET@att.net or
Susan Smith, susieg@alum.mit.edu

Loudoun, Clarke, and Frederick County area:

HomeSchoolNet (HSN)—Kathryn Stephens,
homeschoolnet@verizon.net

Northern Shenandoah Valley (Warren, Clarke, Frederick, Page and Shenandoah Counties):

Homeschool Communicator—Suzanne Soliday,
HomeschoolCommunicator@adelphia.net
H.E.A.R.T.H. Homeschool Group—www.hearth.org
hearth_info@yahoo.com

Fredericksburg area:

homeschoolresources@yahoo.com

Richmond:

Richmond Regional Home Educators (RRHE)—
Steve Foster, RRHEducators@aol.com
www.Richmondhomeschool.org

South of Richmond:

Tri-Cities Home Educators—Vicki Bentley,
Gmabentley@cs.com; www.tcheofva.org

Harrisonburg and Rockingham County area:

Valley Home Educators (VHE)—
newsletter@vhweb.org

Roanoke area:

Greater Roanoke Valley Home Educators Association—
Ken Johnson, khsakwee@cs.com

Tidewater area:

Homeschool Hotline:

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Tidewater Homeschool Info Support (THIS, PFS,
HIS)—Darlene Levy, homeschooling4ULord@juno.com
TEACH. info@teachhomeschool.com

Williamsburg area:

HEART HOTLINE—Mary Blunt, mkblunt@aol.com

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