

HOMESCHOOL

Winter 2025

Indiana



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Info Inside!**



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Welcome

We are excited to welcome children back to the IAHE conference!

Moving the conference out of Indy has allowed us the space to open up our event to families again! We look forward to seeing you this March in Fort Wayne.

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Have you heard the big news?

The IAHE Parenting and Homeschool Conference is going on the road in 2025 and 2026 to two incredible destinations! Your whole family is invited to this year's beautiful, family-friendly venue in Fort Wayne. Join us for an exceptional family experience at:

- **The Grand Wayne Convention Center on March 21 & 22, 2025**
- **The French Lick Resort in March of 2026**

Grab a hot drink and enjoy learning about conference workshops, exhibitors, programs for children and parents, venue details, and much more! You will love this year's speakers, and you can enjoy some of their articles in this issue!

As you plan your spring semester, be sure to include a field trip to Fort Wayne in March for the Conference and all the other learning opportunities Fort Wayne has to offer!

See you in Fort Wayne!

Tara Bentley
Executive Director, IAHE

Issue 28, Volume 2

MAGAZINE TEAM

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

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

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REMEMBER

First Wham-O-Frisbees | 1957

On this day in 1957, Wham-O released the first aerodynamic plastic Frisbees. However, the story started in 1871, when the Frisbie Pie Company opened in Bridgeport, CT. Nearby university students would throw empty pie tins at each other and yell "Frisbie" as they let go.

- ★ *How do the forces of lift and drag act on a flying frisbee?*
- ★ *Research how the Frisbie pie tins evolved into the variety of frisbees available today.*

Star-Spangled Banner | 1931

On this day in 1931, President Hoover signed House Resolution 14 into law, making *The Star-Spangled Banner* the national anthem. Inspired by the Battle of Baltimore in 1814, Francis Scott Key wanted to capture the immense emotions and joy he felt the morning he saw the flag flying over Fort McHenry.

- ★ *Is there an official version of The Star-Spangled Banner?*
- ★ *Where was Francis Scott Key during the battle?*

First World Flight | 1924

Eight American pilots and mechanics left Seattle, Washington, in four airplanes to complete the first successful air circumnavigation of the globe. Two of the four planes completed the journey 175 days later after making 74 stops and covering about 27,550 miles.

- ★ *Research the obstacles and difficulties the team encountered.*
- ★ *Which other famous pilots do you know about?*

January
23rd



February
25th



March
3rd



April
3rd



April
6th



Surrender of Fort Sackville | 1779

The surrender of Fort Sackville (what is now Vincennes, IN) was a victory for George Rogers Clark that changed the dynamics of the western frontier. Not only did it disrupt the British military presence in the western territory, but it led thousands of Americans in the east to move west of the Appalachians.

- ★ *Who originally built Fort Sackville, and for what purpose?*
- ★ *Which country allied with colonists in response to the fall of Fort Sackville?*

Pony Express | 1860

The first official Pony Express delivery began at the most eastern post in St. Joseph, MO, with a mail pouch containing 49 letters, 5 telegrams, and miscellaneous papers. The Pony Express was set up to provide a fresh horse every 10-15 miles and a fresh rider every 75-100 miles.

- ★ *Research the Pony Express route and the difficulties of maintaining the stations.*
- ★ *What ultimately replaced the Pony Express?*



2025 IAHE
CONFERENCE SPEAKER

I'm Going to
HOMESCHOOL
Even if it
KILLS ME!

— Israel Wayne

“I could never homeschool my children. I couldn’t stand to have them around me that much!” Have you ever heard that line? What about: “I can’t wait for the school year to start! It will be such a relief to have the children back in school. They are driving me crazy!”

I can’t tell you how often I’ve heard these sentiments expressed. Many parents even say such things within earshot of their children.

Whenever a parent says something like that to me, my immediate response is, “Well, I guess that you, even more than other parents, REALLY NEED to homeschool your children!” This always results in dropped jaws and incredulous stares.

There are two main reasons that God wants you to homeschool your children. The first reason has nothing to do with your children. That’s right! As counter intuitive as it sounds, God wants you to homeschool your children for a purpose that doesn’t relate to them and their needs.

You see, whether we like to admit it, we have issues. Not just teensy-tiny issues; we have really, really big character flaws! God is merciful and He will not allow us to remain the selfish people that we have always been. If you belong to Him, He will discipline and train you (Hebrews 12) to become conformed into the image of His Son (Romans 8:29).

One of the primary means by which God works out the selfishness and carnality in our lives is by creating customized little button-pushers, who are strategically designed to bring out the worst in us. They intuitively know how to rub us the wrong way. Have you ever wondered how on earth your children can be so effective in driving you crazy? Sometimes it seems they were custom made for the purpose of annoying you...and they love their job!

When we were new parents, I remember coming home from work one day to find my frazzled wife at her wit’s end. Our two-year-old had stretched her to her limit. “He is SO disobedient!” she lamented.

“Did you expect something different?” I asked. “Of course he is disobedient. He is two years old. Our job is to train him how to become something other than who he is. He doesn’t know how to do anything different unless we teach him. That teaching process is a marathon, not a sprint. It’s not going to happen in one day, or one month, or one year. We’re in this for the long haul.”

She breathed a long sigh and admitted, “I’m not sure that I’m up for this!” I reminded her, “Of course we’re up to this! God wouldn’t have given us this child if He didn’t know that we were up to the challenge.” You see, God is doing the same thing to us that we are trying to do with our children. He is teaching us that life is not about us. The quicker we learn this lesson, the sooner we can start passing it on to our children. You can only give to someone else what you possess yourself.

That is why Deut. 6 says, “This law which I give you this day shall be on YOUR heart.” That is the starting point. God turns the hearts of the fathers FIRST to the children, and only then does He turn the children’s hearts to the fathers (Mal. 4:6). God wants the hearts of the parents, and He knows that if you are sub-contracting your children off to outside agencies to spare you the effort of the 24/7/365 parenting process, you are missing out on perhaps the primary means that God has established for your sanctification.

I recently heard a homeschooling mother lament the fact that she had much more time for Bible reading and prayer before she had children. I can certainly relate to that feeling! It seems like the more children you have, the more the pressures and responsibilities of life crowd out the things that we consider luxuries, such as taking naps, exercising, having a social life or developing our spiritual disciplines. It could seem that unmarried people (or at least people without children) have a much greater chance of being truly spiritual, since they are not distracted by the hectic pace of life brought on by child-rearing.

The reality is, however, that all that external pressure is the MEANS by which God is sanctifying and conforming us into His image. It is in the forge of everyday life: the laundry, the meals, the bills, teaching academics, etc., that God is hammering us into a tool fit for His purpose.

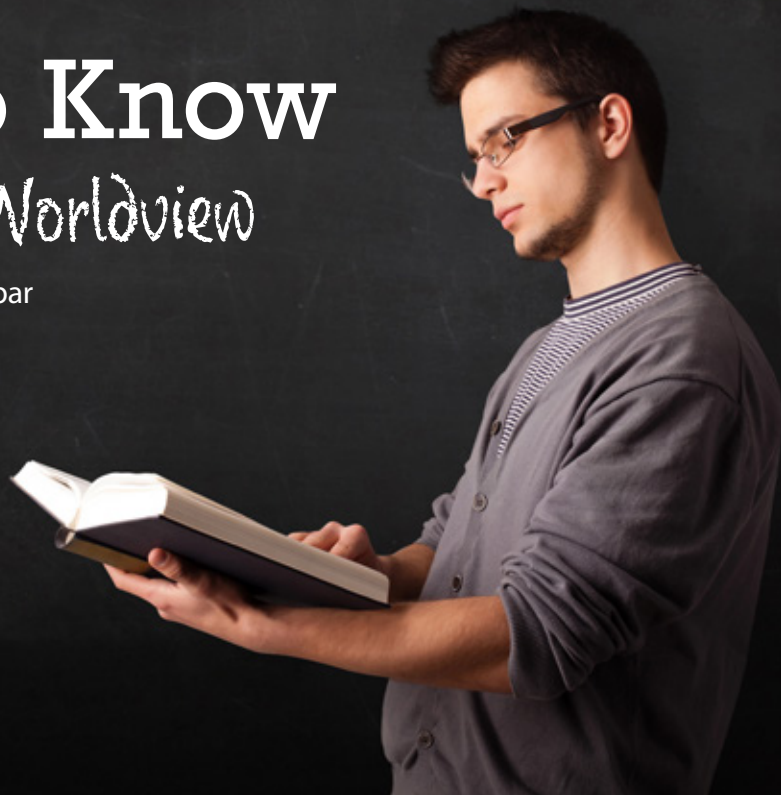
Once God has fully captured your heart and will, He then turns His focus to your children and uses you as an agent of His grace in their lives. Your parenting will be far more effective when you can teach your children, by your own example (rather than your mere words), how you are overcoming your own sinful nature and self-consumed worldview. Yes, your children need to be homeschooled so they can be trained in the way they should go, but you need it more. When a student is fully trained, he will be similar to his teacher (Luke 6:40). ■



Israel Wayne is an author and conference speaker and Director of Family Renewal. He and his wife, Brook, live in SW Michigan and are homeschooling parents of eleven children. Israel is author of the book, *Raising Them Up: Parenting for Christians*. FamilyRenewal.org

10 Dates to Know From a Biblical Worldview

—Linda Lacour Hobar



There are a lot of dates to know in history—and opinions

will vary on which are the most significant. However, as a follower of Christ, and a long-time student of history, I've got some personal favorites. Following is a summary I've titled, "10 Dates to Know—From a Biblical Worldview." Do you know them? If not, you're not alone. Most of us are sorely lacking in our knowledge of world history because we were bored by the textbooks—or we were subject to the dumbing down of education. But that's another topic for another day! Here are the ten dates to know in chronological order.

1. The Babylonian Captivity (605, 599, and 588 B.C.)

From Ancient Times, the three start dates of the Babylonian Captivity are important—as well as its ending date! In summary, the Southern Kingdom of Judah was guilty of sinning against God. In three waves between 605 and 588 B.C., the Lord allowed Judah to suffer deportation to Babylonia under the hands of King Nebuchadnezzar. (Thus we call it the Babylonian Captivity.) However, Cyrus the Great released Judah in 538 B.C. after 70 years of captivity—as was prophesied by Jeremiah 80-90 years earlier! (Jer. 29:10) This is a great lesson on the consequences of disobedience, God's mercy, and the fulfillment of prophecy that's clearly seen on a timeline!

2. Alexander the Great (323 B.C.)

This Macedonian king, who died suddenly in 323 at age 33, lived between the events of the Old Testament and the New. However, Alexander the Great's short reign would fulfill prophecy and influence Christendom. As for prophecy, Daniel forecasted that Alexander's empire would be divided in four directions after his death—and it was! (Daniel 11:4) As for influencing Christendom, Alexander spread the Greek language before he died—which was the primary language of the New Testament! This act of "Hellenization," as the spread of Greek culture and language was called, gave more people of the time period the ability to read the Scriptures and know the living God. This is a good lesson on the fulfillment of prophecy, God's sovereignty, and the value of the Bible.

3. Resurrection of Jesus Christ (c. A.D. 33)

Of all the ticks on the timeline, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ stands unique. In fact, most of the world today would divide time itself by the life of Christ. (B.C. for "Before Christ" and A.D. for *Anno Domini*, "The year of our Lord.") Jesus taught that he was God (John 5:18; John 10:30-31) and was stoned and put to death for that claim. But He demonstrated His divinity through his bodily resurrection after three days in the grave! Why the sacrifice? Because He loves us! (John 3:16) This event in history is a lesson on the meaning and purpose of life itself—and a celebration of redemption through the blood shed at Calvary and the empty tomb that followed.



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BOYS ARE CREATED FOR ADVENTURE

4. Fall of the Western Roman Empire (A.D. 476)

From Medieval Times, the Fall of the Western Roman Empire stands as a warning to all nations and all cultures that even the most powerful can fall. As for the Romans, they dominated Europe for 500+ years—but inflation, barbarian invasion, and moral decline eroded the foundation of the empire to the extent that it fell under Odoacer (Oh doh AY sir), a relatively unknown Germanic war chief of the Middle Ages. Of significance to Christians, Daniel prophesied that Rome would be “exceedingly dreadful.” (Dan 7:19) Indeed, it was until the Lord saw fit to allow its collapse! This is a good lesson on the rise and fall of nations, the accuracy of prophecy, and the consequences of moral decay.

5. The Battle of Tours (732)

The Battle of Tours in 732 was a showdown between Islamic forces from Spain and the Christian Kingdom of the Franks. (The Franks grew as a Christian nation after the conversion of King Clovis.) Under Charles Martel, a mayor of the Franks, Muslims forces were defeated near Tours in the famous battle bearing the name of the town. The victory earned Charles the nickname of “the hammer.” It is not coincidental that Europe struggles today with a clash between Islamic thought and western values. They have been at odds for centuries and will likely remain at odds for centuries to come. This lesson highlights the conflict of mankind and the spiritual forces behind it.

6. Gutenberg Invents the Printing Press (1456)

The invention of the printing press in 1456 stands as one of the most significant inventions of all time. Before the printing press, it took a monk or a scribe an entire year to hand write one Bible—which then cost a small fortune. (Very few medieval priests even owned a Bible!) When Johannes Gutenberg successfully converted a cheese press into a printing press, the first book he printed was the Bible. Within a year, he printed 300 more! Many would mark the end of the Middle Ages by this invention, which catapulted mankind into the Renaissance and Reformation. This invention is a lesson on God using man’s gifts and talents for *His* purposes and the value of God’s written word.

7. Martin Luther Posts His Ninety-five Theses (October 31, 1517)

Martin Luther, a monk of the early Renaissance, wasn’t interested in dividing Christendom. However, when he posted his Ninety-five Theses on October 31, 1517—to start a debate on the topic of indulgences—he started a chain reaction of events that continues to divide Protestants and Roman Catholics today. Historically, we call this rift in Christendom the Protestant Reformation. However, followers of Luther were not labeled “Protestants” until the Diet of Speyer in 1529—when they protested against a group of princes who sought to limit their rights. Protestants today number approximately 800 million. Roman Catholics today number 1.2 billion worldwide. Clearly, this political and theological division in Christianity was one of the most significant events in church history!

8. The First Thanksgiving (Fall of 1621)

Every fourth Thursday in November, Americans celebrate Thanksgiving and remember the brave souls that sailed west aboard the *Mayflower* to escape religious persecution in England. However, most don’t realize just how much the Pilgrims suffered before the first Thanksgiving *and* after. During the winter of 1620-1621, the Pilgrims barely survived “the Great Sickness” that took the lives of at least 42. So, when the harvest was plentiful in the summer and fall of 1621, the Pilgrims celebrated their blessings with a hearty feast and invited the Native Americans that helped them along the way. However, the next winter brought additional hardship. At one low point, the Pilgrims were allotted no more than five kernels of corn a day! The story of the Pilgrims is a lesson on faith, perseverance, and gratefulness in difficult circumstances.

9. The Collapse of the Soviet Union (December 25, 1991)

After the fall of Nazi Germany in 1945, the world drew new boundary lines. Ushering in the Cold War, the Iron Curtain separated the free world from the atheistic empire of the communist Soviet Union (a.k.a. the U.S.S.R.). However, the Soviet Union (formed in 1922) would not last more than 74 years! After 15 Soviet Republics declared their independence from the U.S.S.R., Mikhail Gorbachev resigned on December 25, 1991—and the Soviet Union collapsed. From a biblical worldview, Gorbachev’s resignation on Christmas Day hardly seems coincidental! This lesson is a reminder of man’s futile attempts to reign supreme and God’s overarching hand in history.

10. The Hope of Mankind (Date Unknown)

The end of time, as we know it, is a date unknown to mankind. In fact, according to Mark 13:28-37, “only the Father knows” the hour of His Son’s return. However, we’re also told in Scripture that there will come a day when the curse on mankind will be lifted (Rev. 22:3) and the leaves of the tree of life will bring “healing of the nations.” (Rev. 22:2) Now, that is a date to look forward to! Whether tomorrow or a thousand years from now, in a new heaven and a new earth there will be “no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; for there shall be no more pain.” (Rev. 21:4) I’m looking forward to that day! Meanwhile, we all have kingdom work to do. I pray you are blessed doing it and that you’ve enjoyed “10 Dates to Know—From a Biblical Worldview.” I pray also that you are a good steward of the knowledge of history and pass it on to the next generation. ■



Linda Lacour Hobar author of *The Mystery of History*, is a follower of Christ, a genuine people-person, and a fan of comfortable high-heels. Formerly a missionary, she graduated from Baylor University, where she first fell in love with world history.

If you’d like an award-winning series to help you teach history to the next generation, please visit TheMysteryofHistory.com for books, audiobooks, courses, and much more.

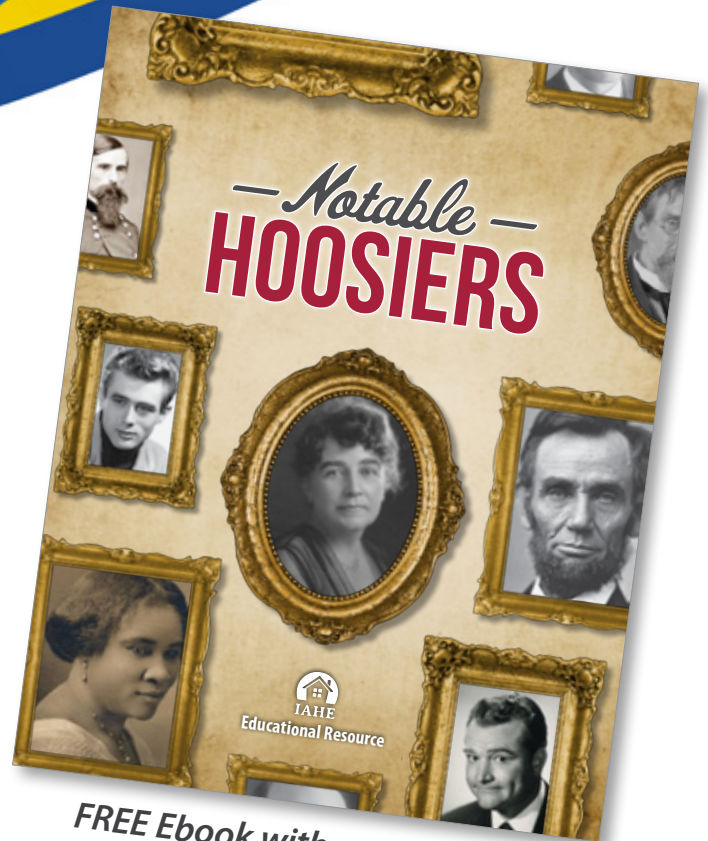
IAHE Day at the Capitol



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10:00am - 3:00pm
\$5 per family

- Chat with IAHE & IAHE Action
- Noon Rally
- Activity Tables
- Prayer Walk
- Scavenger Hunt
- Write Postcards to Legislators
- Challenge/Drawing with Prizes
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Fantasy & A READER'S HEART

— Bryan Davis



“Daddy, can I have a sword for my birthday?”

Many parents have heard such a call from little boys, budding warriors who feel an inner desire to be protective. It starts early, because it is inherent in their make-up. Boys and girls alike possess a God-given drive to do great things, and a wise parent can feed this internal hunger by providing wholesome stories of the fantastic, tales of heroes and heroines that promote godly development of a child's budding dreams.

The proof of an inherent drive is easy to see. Watch children play. Their imaginative games send boys tromping from yard to yard, jumping hedges to attack the enemy, and sending monsters to their doom as the brave little heroes wield their gleaming weapons. Girls might become princesses or sword maidens, seeking to use their gifts to make the world a better place to live, whether at home in a palace or in a foreign land as an emissary or even as an intimidating warrior.

Why does the world of fantasy mesmerize our youth? How do fantastical stories capture their imaginations? Is it simply the fun and frivolity of escapism? Or does the answer lie deep in their longing hearts?

Children have a craving to commune with a power greater than their own. Yet, the world they live in often provides only faint glimpses of the heroes they long to be. Fantasy, however, opens their eyes to a better place, a shining city they have not yet experienced. And the stories provide a mental bridge as they pursue horizons they could never see with their physical eyes.

Children, often unjaded and brimming with ideals, feel their God-given programming more acutely than do adults. From my experience as a father of seven and as an author who receives e-mails from young people all over the world, boys and girls manifest two distinct kinds of programming. Boys seem to be wired as protectors, heroes if need be. Girls often gravitate toward being wise counselors and strategists, skilled in everything that is less brutish, while willing to be cunning warriors if their male counterparts fall.

When a boy watches a screen and sees a hero draw steel from scabbard, displaying a bright, sharp sword as his biceps bulge, the boy feels valor, the bravery of a knight. He becomes a champion, copying the role model he may have never witnessed in real life. When the hero mounts his steed and charges bravely into conflict, a boy feels his heart race, his blood pumping hot. He rides along on the horse, not knowing why his spirit has attached to that rugged man on the screen, why his mind has pulled him into the saddle. Does the child know that he, too, was built to charge the battlements, to defend the weak, to conquer evil?

When a girl sees a heroine work behind the scenes to prepare reinforcements, persuade the powers that be to send troops, or kindle the fire in quivering hearts, she feels her inner calling. When the heroine crashes a jar over the villain's head to save her fallen hero, a girl's heart leaps. The courageous young lady has used whatever strength she had, at risk of her own life, to prevent disaster. Without her, all would have been lost.

Our children are seeking something worthwhile, an eternal calling to be heroes. Christian worldview fantasy stories provide larger-than-life portrayals



of heroes who display the same virtues children will mimic to become heroes in their own worlds.

Unfortunately, many fantasy stories can be dark and without hope, and concerned parents might avoid the genre in order to protect their children from those demoralizing tales. In doing so, they would miss another side of fantasy, the side that promotes light instead of darkness.

Christian worldview fantasy stories, such as *Lord of the Rings* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*, are filled with light and hope. They are visions of reality, the mind's dramatic sketch of what we were meant to be. Such fantasy is a blend of survival and worship. It demonstrates faith, hope, and love wielded in integrity and nobility and illustrated in ways that readers will never forget.

By following the examples of great storytellers, parents have an opportunity to add a mighty tool to their teaching arsenal, fantasy stories that create lasting, relatable images. A boy can see himself drawing a sword, gazing at his fingers wrapped around a battle-worn hilt and following shimmering steel upward to the razor-sharp point. His eyes go from earth to heaven, first meditating on his limited strength, then lifting his thoughts to the skies and considering the God who fashioned every muscle he is about to use before he charges to carry out His will.

A young woman often realizes early in life that she is the earthly reason for a man's charge into danger. Without her, man's resolve wilts, his heart quakes, his sword fails. She is his support, reminding him of the goal, building up his courage, even rallying to his aid should he be dashed to the ground by his enemies.

We have an opportunity to create strong soldiers by using the power of story, even through the pages of the impossible. If parents will give uplifting fantasy its proper place, as an inspiration toward heroism, allowing powerful images to create positive models in children's minds, they will create home-grown heroes who will build and display integrity and virtue in the real world.

Working together, we can use this genre to establish young hearts and minds by immersing them in tales of champions of virtue, by giving them images of valor that will reach in and spark the growth of the heroes or heroines that God has implanted in the hearts of children. That's why I have chosen to allow my children to embrace the images that fantasy creates. That is also why I chose to become a fantasy novelist. I want to grow heroes. ■



Bryan Davis is the author of several fantasy series, including the *Dragons in our Midst* story world, *Time Echoes*, *Reapers*, *Oculus Gate*, *the Starlight story world*, *Astral Alliance*, *Wanted: Superheroes*, *Falcon's Quest*, and *Not-So-Famous Dog Tales*. Bryan and his wife, Susie, work together as an author/editor team.

2025 IAHE
CONFERENCE SPEAKER

RELIGIOUS STUDENTS

— Earn Better Grades —

— Dr. Jay Wile

Before we adopted our daughter,

I was on the faculty at Ball State University, and I started encountering students who were truly “head and shoulders” above their peers (both academically and socially). I came to find out that these students were graduates of something called “homeschooling,” which I knew nothing about. This started me down the path of investigating homeschooling, working with homeschoolers, and writing homeschooling curriculum.

Since that time, I have continued to work with homeschoolers as well as teach at both the high school and university levels. To this day, the academic excellence of homeschool graduates continues to impress me, which leads me to try to figure out what it is about homeschooling that produces such good students. While there are many, many factors, there is one that is often overlooked: Homeschooled students are raised to be more religious than their non-homeschooled peers.

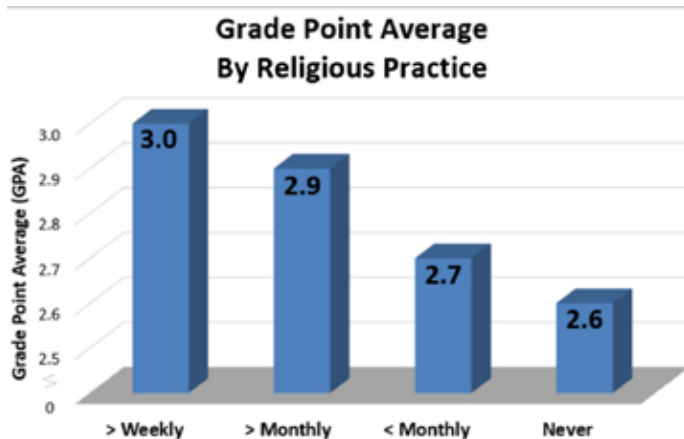
While the predominant view in the education establishment and the media is that religion works against education, the data say something completely different: In study after study, religious students are better educated than their non-religious peers. For example, the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth performed in 1997 collected a “...nationally representative sample of 8,984 men and women born during the years 1980 through 1984.” It collected “...extensive information on respondents’ labor market behavior and educational experiences.” Analysis of those data indicated that the more frequently a student attended religious services, the better his or her GPA.

While these data are a bit old, the review article “Religion and Academic Achievement: A Research Review Spanning Secondary School and Higher Education” surveyed 42 studies that have been published from 1990 to 2020. They all show that the more religious a student is, the better his or her academic achievement.

Now, of course, correlation doesn’t mean causation, so it is possible that religion doesn’t directly affect academic achievement. However, the review article states, “First, research has advanced from correlational studies to methodologically rigorous designs suggesting religion can play a causal role in academic success.”

One of the more interesting of those methodologically rigorous studies (“Not a family matter: The effects of religiosity on academic outcomes based on evidence from siblings”) compared children in the same family. It found that even within a given family, the more religious siblings had higher grade point averages than the less religious siblings. It also found (in agreement with other studies not focused on siblings) that the more religious siblings completed more years of education than the less religious ones. Thus, even with the same parents and family structure, religious adolescents are better students.

Why does being religious produce better grades? One study (“Religious Involvement and Educational Outcomes: The Role of Social Capital and Extracurricular Participation”) suggests that going to religious services broadens the students’ social network,



giving them better access to adults other than their parents, peers who share similar views, and extracurricular activities that are education focused. Others suggest that religion encourages students to be cooperative and conscientious, and such traits are positively correlated with academic achievement.

While those reasons might help explain the well-known fact that religious students have higher academic achievement, I think I can offer at least a couple of other suggestions. As a Christian, I have been taught that God gave me certain gifts, and it is my duty to Him to develop those gifts as much as possible. Most of my motivation for doing well in college and getting my Ph.D. was because I knew God had given me gifts in science and teaching, and it would be an affront to Him had I not concentrated on honing those gifts to the best of my ability. While not everyone has God-given gifts in academic subjects, it is clear that a good education (especially through high school) helps you develop any gift better.

However, there is another reason. It was given by the father of the Scientific Method, Roger Bacon, nearly 800 years ago. He wrote, “For the grace of faith illuminates greatly, as also do divine inspirations, not only in things spiritual, but in things corporeal and in the sciences of philosophy.” (The Opus Majus of Roger Bacon, Robert Belle Burke (trans.), Russel & Russell, Inc. 1962, p. 585)

Faith illuminates **all** areas of life, including academics.



Dr. Jay Wile holds an earned Ph.D. in nuclear chemistry and a B.S. in chemistry. He has won several awards for excellence in teaching and is an internationally-known speaker, having presented lectures on the topics of Nuclear Chemistry, Christian Apologetics, Homeschooling, and Creation vs. Evolution in several different countries. He is best known for his award-winning K-12 science textbooks designed specifically for the home school. You can learn about Dr. Wile’s curriculum at bereanbuilders.com.

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2025
Keynote Speakers

Israel Wayne
Family Renewal



An author and conference speaker, Israel Wayne is also Director of Family Renewal. He and his wife, Brook, live in SW Michigan and are homeschooling parents of eleven children. FamilyRenewal.org

You can read his article on page 6.

Christy-Faith

The Christy-Faith Show podcast



Known as a "teacher's teacher," Christy's heart is to help parents build homeschools their kids will thank them for later. She motivates countless moms to take the homeschooling leap, remain steadfast, and revitalize their purpose. She is host of *The Christy-Faith Show* podcast and author of *Homeschool Rising*.



Learning Express is Back!

Are you attending the 2025 IAHE Parenting & Homeschool Conference as a family? Check out our Learning Express depot!

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Meet a few of our 2025 Speakers!

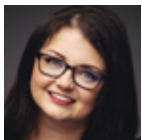
Here's a snapshot of some of the speakers you will hear at the 2025 IAHE Parenting and Homeschool Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana!



Janice Barniak is Executive Director of the non-profit Vincennes Knox County Tourism Office. Her office schedules thousands of students on field trips every year to Vincennes and Knox County. She has a wealth of knowledge about the educational attractions in Indiana, and many of those opportunities are free!



Kathleen Cotter Clayton is the daughter of Dr. Joan A. Cotter, author and creator of the RightStart™ Mathematics program. She was one of the first children to grow up under the Activities for Learning principles. Kathleen has a degree in Home Economics and two Masters Degrees.



Jacquelyn Carnes, "just a mom" of a son with medical complexities, has expertise in relational play-based learning, gestalt language processing, and building intentional communities. She leads a support group for homeschooling autistic children, works as a nonprofit event planner, and serves on the IAHE Special Learners team.



Bryan Davis is the author of several fantasy series, including the *Dragons in our Midst* story world, *Time Echoes*, *Reapers*, *Oculus Gate*, the *Starlight* story world, *Astral Alliance*, *Wanted: Superheroes*, *Falcon's Quest*, and *Not-So-Famous Dog Tales*. Bryan and his wife, Susie, work together as an author/editor team.

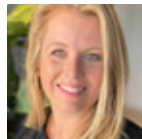
You can read his article on page 12.



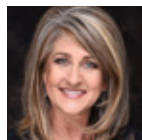
Craig Dehut is a documentary filmmaker, international traveler, Co-Founder and COO of Appian Media, and homeschool dad. Film has the power to move hearts and change minds and Craig is committed to producing culture-changing content and equipping the next generation to do the same.



Shellie Doub is the mother of five homeschool graduates and the Assistant Director of Dual Enrollment for Cedarville University. Shellie is an Ohio College Credit Plus (CCP) specialist and serves as Cedarville's liaison to homeschool organizations including HSLDA, Classical Conversations, and Christian Home Educators of Ohio (CHEO).



Aimee Eucce is a second-generation homeschooler who relaunched Play 'n Talk, a 60+-year-old Phonics Company. At 5, Aimee was told she would never read past a 6th-grade level due to severe dyslexia. However, after finishing the Play 'n Talk Phonics and Spelling program she was reading at a college level and spelling at a 6th-grade level.



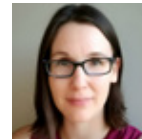
Linda Lacour Hobar author of *The Mystery of History*, is a follower of Christ, a genuine people-person, and a fan of comfortable high-heels. Formerly a missionary, she graduated from Baylor University, where she first fell in love with world history.

You can read her article on page 8.

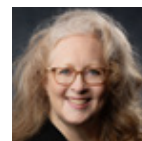


Amber O'Neal Johnston is the author of *A PLACE TO BELONG: Raising Kids to Celebrate Their Heritage, Community, and the World*, and she offers literature-based homeschool lesson guides focused on black history and culture.

You can read her article on page 26.



Amanda Owens, MA, CCC-SLP is a homeschool grad, mom of four, and speech language pathologist. Through her private practice Illuminate Communicate, she equips parents across Indiana to do speech therapy at home so their children can talk clearly and confidently.



Staci Morgan, RN, MSN, is the IAHE Special Learners Team Lead, and serves on the IAHE Advisory Council. She and her husband homeschool their children, all of which have an array of neurodiversities. Staci knows God wove her nursing and homeschooling knowledge together with purpose to share hope and help with other homeschooling families of special learners.

You can read her article on page 30.



Amy Sager serves on the IAHE Board of Directors and helps run a local homeschool ministry. Amy and Mike have graduated two of their five children and dedicate much of their time to their farm, photography, reading, and more. Amy is also the IAHE Publications Director and Managing Editor of *Homeschool Indiana*.



Rex Smith graduated from Purdue and went on to receive his Master's Degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is a bi-vocational youth pastor who has taught in the areas of Counter Cults ministry, Worldviews, and Biblical Apologetics since 2003.



Trevor Steinbeck has taught parents, students, and teachers the Future Problem Solving Program techniques for over 44 years. He has reached over 15,000 students with this process for decision-making that uses critical and creative thinking. He is currently the Executive Director of the FPSP Indiana program.



Kirk Thomsen and his wife, Marian, homeschooled their children through high school. Homeschooling supported their efforts to seek Christ first in their home. The journey provided many learning opportunities for them as a family. A learning process they purpose to share with new homeschooling parents, encouraging and equipping them to spiritually invest in their own children.



Melanie Thomsen delights in knowing Christ and loves spending time with other young women to encourage them in their personal relationship with Christ. She lives in Ohio and serves on staff with Daughters of Decision.



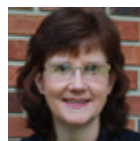
David Toussaint taught high school chemistry, served honorably in the US Army, then participated in various careers, until God took a firm hold on his life. Now he teaches 'finances God's way' through Christian Financial Concepts, Crown Financial Ministries and Compass—finances God's way.



David & Shirley Quine together have created *Cornerstone Curriculum*, a homeschool curriculum which assists parents in the discipleship of their children. David has his Masters degree in curriculum and instruction design, and Shirley is an early childhood education specialist.



Brook Wayne is, with her husband, Israel, a co-founder of Family Renewal. Brook is a homeschooled graduate and homeschooling mother of eleven. Brook is co-author of the book, *Pitchin' A Fit! Overcoming Angry & Stressed Out Parenting*.



Jeanette Whittaker and her husband have homeschooled their children from K-12. She led cooperative classes for fellow homeschool families, served in leadership for a local homeschool coop, and has supported homeschool families for over 30 years. She is a contributing author to *The Mighty Works of God* history series.



Dr. Jay Wile has won several awards for excellence in teaching and is an internationally-known speaker, having presented lectures on the topics of Nuclear Chemistry, Christian Apologetics, Homeschooling, and Creation vs. Evolution in several different countries. He is best known for his award-winning K-12 science textbooks designed specifically for the home school.

You can read his article on page 14.

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Workshop Highlights

Must-Sees



Education Revolution

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Avoiding and Recovering from Homeschool Mistakes

— Israel Wayne —

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

— Dr. Jay Wile —

Teaching Several Grades at Once

— Brook Wayne —

A Living Education

— Amber O'Neal Johnston —

When Bible History and World History Meet Face to Face

— Linda Lacour Hobar —



Special Learners

High School Help

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Transcript Tips

— Amy Sager —

A Parent's Guide to College and Career Counseling

— Shellie Doub —



Special Needs Blueprint

— Christy-Faith —

Curriculum Compass: Navigating Curriculum Choices for Your Special Learner

— IAHE Special Learners Team —

Train Your World: Navigating Boundaries for Special Needs Families

— Jacquelyn Carnes —



Teen & Family

Christians and Pop Culture

— Israel Wayne —

The Rise and Fall of Rome —and Why it Matters!

— Linda Lacour Hobar —

An Author's Journey

— Bryan Davis —



Special Pre-Conference Event

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Free Informational Workshop

Join us
Thursday, March 20
at 7pm for a **FREE**
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Are you or someone you know considering the possibility of homeschooling? This free event is geared to help parents get answers to the many questions they have. Veteran homeschooling parents will be on hand to give an overview of home education in Indiana followed by a Q&A session.

This event is **FREE**,
but pre-registration is requested.

iahe.net/yes-you-can



**What should YOU
bring to the 2025
IAHE Conference?**



For the workshops:

- Pens, pencils & highlighters
- Paper or notebook
- A heart ready to be inspired
- Caffeine for focus
(just enough, but not too much)
- A comfy sweater in case you get chilled
- Snacks to help you stay energized

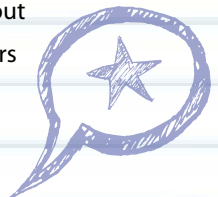
For the exhibit hall:

- Shopping money!
- Backpack or rolling case
- Comfy shoes
- List of curriculum and
supplies to check out
- Questions for vendors



For the kids:

- Snacks
- Drinks
- Wagon, if you have one!
- Coloring books & pencils
for during workshops



See what others have said about the IAHE Conference!

"My husband and I attended our first IAHE Convention with the question, ***“What do homeschooling families look like, and what kind of education is happening?”*** Our "aha!" moment was seeing that families who homeschool just look like families, and homeschooling is a very diverse and beautiful extension of their parenting through education. If you are on the fence about attending the Conference this year, we highly recommend you go. You won't be disappointed."

—Meredith L.

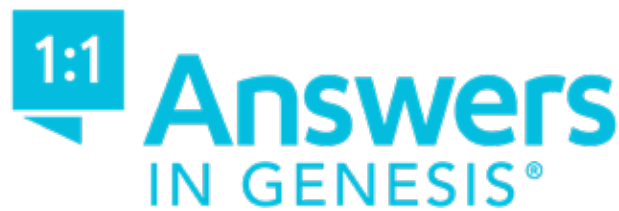
"I highly recommend going to the IAHE Conference this next spring. Their work has blessed my family so much. The wisdom and insight gained from the workshops can make such a huge difference.....and you never know when you'll run into someone that can speak a word of encouragement into your life."

—Dayna K.

"Attending IAHE conventions, both as a new homeschooler and a seasoned one, has undoubtedly been one of the best investments into my homeschooling journey that I have made. Outstanding speakers and topics allowed me to fill my toolbox with practical, helpful, and sage advice. Being surrounded by so many other homeschoolers encouraged my heart greatly. Even after homeschooling for many, many years, I still walked away with a renewed commitment, a heart full of treasured encounters, and nuggets of wisdom to apply."

—Lori B.

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Historic Homes: The Perfect Place for a Field Trip

—Amber O'Neal Johnston

When my oldest children were young,

I didn't regularly pursue opportunities to visit historic homes. In fact, it wasn't on my radar at all. But eventually, our field trips became predictable and a bit stale as we repeatedly visited a limited number of places. We certainly loved our favorite spots, but I knew that we weren't taking advantage of all that our community had to offer.

One afternoon, I picked up a flyer advertising a few historic homes in our area and decided to give them a try. I apprehensively took my little ones to the William Root House near our home. This 1850s home offers a glimpse of life for an average family living in antebellum Georgia. We received a detailed tour of each room and the garden, and my entire family was fascinated. My children engaged with the docents and asked questions during the tour and on the car ride home. They told my husband all about it as soon as he got home and eagerly looked forward to visiting another "old-fashioned" home.

Since that time, I've regularly incorporated visits to historic homes locally and across the country (and world) whenever our schedule and travels allow. Sometimes I align the visits with the historical time period we happen to be studying and other times we just go wherever an opportunity presents itself. Either way, we always

walk away with a greater understanding of the home and how the people inside may have lived.

If you'd like to incorporate historic homes into your field trip rotation, here are a few ideas to help you get the most from the experience:

1 *Do a little research ahead of time.* Because of America's history of slavery, many of our country's preserved historic homes thrived under the forced labor of enslaved Black people. I understand why some families may want to avoid these properties, but many of these homes have done incredible work to include difficult and beautiful stories of enslaved people who endured on the land. And there are also many historic homes in the U.S. and abroad where free Black people – famous and little-known – lived, and they're fabulous places to visit.

If you aren't sure about a particular home, check the website to get a sense of how they speak about the homeowners, the enslaved, and their intertwined stories. Call the site and ask about the tone of the tour and the details shared with visitors. I've certainly visited places that need to do a much better job at honest storytelling, but most of the time, I've been pleasantly surprised.

2 *Read a related book before (or after) visiting.* I enjoy pairing picture books and historical fiction novels with our historic home visits. Reading a story that takes place

in the same time period as a historic home helps my family connect with what we see. For example, when a tour guide pointed out a pie safe to my kids, they immediately turned to me and smiled because we'd just read a story that mentioned the same type of cupboard.

3 *Ask questions about the preservation process.* When my children were younger, we would just soak up the stories shared within the historic homes, and that was more than enough. But now that I have teens (in addition to younger kiddos), we spend more time inquiring about the story behind the story. We like to find out about architecture, which parts of the home and its furnishings are original, and what's been done to preserve and protect the home.

4 *Check out the National Register of Historic Places.* This is where I find leads on many of the historic homes that we've visited, especially the ones in other cities and states. Armed with this list and a few quick google searches, we've happened upon some of the most remarkable homes tucked away in unassuming places.

5 *Revisit the same home.* This one may sound like a waste of time, but I assure you that revisiting the same home multiple times is a rich experience. The Swan House is a 1920s historic home in our area, and my kids have been so many times that I'm certain that they could lead a fabulous tour themselves. We bought a membership to the larger property when they were younger, and we visited frequently because it was free and air-conditioned to beat the Georgia heat on days when I wanted to get them out of the house. But as they explored and listened, they developed a relationship with the home and its stories, and that's a treat that I never predicted.

Incorporating visits to historic homes into your field trip rotation can enrich your family's understanding of history in profound ways. These homes offer a tangible connection to the past, allowing children to walk through the rooms where people lived, worked, and made their mark on history. Whether aligned with your studies or taken as spontaneous adventures, these visits open doors to fascinating stories, provide immersive learning experiences, and invite your family to engage with history beyond the pages of a book. Historic homes are more than just buildings—they are living stories that can inspire curiosity, deepen empathy, and create lasting memories for your children. So next time you're looking for a meaningful outing, consider stepping into the past with a visit to one of these incredible homes. ■



Amber O'Neal Johnston is an author, speaker, and worldschooling mama who blends life-giving books and a culturally rich environment for her four children and others seeking to do the same. She's known for sharing literary "mirrors and windows" on *HeritageMom.com* and *@heritagemomblog* (IG). Amber is also the author of *Soul School: Taking Kids on a Joy-Filled Journey Through the Heart of Black American Culture*, and *A Place to Belong*, a guide for families of all backgrounds to raise kids to celebrate their heritage, community, and the world.

For more ideas for field trips in your area, check out on IAHE.net
The Hoosier Homeschooler's Guide to Field Trips.



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“De-Holidaying”

8 Tips for a Smooth Transition into Homeschooling After the Holidays

— Staci Morgan, RN, MSN

What a sweet time the Christmas season is with family and friends!

However, the holiday season can become busy, wild, and unpredictable. Our schedules and routines that often keep our special learners supported and comforted goes out the window.

For our special learners, this can really throw them for a loop, since they long for structure and routine in their day. Getting our children back on track is crucial, but how can we facilitate the transition without provoking a tidal wave of emotions and meltdowns?

May I introduce a concept of “de-holidaying”? I know, you probably have not heard of this term. It’s a made-up term, but one that best describes what we are trying to accomplish. Just like deschooling is aimed at helping families transition from public school to homeschool, “de-holidaying” is to help with transitioning from the crazy busy schedule, or lack of schedule, of the holiday season, into the routine and safety of a structured schedule. The intention is to do so while focusing on the parent-child relationship.



Just like deschooling, “de-holidaying” will require some intentional effort on your part as the parent to not jump back into the grind. Rather, it will help you take a slow roll back into the homeschool schedule, adding only 1 or 2 new things at a time, working to incorporate fun learning and relationship building.

Here are 8 suggestions to help ease the transition for you and your family:

1. Review Time. Take time to review the beginning of the school year. This is especially helpful for our special needs families, because oftentimes as the weeks go by, frustrations can build. Maybe we continue pushing forward, believing that it will only take one more month or even just one more day. Rather than jumping straight back into the grind with something that may or may not be working, we can then take the time to reassess how things were going. Assess what you are happy with and take time to explore together what can be improved.

2. Read aloud. Devote time to reading books together. Try a new genre that your child normally shies away from or explore their favorite. We can’t go wrong in reading books with our children. It provides for a precious time to bond. Allow and even encourage them to fidget, crochet, spin, draw, or color as you read. It will keep tensions down and may enhance their ability to hear the story.

3. Special project. Find a project you can complete together. An added bonus is if the project is child-interest and child-led. This gives your special learner the opportunity to explore their interest and practice leadership skills. It will help grow confidence in them that otherwise they may not have the opportunity to obtain.

4. Experience days. Pick somewhere you can visit in person or online. Is there a museum, theatrical show, historical place, or park nearby? Remember to script the day out to help your special learner if that is needed. There is an adventure waiting for us all.

5. Get outside. Bundle up and spend time outdoors together. The vitamin D from the sunshine and fresh air can be a cure for the winter blues and crashes that come after the holiday parties and sweet treats. If you need ideas, search the internet, grab the IAHE’s *Exploring Indiana State Parks Guide* or *The Hoosier Homeschooler’s Guide to Field Trips*, or look up Ginny Yurich’s 1000 Days Outside challenge.

6. Educational toys. Give your child the free time to just play. Allow your child time to explore and enjoy the gifts they received for Christmas. Did they get stuffed animals? Let them plan a play and show off their imagination and talents to you. Did they get a Rubik’s Cube? Can they solve it? How fast can they complete it? Did they get a Lego or Robotics kit? Help them build it, or if they want their independence, just be beside them watching and praising their efforts.

7. Game time. Bring out the card games and board games to enjoy together. Games teach our children a lot about life: taking turns, patience, how to win and lose, and developing strategic thinking. Some of my family’s favorites include: Settlers of Catan, Hoot Owl Hoot, Happy Salmon, King of Tokyo, Sequence, Ticket to Ride, and Sleeping Queens. Check out *Incorporating Games into Your Homeschool* on IAHE’s website.

8. New skill. Allow them the opportunity to learn a new skill. Learning new skills can open our special learners up to find confidence in something outside academics. Some ideas to consider trying: sewing, crocheting, whittling, painting, cross-stitch, pickleball, photography, building computers, and coding.

Take some time to implement the suggestions above as you gradually help your special learner return to the structured schedule they both crave and may resist. “De-holidaying” will provide you and your child time to transition back into academics and strengthen your relationship after the hectic holiday season. Remember, learning doesn’t only take place at a table with worksheets. The strategies mentioned will foster immense learning while also creating opportunities to build a stronger bond with your child. ■



Staci B. Morgan, RN, MSN is the IAHE Special Learners Team Lead, serves on the IAHE Advisory Council, and is a homeschool conference speaker. She and her husband homeschool their children, all of which have an array of neurodiversities. Staci knows God wove her nursing and homeschooling knowledge together with purpose to share hope and help with other homeschooling families of special learners. In her spare time, Staci loves to read, write, teach children’s church, help with bible quizzing, and have dates with her husband.

What Keeps **YOU** Warm?

—Joann Burnside Hoyt



When the daylight hours begin to shorten and temperatures start to drop, what is one of the first things you do? Most likely, you curl up under a blanket or put on a hoodie and warm socks. Yet, have you ever considered why those items help keep you warm?

The way people have adapted to extreme cold and extreme heat over the centuries has significantly influenced the world we live in today. These climatic conditions affect agriculture, industry, manufacturing, and even education. As you explore this topic, take note of the various practices and knowledge from the past that benefit you and your family today.

Here are some topics to research to help you dive in a bit deeper.

What fuels and insulation have people used?

From creation to the late 1800s, wood fire was the primary way of heating, aside from constructing homes that maximized sunlight through radiant heat. Ancient Romans used hypocaust (underfloor

heating), portable braziers (boxes filled with coal), hot drinks and early bedtimes to cope with the winter chill. From the 1880s to the 1930s, there was a significant shift in America and Europe to transition away from burning wood. In the late 1800s, coal became a popular alternative, which was later replaced by oil heating in the 1920s and 1930s.

Once people learned how to effectively heat their homes and businesses, they focused on insulation to retain heat or keep out the cold. Ancient Egyptians utilized mud to help keep the heat out of their home, whereas Vikings used mud to insulate their homes from the cold. During the Middle Ages, beautiful tapestries were hung to absorb some of the moisture and provide warmth from stone walls and floors of the homes.

Asbestos, originally used by the Ancient Greeks, gained popularity during the Industrial Revolution. The 20th century witnessed a variety of advancements in insulation materials, driven by the demand for flame-retardant options and the growing awareness of the dangers associated with asbestos. Consider doing further research on the benefits and challenges of various heating methods and insulation techniques.

■ **WATCH** ➔

Why We Don't Insulate with Acorns (or Asbestos) Anymore



How does what you wear keep you warm?

For centuries, wool and fur were the primary materials used in cold climates, and many people still wear them today. Wool helps keep your body warm because the fibers have spaces that trap your body heat in, keeping you warm. The hollow fibers of fur also help insulate by trapping your body heat in. Currently, there is a growing trend in the United States toward the use of natural fibers, such as cotton, linen, and silk. But, are natural fibers better than more recently developed synthetic performance fabrics for maintaining body temperatures? Consider doing additional research on the benefits and challenges of various natural and synthetic fabrics.



Why is Wool Warmer than Cotton?



Why would keeping things really cold be a help to us?

Before modern refrigeration, ice was used to keep food and other items cold. Ice had to be harvested during the winter months and then stored for use throughout the year. Consider researching how ice houses functioned, which is where large chunks of river or lake ice were stored and insulated with sawdust.

Another great topic to research is how residential ice boxes (an early type of refrigerators) were constructed to keep the food inside cold and prevent spoilage. In urban areas, residents would have ice delivered to their home. Consider drawing a picture of an ice wagon to illustrate this.

In warmer climates, ice houses keep things at cooler temperatures. However, ice houses, sometimes called igloos, are built in extreme colder climates to protect and shelter against the cold weather. How can cold, packed snow or ice insulate and protect against the even more frigid temperatures of extreme cold climates?



Evolution of Refrigerators



Consider the Science of Staying Warm

To make your home or body warmer than the outside air, you need two essential elements: heat and insulation. First, you need to generate heat, which is a form of energy. This energy is necessary to increase the temperature of your surroundings. For example, to heat a bowl of soup, you must apply energy, perhaps by using a flame on your stove or a microwave. This process creates thermal agitation among the ingredients in the soup, causing it to become hot. After generating heat, proper insulation helps maintain the warmth you have created.

Now that you have a nice bowl of hot soup, how will you keep it hot? If you leave it sitting on the countertop while preparing the table for your family's lunch, the soup will begin to cool down steadily. This happens for two reasons. First, you removed it from the energy source that generated the heat. Second, you did not insulate it from the cooler surroundings.



How does heat move?

Let's discuss heat transfer. When an item is hotter than the things around its surroundings, heat will transfer to whatever is in contact with it. In the case of our soup, this includes the bowl holding it, the countertop it is sitting on, and the air around it. The process of heat transfer is known as radiation. Heat can also move through conduction and convection. Conduction occurs when something physically touches the energy source, such as a flame. Convection, on the other hand, transfers heat by moving the air around the heat source.

How do we stop the heat from escaping?

To prevent heat from escaping - whether from your house, your body, or a bowl of soup - you need insulation, specifically thermal insulation. Insulation creates a barrier between the hot (or cold) object and the surrounding air. Materials that are poor at transferring heat, like cloth or wood, provide good insulation. In contrast, materials that conduct heat well, such as metal or glass, are considered poor insulation. Air is also an effective insulator, which is why you find dead air space between layers of insulation. For example, there are pockets of air trapped between layers of puffy wool fabric or between panes of glass in a window. When you bundle up in a blanket or wear a hoodie, you create a barrier between yourself and the cold. This barrier works both ways, helping to retain your body heat and keep the cold air out.

Field Trip Inspiration

Let's explore how electricity, gas, and steam reaches our homes and businesses today to provide heat and so much more! Reach out to your local utility companies to see if they have tours or field trips available for individual families or groups. When speaking with your local electrical company, ask if they offer a live electrical line safety demo for kids. Some of Indiana's electrical companies also offer day camps to learn more about electricity and careers.

If unable to schedule a tour/field trip with your local services, check out neighboring energy groups. Below are some videos you can view for a virtual field trip option from Indiana utility companies.



Natural Gas Distribution Virtual Tour



Steam Plant Virtual Tour



Underground Storage - Natural Gas Virtual Tour





Insulating Ice Experiment

Supplies needed:

- Three matching, empty plastic bottles, like disposable water bottles
- Three larger plastic containers, like an ice cream bucket. *They must be wider than the water bottles and at least half as tall*
- Newspaper or brown paper
- A bath towel
- Saw dust (not wood shavings). *You can get bags of sawdust from cabinet shops or from woodworkers for free*
- Notebook and clock to record findings and keep track of melt time



Step 1. Fill the plastic bottles with exactly the same amount of water, filling the bottle half full. Place the bottles upright in your freezer for 24 hours.

Step 2. Find a place to set up the experiment where the temperature is consistent.

Step 3. Place 1 frozen water bottle in each bucket and place an insulator around it; wrap one bottle in the towel, folded to create layers, wrap the second bottle in several layers of newspaper/brown paper, and pack sawdust around the third bottle.

Step 4. Write down the starting time. Observe the bottles and record how long it takes each bottle to melt. Set up a timer to check on a regular basis and record the results. Pay attention to which insulator keeps the bucket from feeling cold.

I think you will be surprised at the results!

Edible Science: Insulating a Baked Alaska

Supplies needed:

- Cake or brownie mix
- Ice cream
- 4 egg whites
- 1/4 tsp cream of tartar
- 1/2 c sugar



Step 1. Choose a bowl (or individual ramekins) for an ice cream mold and line it with aluminum foil or plastic wrap. Pack the ice cream in the bowls tightly and freeze for several hours or overnight.

Step 2. Bake the cake or brownie mix as directed on the package or from your favorite recipe. Allow the cake to cool completely. Cut the cake to form a base that fits your ice cream mold. The base should be slightly bigger than the molded ice cream.

Step 3. When the cake is cooled and the ice cream well frozen, make the meringue. Preheat the oven to 450° F.

Step 4. To make the meringue, use a mixer to beat the egg whites on high until frothy. Then add the cream of tartar and beat until soft peaks form. Continue beating and add the sugar one tablespoon at a time until you have stiff glossy peaks. (Lift the beater out of the bowl – if the peaks stay standing up, your meringue is ready.)

Step 5. Place the cake on a cookie sheet. Then remove the ice cream from the mold and place it on top of the cake base.

Step 6. Use a spatula to quickly spread the meringue over the cake and ice cream, covering it completely. Make sure the meringue goes all the way down to meet the cookie sheet. (If you think your ice cream is getting soft quickly, you can put the dessert back in the freezer for 15-20 minutes before putting it in the oven.)

Step 7. Place on the middle rack in the hot oven and watch closely. Remove when the meringue is golden brown, about 3-5 minutes.

Serve immediately.

Keep an eye out in everyday life to see how we use insulating material. Talk to older friends and family members about how they stayed warm when they were younger. Notice how many things in your home produce heat or keep things cold.

There are so many things to consider—have fun!! ■



Joann Burnside Hoyt lives in NW Indiana. Her real-world experiences as a Christian wife, mother, widow, 27-year home educator, grandmother, small business owner, and now wife once more, all combine to “work together for good” as she draws from her life to bring humor and hope to her audience.

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