



HOMESCHOOL *Arizona*

Winter 2022

10,000 Hours of Homeschooling
Israel Wayne

A Crisis of Civic Illiteracy
Joel Grewe

**How We Teach Kids to Read
in Our Homeschool**
Tauna Meyer

2022 Convention Highlights!

Pack Up & Go! Field Trip Inspiration
Cindy Duell & Linda Crosby

Do Homeschoolers Get a Tax Credit?
AFHE Blog

AFHE EXISTS TO INSPIRE, PROMOTE, PRESERVE, AND SUPPORT HOMESCHOOLING.

YOUR STATEWIDE HOMESCHOOL ORGANIZATION IS HERE FOR YOU ALL YEAR LONG.



SENIOR HIGH GRADUATION

Celebrating high school graduation with a beautiful cap and gown ceremony



MAGAZINE

Sharing ideas and information in our full-color magazine



LEGISLATIVE TEAM

Watching legislation and issues that may impact homeschool freedom



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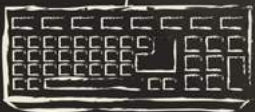
HOMESCHOOL CONVENTION

Annual gathering of families from across the state... encouraging and equipping parents in the homeschool journey



RESOURCES

Offering print and digital resources



ANSWER QUESTIONS

Providing answers to questions from new and experienced families alike



$$A + B = C^2$$

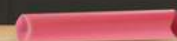
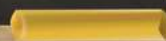


SUPPORT GROUP LIST

Helping families connect with local homeschool groups across the state

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Awarding college scholarships to Arizona homeschool graduates



AFHE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation run by a Christian board of directors. AFHE has been serving the needs and protecting the rights of Arizona's homeschool families since 1983.



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ABOUT AFHE

Arizona Families for Home Education (AFHE) is the statewide organization that has been serving the needs and protecting the rights of Arizona's homeschooling families since 1983. AFHE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational, religious, and charitable corporation directed by a Christian board. AFHE membership is available to all Arizona homeschool parents.

OUR MISSION

AFHE exists to **INSPIRE** parents to home educate their children; **PROMOTE** parent-directed home-based education; **PRESERVE** the freedom to homeschool; and **SUPPORT** parents who choose a home-based education option for their children.

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10,000 Hours of HOMESCHOOLING

by Israel Wayne, 2022 AFHE Convention Keynote Speaker

In 2008, in his book *Outliers*, best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell introduced a new concept into the American psyche. The “10,000-Hour-Rule” suggests that if you wish to truly excel in any field of endeavor, you need to dedicate 10,000 hours of focused and targeted practice, study, and development.

Successful musicians, athletes, artists, lawyers, actors, doctors, etc. have all given witness to investing this level of commitment into their craft.

According to the Center for Public Education, most states require between 175 and 180 days of school and/or between 900 and 1,000 hours of instructional time per year, depending on the grade level. Taking the lower number of 900 annual hours, this calculates to 10,800 hours of seat instruction for students enrolled in a K-12 government school.

Can you see where I’m headed with this? The goal of every involved parent is to seek to utilize those 10,800 hours to their maximum benefit.

Achieving Success.....

Every major leadership or management seminar insists that there are at least four major factors in achieving success in life. There are many other factors that I could mention, but let’s limit our focus to these four for right now:

1. Setting goals
2. Assigning Responsibility
3. Developing a Strategy
4. Insisting on a Deadline

Setting Goals

When it comes to education, what are your short-term and long-range goals? I often encourage parents to create a mission statement for their family, to explain why you exist and what your purpose is here on earth. If you can identify your primary purpose in living (the over-arching macro-story or “meta-narrative” of your life), you can then begin to understand all the parts of that equation. In logic, if something is true for the whole, or the universal, it is necessarily true for all the particulars as well. So, when you learn why God created you, and why you exist, you can then begin to make sense of all the smaller, daily aspects of your life.

Our family mission statement is this: “We exist to know, love, and serve God, and love and serve other people.” That is why we live. That is why we educate our children. That is why we teach multiplication and punctuation and geography. We want our children to know and understand the God who made everything (the visible and invisible things, as described in Colossians 1).

All our short-term strategies are designed to achieve that long-term, big-picture goal. All the tools and resources we implement are about helping to accomplish that ultimate objective in the lives of our children.

Assigning Responsibility

No task ever gets accomplished unless there is some very clear delegation of responsibility. Along with responsibility also comes the need for authority.

When it comes to our precious children, we dare not capriciously entrust their upbringing to just anyone. Those assigned to the task of educating and training children also need to have the determination and tenacity to stick with the process over the long haul, and follow it through to completion.

The next question quickly becomes, "Who cares enough for the well-being of this child, and who knows him or her closely enough and loves them deeply enough, to never give up, and always do what it is in the overall best interest of this child?"

For almost every parent reading this article, you have felt that your children would excel better under your guidance and direction for most of those 10,800 hours than they would under the tutelage of an institution full of strangers. I think it is important to note that no one else in the Bible is ever commanded to instruct children except for parents (and, in Deuteronomy 4:9, grandparents).

Developing a Strategy

In order to complete a project, you need to move beyond a mere vision to an actionable strategy. You need tools or means of production. In the process of education that may include textbooks, historical biographies, lab equipment, hands-on manipulatives, field trips, multimedia, and much more.

A beautiful advantage to parent-led home education is being able to customize a unique curriculum package for each individual learning style, at each grade level, for every child. The path will probably never look exactly the same for any two students, nor should it.

The person who knows this child the best, who understands the child's strengths and weaknesses, is the parent. Who better to customize and develop a tailor-made strategy for a child than the people who know and love him or her more than anyone else? Of course, it is Mom and Dad.

Insisting on a Deadline

After setting a goal, assigning responsibility, and developing a strategy, the next step in project management is creating action dates. Once you know what you want to accomplish, set dates for completing secondary goals. By what age should your child begin reading? When should he learn the multiplication tables? When should he understand the dynamics of the Second World War? If you use a standard curriculum, many of these decisions

will be laid out for you, and all you have to do is follow the guidelines.

Because every child learns at her own pace, and has unique learning styles, she may not always be on time with your outlined schedule. That's okay. You haven't failed as a parent. You just need to be patient and continue to advance on those subjects to the best ability of the student. The main thing is to know approximately what you want to cover in what time period.

But what about less tangible goals? What about issues of character and spirituality? By the time your child leaves your home, what life lessons will they need to have learned? Obviously, you cannot be responsible for how deeply and willingly they embrace those principles, but you can at least be certain that you have given them every opportunity to excel.

Part of training a child up "in the way he should go" (Prov. 22:6) is understanding God's calling on his or her life. That means helping your child to discern the trajectory of his life and determine how to best utilize the 10,000 hours it will take to become truly proficient in his endeavors.

Don't Miss Your Opportunity.....

The fact is, the 10,000 hours that could be invested strategically in some important life goal, will be spent on something. Will the 10,000 hours be spent on entertainment, government indoctrination, anti-Christian media, sports, video games, play, hanging out with peers, or ...? You'll never get those hours back. Your time is your life.

What is truly important in life, and how can you ensure that you are wisely investing your life into the important, rather than frittering your time away on what is meaningless? These are questions we need to ask ourselves and seek to answer in the lives of our children.



ISRAEL WAYNE is an author and conference speaker and Director of Family Renewal, LLC. His books include *Education: Does God Have an Opinion?*, *Answers for Homeschooling: Top 25 Questions Critics Ask* and *Raising them Up - Parenting for Christians*. He will be a keynote speaker at the 2022 AFHE Homeschool Convention.

FAMILYRENEWAL.ORG





A Crisis of Civic Illiteracy

by Joel Grewe

How long is a US senator's term in office? Can you name the general who led the American troops at the Battle of Yorktown? When was the Civil War fought?

If you know the answers to these American civics questions, you are in the minority.

According to a study commissioned by the academic watchdog group American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), when seniors at elite colleges were asked basic questions about our nation's history—questions typical of a standard high school curriculum—81% received the equivalent of a D or an F!

Only 20% could identify James Madison as the “father of the Constitution.” Nearly two-thirds were unaware that a senator's term is six years, and 43% could not even identify the chief justice of the US Supreme Court.

In a charge to the people of our newly formed nation, George Washington said, “*A primary object should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important? And what duty more pressing . . . [than] communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?*”

Healthy citizenship was important then, and it is important now. But as Washington pointed out, civic engagement first requires civic literacy—the knowledge of our rights and duties as citizens and an understanding of the structures that form our government. As civics educators, my colleagues and I consider there to be three key components of healthy citizenship training:

- 1 Teaching our young men and women to care about their liberty and be willing to guard it.
- 2 Ensuring that they are well educated in how their liberty works and how to preserve it.
- 3 Giving them confidence in that knowledge so they can be bold in communicating it to others.

As many years as I've worked as GenJ's executive director, my favorite part of the job is still seeing GenJ students' eyes light up as they begin to understand new lessons in civics, history, and politics.

It is our solemn responsibility—and, for me, a sincere pleasure—to help the future guardians of our country's liberties understand what liberty means. At GenJ, we believe these lessons are just as pressing and essential now as they were at our nation's founding—if not more so.

As the results from the ACTA survey show, there is a crisis of civic illiteracy among our nation's youth—and the long-term ramifications for freedom are grave.

That risk of lasting consequences is not one that GenJ is willing to take, and we are proud to say that many of GenJ's students stand in marked contrast to the typical college senior.

*Knowledge will forever govern ignorance:
and a people who mean to be their own
governors, must arm themselves with the
power which knowledge gives.*

– James Madison

The Founders of our country knew how essential it was for each generation to understand our government so they could participate in it.

GenJ is dedicated to training the next generation. We designed the curriculum *iCitizen: Civic Literacy for Young Americans* to be a staple of civic education for teens. It is used in individual homeschooling families, in co-ops, and in some private schools.

When my team and I were first writing *iCitizen*, we never contemplated a scenario where most students in America suddenly were schooled at home for a year. With the massive growth in home education over the past eighteen months there has been a corresponding surge in demand for high-quality civics curriculum.

freedom?

civics?

liberty?

government?

citizen?

2022 Convention News

AFHE announces...

Our 38th annual home education convention!

We are excited to join together once again for a weekend of learning, encouragement, and resourcing, focused and designed to serve Arizona's home educators! Please mark your calendars and invite your friends!

PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER

July 15-16, 2022

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & SPECIAL GUEST



TO BE ANNOUNCED ...

You won't want to miss this rare opportunity on Friday morning to hear from our Special Guest, a noted authority on American culture!



MIKE DONNELLY

Director of Global Outreach and Senior Counsel with the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), U.S. Army veteran, and homeschool dad



ISRAEL WAYNE

Author, columnist, speaker, radio host, founder of Family Renewal Ministries, homeschool graduate, and homeschool dad

2022
DRAFT

While we aren't revealing the 2022 theme just yet, we are pleased to announce our keynote speakers for this year! You will hear from three powerful communicators, all of whom are new to the AFHE Convention, each of whom will impart a vital message for our growing and thriving homeschool community.

Thursday Pre-Convention Events ... featuring a new daylong seminar!



Two Teen Program options: Generation Joshua & Lenspiration Photography!

We want people to be educated in how our government works. GenJ travels the country providing in-person education and training, helping high school students understand how their government works and their role in it as citizens.

Do you want your student to experience an immersive, robust civics education opportunity? We hope you will join us this year as we present the Teen Program for the AFHE Convention!

rights?



JOEL GREWE is the Executive Director of Generation Joshua and HSLDA Action. Joel started his life of advocacy in 6th grade, when he convinced his mother to homeschool him. He went on to work for Congressman J.C. Watts, then dived into the world of demographic research. Today, Joel draws on 20+ years of ministry and political experience to inspire a generation that, in his opinion, will change the world. Joel lives in the Washington, D.C. area with his wife, Christie, and their three children, and serves as an elected member of their local town council.

GENERATIONJOSHUA.ORG

republic?

DO ARIZONA HOMESCHOOLERS GET A Tax Credit?

*A shorter version of this article by longtime AFHE Board member Nancy Manos was previously published as a blog post at **AFHE.org**. This information is particularly helpful for newcomers to Arizona and for parents who are new to homeschooling. Visit the website for helpful FAQs, blogs, and resources.*

Do Arizona homeschool families receive a tax credit for educational expenses?

One of the questions we are asked regularly is whether there is a tax credit for homeschoolers or if homeschool materials can be deducted from one's income taxes. The short answer is no, in Arizona there is neither a tax credit nor a tax deduction for homeschool expenses.

AFHE Board Members have had many conversations with curious parents about this topic over the years. The general feeling people share is that we are paying taxes that go to the public schools, so we should get to use some of that money for educating our own kids.

The reality is that once you pay your taxes it is no longer your money. It becomes the State's money to spend as the State sees fit—and what the State funds it must regulate.

Many taxpayers don't have children or their children are grown and they don't get to take advantage of any benefits from those taxpayer dollars supporting the schools. Some public school families have one student and some have several, but their children's schooling is free regardless of how much they paid (or didn't pay) in taxes. We all pay taxes that go toward many things our families will never directly utilize or benefit from.

Another point of confusion is that some parents mistakenly believe the money that would be spent on their child's public school education is sitting in an account somewhere, designated for their child. This is not the case. Public school districts receive state and federal funds from taxes that have been collected and redistributed.

It is helpful to understand that when you choose to homeschool you are taking full responsibility for your child's education—including the financial responsibility—and that is an investment worth making.

Freedom from increased regulation and government interference is far more valuable than whatever small amount a tax credit might be. It is a privilege and a sacrifice worth making to invest in our children and their education.

The reality is that there is a financial demand that accompanies the decision to homeschool. The financial impact does not need

to be an obstacle, however. It is possible to homeschool even on a limited budget by utilizing some of the many money-saving opportunities available such as used curriculum sales, the local public library, and inexpensive or no-cost curriculum. You can homeschool your children economically and with excellence even without funding from the government.

*Arizona is one of the best states in the nation
in which to homeschool.*

We are essentially a notification-only state. We file an Affidavit of Intent to Homeschool for our children one time and we are required to provide instruction in at least the subjects of reading, grammar, math, science, and social studies.

What curriculum we use, what content we cover and when, what pace we go—these are all up to us as parents to decide based on our children's needs and interests. There are no reporting or testing requirements for Arizona homeschoolers, which allows us the freedom to provide an excellent education for our children in a manner that best meets their needs. We are able to teach to their strengths, allowing them to dive deep on topics of interest, and provide extra practice and opportunities to develop challenging areas.

With government money comes government strings. AFHE values the liberty parents enjoy in Arizona to be able to direct their children's education free from burdensome regulation or oversight.

We are certainly blessed to have the opportunity to choose this model of education for our children!

Check out the AFHE blog for posts on legislative issues, reports from AFHE events, common questions, "how-to" guides, encouragement from other homeschool parents just like you, and more!

AFHE.ORG/BLOG

AFHE would like to remind our members of valuable discounts and special offers that are currently available. For member access to these free or reduced-cost specials, just visit the AFHE website and log in on your member profile, then go to the MEMBERSHIP tab. It's that easy!



8 Great Smarts for Kids

Enroll for FREE in this course from Dr. Kathy Koch of Celebrate Kids, with video sessions that will encourage your kids in their own unique SMARTS!



The
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Writer

Enjoy \$10 off the registration for **The Green Writer**, the new course for aspiring authors of all ages from the bestselling author of *The Green Ember* series, S.D. Smith.



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Access the audio and video library, and enroll your student for a free class with Mr. Pudewa. Watch for additional free classes.



20% off AOP Curriculum

Flexible curriculum options for K-12, core subjects, and many electives. Offering online, print, or computer-based formats.

Many more benefits listed at the AFHE website!

Membership supports the work of your statewide organization year-round.

Consider supporting AFHE as a volunteer, as well! We have openings in several vital areas. Volunteering at events is open only to AFHE members.

Arizona Homeschool SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The scholarship application is
now open for graduating
homeschool seniors in Arizona.

Apply now at
[AFHE.org/resources/scholarship-fund](https://afhe.org/resources/scholarship-fund)



ARIZONA FAMILIES FOR HOME EDUCATION

Save The Date!
May 27, 2022



30TH ANNUAL
ARIZONA
HOMESCHOOL
GRADUATION

Registration Opens
January 3, 2022

www.afhe.org

Location: Grand Canyon University

Time to Pack Up and GO!



The High-Impact Potential of a Homeschool Field Trip

by Cindy Duell, AFHE Board Member
resourced by Linda Crosby

There's a joke among homeschoolers that we'll count nearly anything as a field trip or an educational experience.

"We're heading to Walmart, kids. Bring your clipboards and write down all the countries where they manufactured whatever I put into the cart. I'll be sure to find some stuff that's not from China this time."

"Hey, gang, as we're driving to church be sure you're looking for license plates from other states that you can mark on your map. Bonus points for plates from Canada!" (This was tough during the winter of 2021, right? May your snowbird license plate spotting be more fruitful this year, eh!)

"While we're waiting here in line at Dutch Bros, who can tell me why they use a windmill in their logo?"

While making the most of everyday opportunities is indeed a powerful benefit of the homeschooling lifestyle, there is much to be said for the strategic importance of occasionally choosing a special location to learn about and explore. These field trips have the potential to make a mighty impact on your students, as they learn outside their normal setting, safely encounter new environments and experiences, and put their lessons from home into context out in the wider world.

Make It "Special" to Make It Stick!

In fact, the very act of setting the day apart is an important element in the memory-building power of field trips. It's a day out of the ordinary, noted on the calendar or in the planner, eagerly anticipated, and often enjoyed with special people or good friends. The newness and unfamiliarity of our destination spurs our kids' brains to create new neural connections and take more notice of their surroundings. We can harness the distinct qualities of "field trip day" to lock in impressions, discoveries, and values that become integral ingredients in our children's learning.

Look back on your own childhood and teen years. Can you recall a field trip that was especially memorable, fun, or enlightening?

I grew up in Alamogordo, New Mexico. In sixth grade we spent several hours of class time preparing for a day-long trip to the nearby White Sands National Monument. On field trip day we took along special workbooks where we recorded nature study notes, sketched geographical features, located our route on a map, and had activities related to the military and NASA programs that took place in the region. That BIG field trip required a lot of prep for the teacher, and it was worth it! I gained a greater appreciation for the place where I lived and we took advantage of locally available resources for learning.

(Of course, in today's world with so many families utilizing homeschooling, many field trip destinations now have done the

work for you, with student guides offered online and onsite, and even giving you suggestions for pre-visit activities to help kids be primed and ready to fully appreciate what they will see and do there.)

As special as that day was, I also have memories of a particular field trip to a Renaissance festival at an orchard, where we spent the day simply having fun outdoors, watching the games and performances, and eating "fair food." The

salt-dough Christmas ornament (a cute pink pig) that I bought for my Aunt Bridget was my favorite purchase of the day. Low-level prep for a field trip, but high-level engagement and memory-making!

Need a Boost?

Here's another advantage gained by taking a field trip: it's usually a mood-lifter and can refresh a dwindling sense of enthusiasm. Often the months of February and March find us itching for a change. The weeks and months in our curriculum are dragging on, the end of the school year doesn't seem close enough yet, the fun of the holiday season is behind us, and the beautiful Arizona weather beckons. Even parents might feel restless or bored (ssshh! don't tell the kids!) with our routine. Time for a fun and inspiring outing!

Even if your excursion won't require advance prep activities or necessarily "fit" with something already there in the lesson plan,



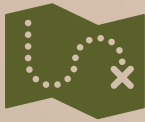
there are ways it can be used to enliven your homeschool before you go. Consider these ideas:



Ask your child about something new he'd like to do or see. His answer may surprise even you! Let his interest lead you to a corresponding destination.



Make a list of what you'll need for the day, and have your child collect the items in advance: binoculars, hat, sunscreen, colored pencils and sketchbook, magnifying glass, ruler, cash/coins, thank-you card, wet wipes, a special book for the car, and other things. This involves reading, planning, organizing, and serving others. BONUS!



Look at road maps together to determine your route and discuss what transportation you'll be using. A physical map is better for this than one on a screen. Point out where you'll see familiar landmarks along the way. Tracing a route, discussing why you'll use this road rather than that one, and naming other towns you might pass through will help your child picture and anticipate the trip.

There might also be a site map you can use to show her where you will park, the entrance and exit points, and the things you will see. "We will go in through this gate, and you can see that the animals will be off to our left. But before visiting them we'll be meeting a man in this building who will explain how the zookeepers do all the jobs needed to take care of the animals."

Notice that as you do this mapping your conversation can also include sequencing as you talk through what the day will hold. You'll be helping your child know what to expect and mentally prepare for it, and you'll see excitement build!



For example: "we will be going with Mrs. ____ and her kids ... we'll use a buddy system as we walk through the maze in the garden ... first we get to watch a short movie and then we'll go see the equipment and learn how the workers operate it ... we'll be walking down this trail and eating our lunch at the picnic area ... after the tour of the kitchen you'll get to decorate your own donut ... remember that we are trying to think of questions we can ask about space travel."

HERE'S SOME INSPIRATION ... although the options are endless!

Some ideas here are specific locations, and others are more general that can be adapted to what is available for you locally. We hope looking through these lists will help you think of even more! Most are local to Arizona but you can find opportunities anywhere you live.

CULTURE & HERITAGE

- Ballet performance by a local company or college
- Classical music performance
- Marching band performance or competition (high school or college)
- Senior musical recitals (college)
- Holiday pageant or musical
- Chalk art festival (Prescott, Tempe, Goodyear, Sahuarita)
- Musical Instrument Museum (Scottsdale)
- Churches: Mission San Xavier del Bac (Tucson); St. Mary's Basilica (Phoenix)
- Holiday parades, seasonal festivals
- Music or drama performance: Gammage Center (ASU); MoezArt or Christian Youth Theater (CYT); Greater Arizona Puppet Theater; any university theater department
- Art museum (search in your town); public art such as murals or statues
- Visit the home of a favorite author
- Cultural centers (CC): East Valley Jewish CC; Irish CC (Phoenix); Tucson Chinese CC
- Ethnic festivals: Highland/Celtic Games; Greek; "Tucson Meet Yourself"; Native American
- Center for Creative Photography (Tucson)
- Pottery or glass-blowing studios
- Blacksmith shop
- Theater behind-the-scenes tour

COMMUNITY

- Medical office: optometrist; dentist; research laboratory; blood donation drive
- Fire department, police station, search & rescue
- Television station, radio station
- Utilities: sanitation department; electric company; water treatment plant; Waste Management; recycling center
- AZ Dept of Transportation Command Center
- Hoover Dam, Cental Arizona Project
- Professional sports facilities
- Visit other community helpers: food bank, volunteer community service officers
- Ethnic markets and shopping districts
- Walking tours of historic districts (search your desired town)
- Animal shelters & rescues: Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue; Pima Animal Care Center; High Country Humane Shelter (Flagstaff); Herpetological Society
- Airport - Sky Harbor, regional airport
- Library - public or college/university
- Court building, city council, mayor's office



INDUSTRY

- Cement plant
- Grocery store, butcher/carnecería, bakery, ethnic food market
- Queen Creek Olive Mill
- Ping Golf Factory Tour (Scottsdale)
- Newspaper, publishing house/print shop
- Mine tour: Queen Mine (Bisbee); ASARCO Mission tour; Goodenough Silver Mine (Tombstone)
- Tonto Creek Fish Hatchery
- Aviation: Falcon Field; remote control airplane clubs; Pima Air & Space Museum
- Engineering labs at universities
- Architectural firm
- Trains: Verde Valley; Williams; McCormick Stillman Ranch
- Frito-Lay production facility (Casa Grande)
- Sheet metal fabrication or machinist shop
- Kyocera Solar (Scottsdale)
- Fender Musical Instruments (Scottsdale)
- Newspaper office and print shop

HISTORY

- Historic homes: Riordan Mansion (Flagstaff); Taliesin West (Scottsdale); Tucson Art Museum & Homes; Rosson House (Phoenix); Florence Historic Homes
- Grocery store, butcher/carnecería
- Walking tours of historic districts (search by town)
- Old cemeteries: Fort Bowie, pioneer cemeteries
- Pioneer Living History Museum, historical shows and re-enactments; Tubac Presidio
- London Bridge (Lake Havasu City)
- Casa Grande Ruins Nat'l Monument (Coolidge)
- Sharlot Hall Museum (Prescott)
- Ancient sites: Walnut Canyon; Montezuma Castle; Tuzigoot; Wupatki; Pueblo Grande; Casa Grande
- Old West history: Tombstone; Museum of the West (Scottsdale); Yuma Territorial Prison
- Heard Museum (American Indian art and history, Phoenix)
- Rodeos: Prescott, Tucson, Payson, Wickenburg
- Arizona State Capitol Museum & Bolin Plaza
- Historic Route 66
- Arizona State Museum (University of Arizona campus)
- Southern Arizona Transportation Museum (Tucson)
- Philatelic societies and museums (postage stamps)

RECREATION.gov – comprehensive online resource for over 100,000 sites nationwide; national parks, monuments, memorials, historic parks, etc.

AZSTATEPARKS.com – details and reservations for state historic parks, memorials, natural areas, hiking trails, and campgrounds

ONLYINYOURSTATE.com – lists of local attractions, oddities, eateries, and road trip routes

Note: We are unable to confirm or list the availability, health or security measures, websites, or prices at these venues and businesses. Please contact them directly for the most current information and policies.

AGRICULTURE

- Vineyard tours: vineyards in Sonoita, Verde Valley, Sedona, Sierra Vista
- Shamrock Farms Dairy tour - Stanfield (near Casa Grande)
- Educational displays at county fairs
- Lavender farms: Pine Creek Canyon, Red Rock Lavender Festival
- Queen Creek Olive Mill
- Plan a "5 C's of Arizona" unit and accompanying excursions (Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, Climate)
- U-pick farm/orchard tour: Schnepf Farms, Vertuccio Farms, Apple Annie's, Cotton Lane Citrus, many others
- Ranch tour (working or historical): Date Creek Ranch, Historic Canoa Ranch, Manistee Ranch, MacDonald's Ranch
- Community gardens: Tucson Village Farm, Colton Community Garden, many others
- University of Arizona Extension Office has agricultural centers around the state
- Master Gardener classes
- Sheep and wool farms (alpacas and llamas!)
- Large animal/livestock veterinarian practice
- Visit a farmer's market and talk to the vendors
- Visit a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) location

SCIENCE & NATURE

- Caves (great to visit in the summer): Kartchner Caverns, Lava River Cave, Colossal Cave
- Miniature Horse Show (Scottsdale)
- Tonto Natural Bridge
- Tucson Gem & Mineral Show - internationally renowned main show (February 10-13, 2022) at the Tucson Convention Center, with ancillary shows throughout the downtown area and around town during that week
- Palo Verde Generation Station (nuclear power)
- Geocaching
- Meteor Crater
- Deer Valley Rock Art Museum
- Tucson Petting Zoo & Funny Foot Farm
- Guided hikes in state parks and national parks: Spur Cross (Cave Creek); Trail 108, West Fork (Sedona)
- Sunset Crater Volcano National Park - seismic readings
- Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research (Univ of AZ, Tucson)
- Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum - highlighting flora and fauna of our geographic region (world-renowned)
- Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Desert Botanical Garden, Japanese Friendship Garden, local botanical gardens
- Audubon Society
- Local birding groups often organize outings and can provide guidance for beginners (find them on Facebook)
- Aquatic/riparian locations: Canyon Lake, Rose Canyon Lake, Lake Pleasant, Verde River, Salt River, Dry Beaver Creek, Woods Canyon Lake (utilize printed educational guides or tours with rangers, read interpretive signs)
- Grand Canyon Deer Farm, Bearizona, Out of Africa
- Astronomy: Lowell Observatory, Mt. Lemmon Sky Center, Kitt Peak National Observatory, local clubs
- Walnut Canyon's diverse climates
- Biosphere 2 (Oracle) - designed to simulate a space colony
- Meteorology station or weather reporter



THE GRAND CANYON

We live in the GRAND CANYON STATE, and there are endless adventures and learning experiences to be had at this grandest of sites when you begin to explore all that is available. The [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) website has information about the national parks aspect. Here are more learning ideas, just waiting to become milestone field trips:

- Camping, hiking
- Havasupai people
- Powell Expedition
- Kolb Studio - photography, movie making
- Wildlife
- Climate zones
- Phantom Ranch, Bright Angel Lodge, El Tovar, and other lodges, and history of Grand Canyon tourism
- Contrast the South Rim and North Rim
- Study Mary Colter (architect)
- Geology
- Travel by mule, river raft, or train
- Literature, music, and art featuring the Grand Canyon: Marguerite Henry's "Brightly of the Grand Canyon"; Thomas Moran paintings; Zane Grey novels; Ferde Grofé's "Grand Canyon Suite"
- Visit [grcainhistory.org](https://www.grcainhistory.org) and [grandcanyon.org](https://www.grandcanyon.org) for a wealth of information and educational resources

Your AFHE membership card or notarized homeschool affidavit can often be used for homeschool discounts; check Groupon or Living Social for great deals on tickets, too!

AFHE thanks Linda Crosby for her helpful compilation of field trip ideas.

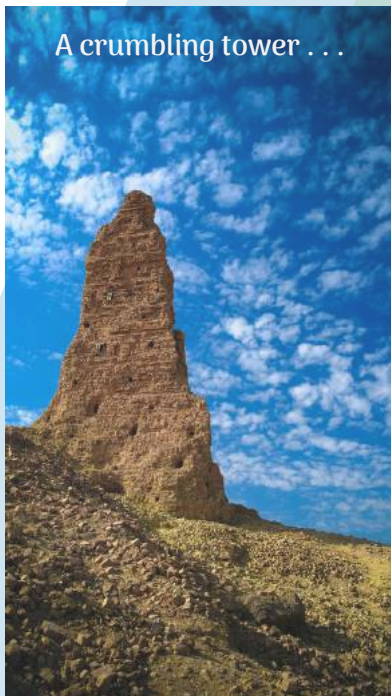
LINDACROSBY.ORG

Building Self-Esteem vs. Biblical Encouragement

by Beth Mora

"Build a child's self-esteem," the experts said. "If a child feels good about themselves and is confident in themselves then they will grow up into strong healthy adults." Brick by brick the tower of "Building Self-Esteem" was built and swayed public opinion for years. Standing in stark contrast, God's building technique lays a foundation to build a home that serves. It starts with Christ, the cornerstone. From there, He molds and fashions us into His image. God's building strategy also includes a call to every Christian to encourage each other with Biblical encouragement instead of building self-esteem. His construction holds up over time.

Why did the Self-Esteem Tower fall into the dust? "Building a child's self-esteem" is a repurposed Tower of Babel, the iconic skyscraper of man's desire to make a name for himself and raise himself above God. Throughout history, attempt after attempt has been made to formulate fool-proof fortresses only to see them become ancient ruins. The Tower of Building Self-Esteem is no different.



"The Washington Post said:

"For decades, the prevailing wisdom in education was that high self-esteem would lead to high achievement. The theory led to an avalanche of daily affirmations, awards ceremonies and attendance certificates — but few, if any, academic gains." (Chandler, M., January 15, 2012)

And Forbes magazine notes:

"Helicopter parenting, along with other forms of over-parenting, have come under considerable criticism in recent years for creating a generation of kids who can't problem-solve for themselves. Now, a related parenting behavior — 'overvaluing' one's kids — has come under similar fire." (Walton, A., March 9, 2015)

This is not surprising.

The false gospel of Self-Esteem is dangerous. Here are four reasons why this weak edifice is so damaging:

Cultural Mistake #1

Children are in the wrong place in our priorities, taking precedence over Mom and Dad's marriage (example: children's activities have a higher priority than Mom and Dad's date night or time together).

Cultural Mistake #2

Parents and teachers give children praise and encouragement for low achievement or self-serving endeavors (example: praising "achievements" that require no effort or serve only the child's interests).

Cultural Mistake #3

Parents delay children's responsibility milestones (example: taking on a job, learning to drive, engaging in personal finances, or facing the consequences of their actions).

Cultural Mistake #4

God has been left out of the worldview of our culture (example: removing God from the lesson plans of a "neutral" secular education).

These cultural mistakes are the flimsy aluminum matrix of self-centeredness and self-importance, displacing sturdier material. The results? The tower is tumbling down.

What secular psychologists attempted to formulate without God is a counterfeit. They constructed the Self-Esteem Tower with weak material rather than using God's Word.



sin-of-choice. Encouraging each other is God's preventive medicine.

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:13

So what's the difference between building worldly self-esteem and Biblical encouragement? Let's compare.

We learn from the Bible who we are as humans. We learn who we are with God and who we are without God. With this solid foundation, the Master Builder can begin construction, building not a tower of pride but a house to serve and bring glory to our Master.

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

Psalms 127:1

However, as the Lord builds anew in our lives, He asks us to yield to His calling, to His service, and to His transformational work. I don't know about you, but at times this walk of faith paralyzes me in fear. Failure grips my soul like a vice. Unfair incidents plague my mind and the injustice is replayed over and over. The frustration of repeated tasks producing little to no results has led me to speak defeating words like, "What's the use?"

Fatigue, frustration, failure, discouragement, injustices, and fear are shared human experiences. Even the men and women of the Bible were well acquainted with life's struggles. We are not alone. No one is exempt, not even our children. We need courage to take the next step of faith. We need words that will place us "in courage" or in a place of courage. We don't need the empty praise of self-affirmations but rather encouragement to rely on God's strength.

In fact, we are not commanded to build *ourselves* up, but to encourage *each other* daily in order to prevent our hearts from being hardened! When our hearts are hardened, the temptation to sin starts to look appealing and, sadly, we venture into our

Value

Worldly Self Esteem: You are more valuable than others.

Biblical Encouragement: You are valued because God chose to love you.

Talents

Worldly Self-Esteem: You are so talented and smart.

Biblical Encouragement: God has given you a beautiful talent and responsibility. I am excited to see how God will use that in His great plan as you yield to Him.

Relationships

Worldly Self-Esteem: I know your little brother is bothersome — don't lower yourself to his level; just stay away from him.

Biblical Encouragement: I am proud of you for taking the time to work out your differences with your brother. I can see God shaping you to be a peacemaker.

Justice

Worldly Self-Esteem: You are right; that's not fair. I'll take care of this for you.

Biblical Encouragement: There are lots of things that seem unfair and this is one of them. Let's seek God and his Word and discover what He wants you to do.

We have a choice either to build a prideful tower or let God build a home to serve. The Self-Esteem Tower is constructed using weak beams labeled "value-of-self-independent-of-God" and is designed to prevent negative feelings. The Biblical Encouragement Home is built with acknowledging Christ as our cornerstone, recognizing who we are in Christ. The strength of

its framework is courage and a reliance on God's strength, to serve and provide shelter and peace.

Prideful man will continue to build towers built on self-esteem, but eventually they crumble into a heap of dust. God's command to encourage will last through the ages, and the house that is built by the Lord will endure.

*Therefore encourage one another
and build up one another..
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

We all need true encouragement, and our children need it from us most of all. Let's generously give biblical encouragement and build each other up in the Lord.



BETH MORA can be found jogging while singing off-key near her home in Washington. She is the creator and teacher-on-camera for *Here to Help Learning's Homeschool Writing Program* for grades 1-6. Beth loves blogging at *Home to Home* and every week, she serves up *Here to Help Learning's "Writing Tip of the Week"* for those who are serious about teaching their kiddos how to write. Everything she does is done to honor One, without apology. God's grace is the salve that has healed her own life, and God's grace is what she offers liberally to others.

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How We Teach Kids to Read in Our Homeschool

by Tauna Meyer

I love being a homeschool mom. I love that I get to be the one to teach our kids to read in our homeschool. I cherish the close learning time, the lightbulb moments, and the excitement when things finally click.

But let's be real ... it's not always a walk in the park. I remember one day in particular, before the lightbulb came on for one of my sweet sons. His big, dark blue eyes looked up at me with a concerned expression as I pointed to the letter on the page. My finger pressed just under the "s" as I waited patiently for him to say the corresponding sound. And for the fifth time that afternoon, his answer was "tuh?"

I just kind of stared at him for a moment, not knowing what to say. It was clearly not a t. Neither was it p, m, or u, for that matter. So I just stared and smiled (and maybe twitched a little) trying to figure out the next step. I finally landed on "um ... hey, let's have a snack!" Snacks always help.

Fast forward and now that same child is progressing well and about to launch into independent reading with confidence. A big reason for that is because we chose to go at his pace instead of rushing it.

The idea of teaching our children to read is one that has given many a homeschool mom anxiety over the years. We wrestle with all sorts of questions ... What if we don't do it right and they struggle through school? What if we don't start when we should, or we push it too early and kill their joy of reading? What if they have learning challenges?

It turns out, teaching our children to read is usually not as complicated as we think it is, and there is a lot of wiggle room when it comes to the when and how of teaching reading. So I'm sharing a peek into how we teach kids to read in our homeschool and some tips based on my own experience.

Three Important Steps BEFORE Teaching Reading

It's tempting to jump right into buying a curriculum and starting out on reading lessons. But there are a good handful of years where laying the foundation is just as important. Here are three areas we focus on intentionally in our home:

PLAY WITH LETTERS AND SOUNDS

This happens in daily living, especially if you have older kids in the mix. But you can also use some simple and fun ideas to help your kids learn letters and sounds through play. Play with magnetic letter tiles together, review the beginning sounds of animals, read ABC books, and more.

READ ALOUD OFTEN

Reading aloud is one of the most satisfying and fruitful aspects of our homeschool life. Start early and *keep reading to those teens, too!*

Begin with one short read aloud session and build up to longer and more frequent sessions. Older kids can help by taking turns reading aloud when you have to tend to a younger sibling. Nowadays, we read aloud during most mealtimes (when Daddy isn't home) plus one more session in the afternoon. Do what works for you. **Audiobooks count, too!** Consider setting a quiet time, perhaps after lunch, when your kids can listen to audiobooks while they play with Legos, color, or do handicrafts. They're fantastic for car rides!



PROVIDE A FEAST OF GOOD BOOKS

Fill your home with good books and a lot of variety. We have baskets and bookshelves around the house that I refresh every so often with new or rotated books. Occasionally I'll spread a selection of books across the coffee table for the children to just pick up and enjoy at their leisure. And, of course, letting them see you read books for learning and pleasure models how important and fun reading is.

Book lists can help inspire you with ideas to add to the reading pile. Here are some I've enjoyed. I recommend previewing or at least looking up reviews for books you give your children. Even with wonderful book lists from great sources, we've sometimes found content that didn't quite work with our worldview and/or the maturity level of the child.

Book Lists

- Raising Girls with Character-Building Books, a list from Deep Roots at Home
- Character Building Books for Boys, a list from Raising Real Men
- 1000 Good Books List from Classical Christian Education
- Simply Charlotte Mason book list
- The Read Aloud Revival Book Lists
- Great Books lists from All About Learning
- Book lists from The Redeemed Reader

Books About Books

- **Honey for a Child's Heart** by Gladys Hunt
- **Honey for a Teen's Heart** by Gladys Hunt
- **Books Children Love** by Elizabeth Wilson
- **Read for the Heart** from Sarah Clarkson

When Do You Start Teaching Kids to Read?

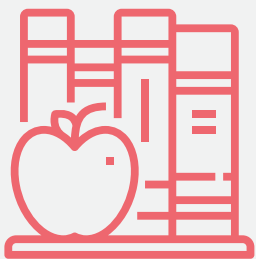
Moms are often concerned about what age they should teach their child to read. They see friends or public schools teaching it in kindergarten, so of course they think they need to teach reading then as well. However, what often happens when a child isn't ready is a battle of the wills, buckets of tears, or the assumption that there is a learning problem.

There are times when learning struggles or dyslexia are a legitimate issue and some outside help might be needed to figure those out. I suspect that the natural pace that a few of my kids have had with speech and reading may have been labeled a special needs issue had I not just given them the time and space to go at their own rate.

When it comes to reading, I'm convinced that how ready children are is more important than how old they are. Pushing them too hard or too soon is tempting for us parents, but it always leaves them frustrated and adds unnecessary obstacles to the natural learning process. Whether they start "late" or "early," once they are truly ready, they will learn more efficiently and will soon be reading along with the rest. Understanding some basics about reading readiness and observing your child to watch for those cues will do much to set you both up for success!

WHAT IS READING READINESS?

Here are some things I watch for. Only one of my children did *all* of these before we started lessons, but the more of these types of things begin to happen, the more I recognize that they are growing in reading readiness.



- They begin to notice letters and sounds and recognize a relationship between them (a great time for sound and letter play).
- They start to pretend to read or dictate notes to me or older siblings.
- They begin to play with rhyming or word plays.
- They show interest in what road signs or labels say and make guesses or ask us to read them.
- They ask questions about the books I read to them.
- They tell someone else what they heard in a story, narrating to them in a simple way.
- They have developed the attention span to handle a 10- to 15-minute reading lesson.
- They flat out ask me to teach them to read.

Once you decide they have shown readiness and you start reading lessons, you may find that as you get into the lessons they hit a roadblock and become discouraged. If there is a basic skill ("tuh") that they can't seem to move beyond, don't despair! They

may not be developmentally ready, and it's completely fine to take a break for a few months and then try again or try something different. We have done this a few times and never regretted it. Your child will be okay and will learn to read in their own time!

Curriculum and Resources I Recommend

I'm an eclectic homeschooler, which basically means I draw from many methods and materials and just do what I want. Over the years I've developed some favorite resources that I either use all the time or would highly recommend checking out.

- **Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons.** People either love or hate this book. It's inexpensive and you can likely check it out from the library to give it a try. We've used this with most of our kids and, while fairly dry, it usually gets the job done. We print a blank 100s chart and use stickers to mark progress. I do NOT make them finish the book, but if they do, they get a prize at the end. A similar book that some prefer is **The Reading Lesson**.
- **All About Reading:** For one of my kids (Mr. "Tuh"), we couldn't get through even one of those "100 easy lessons" until he had completed the All About Reading Pre-Reading level. And he enjoyed every minute of it! After that, he got about 2/3 of the way through Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons and then asked to do the next level of All About Reading instead. In retrospect, we could have just moved forward with AAR. He prefers those lessons and the readers that come with it!
- **Pathway Readers.** We got a set of these a couple of years ago and I wish we had them sooner! They go from Kinder to 8th grade and make great joint read alouds and gentle reading reinforcement. You can also get workbooks to go along with these, but we just use the books.
- **Learn to Read by Christian Light Education.** We use the math and some other pieces from CLE curriculum and really enjoy them. Their Learn to Read curriculum is something I got in the early days of our homeschool but never really used. With one of my recent kiddos, I decided to go through this series since I had it on hand and he needed a little extra in terms of phonics. Learn to Read uses workbooks, flashcards, and short readers. It's simple but it's working well for that child!

As you can see, I've tweaked each child's reading program based on what seemed to fit their needs best. Watching for reading readiness and going at their pace (as well as observing their learning style) was just as big a factor in their success as the curriculum that was chosen.

They're Reading. What's Next?

Once a child is able to read or has finished the curriculum, sometimes it's a little unclear what the next steps should be. Here's what we do, although I'm sure many more ideas will come to mind on this fun journey of teaching your kids to read!

- **Keep reading aloud** and providing lots of great books to read.
- Bring in some **early readers**, leveled readers from the library, and books like Dr. Seuss to practice with. Pathway Readers and similar series can help as well.
- If you haven't already, begin **having them narrate back** to you in their own words what the story was about. Do this one page at a time and build up from there. Children learn skills through the practice of narration that help with comprehension and, later, written composition.
- Around 3rd grade we start a "**reading challenge**" where they pick a book to narrate to me, then I pick a book for them to read and narrate to me. It's a great way to incorporate new genres and topics.
- If you really want **something more formal** to add after reading lessons are over, check out the Reading curriculum from CLE (different from Learn to Read, and it teaches comprehension). I have a daughter who loves it and refuses to stop! Also look into the BJU Press Reading curriculum.

The Bottom Line on Teaching Kids to Read

No one size fits all when it comes to reading! I've had kids start anywhere from age 4 to 7. Go at your child's pace and watch for readiness. If something isn't working, just relax and evaluate whether you can tweak your approach, take a break, or find something new to try.



TAUNA MEYER is a Jesus follower, wife, mom, [domestically challenged] homemaker, homeschooler, and writer. Her passion is to help women pursue God's call on their lives—no matter the learning curve—and rely on Him to equip us for the task! You'll find her at Proverbial Homemaker bringing you encouragement and tools for your journey.
PROVERBIALHOMEMAKER.COM

Happy reading!

DAYS TO REMEMBER

Arizona becomes a state 1912

February
14

Arizona became a U.S. Territory during the Civil War, while Abraham Lincoln was president, and remained a territory for about 50 years before becoming a state.

- The first capital of Arizona was Prescott. The capital was later located in Tucson, then Prescott again, and finally Phoenix.
- Arizona became the 48th state. What were states #49 and #50? Do you think we will ever add any more states?

100 points scored by 1 player 1962

March
2

Wilt Chamberlain, playing basketball for the Philadelphia Warriors, scored 100 points in a single game. This achievement set the single-game scoring record (which still stands) for the NBA.

- Chamberlain was one of the first players who regularly used the slam dunk during games. At the time, dunking was considered poor sportsmanship and was not very popular.
- Have you ever won a game by a wide margin? How did it feel? Have you ever lost really badly at a game? How did it feel? Do you know how to win well and lose well?

First American dictionary 1828

April
5

Noah Webster published the first dictionary of American-style English in two volumes containing 70,000 entries. He saw his work as a way to unite the citizens of our young country and separate us from the influence of Britain - by standardizing an "American" language.

- To research the words he included in his dictionary, Webster learned 28 languages! It took him 26 years to complete the work.
- Webster said the education he received at his local primary school was dismal, which motivated him to improve education for later generations. He wrote a series of spellers, grammar books, and readers; his "Speller" became the most popular American book of its time and helped create the contests known as "spelling bees."

February
27

1950 22nd Amendment ratified

The 22nd Amendment to the Constitution was adopted to limit how long someone can be the President of the United States. The limit was set at two four-year terms with a maximum of ten years.

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt was our longest-serving president. How many times was he elected?
- How many amendments (changes) have there been to the U.S. Constitution? What is the special name we use for the first ten amendments?

March
20

1922 First U.S. Navy aircraft carrier

The U.S. Navy's first aircraft carrier, the USS Langley, was commissioned in Portsmouth, Virginia. This introduced a new era in naval warfare and strategy.

- The Langley was 542 feet long and featured turbo-electric power. How long are modern aircraft carriers and how are they powered?
- The design for the Langley originally included a carrier pigeon house; pigeons had been used aboard seaplanes for message transport since World War I. There was a mishap during a training exercise and the whole flock was released at once, and they never returned to the ship. The pigeon house became the executive officer's quarters.

April
30

1789 First American President

George Washington became the first President of the United States on this date; he took the oath of office in New York City.

- Washington was elected to two four-year terms, then chose to leave public office. As the first president, many of his decisions and choices established patterns and customs followed by later presidents.
- Many places have been named after our first president. Do you know any towns, streets, or parks called Washington?

Welcome to the AFHE BOARD

DAVID & CHRISTINA GARRETSON

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

David and Christina met many years ago in elementary school. Actually, David was a custodian there and Christina was working in the after-school program. After dating for two weeks Christina informed David that she wanted six children and that she planned to homeschool! Three years later, in 2004, they were married.

David earned his B.S. in computer information systems and a M.S. in information systems management. He uses his tech skills to run his two businesses: Garretson Technology, which specializes in developing custom software, and Ansible Systems, with a focus on helping small businesses and government to use technology to communicate better. Christina operates her own Color Street business where she gets to lead, encourage, and empower other moms while having fun selling dry nail polish.

The Garretsons homeschool their five children Victoria, DJ, Ben, Noah, and Lizzy. They have served on the board of their local support group, Christ's Family Homeschool Ministry (CFHM), for six years and are currently the President couple. The Garretsons attend church at Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV) and serve in the children's ministry and as Bible study leaders. The Garretsons are thrilled to join the AFHE board. For the last two years Christina has been the AFHE Graduation Coordinator, and they both look forward to using their time and talents to further AFHE's mission to "inspire, promote, preserve, and support" every family's right to homeschool.



JEFF & MICHELLE JIBBEN
NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff and Michelle met and married during college. Shortly after graduation, God redirected Jeff from pursuing a graduate degree in the sciences to attend seminary. He went on to serve several churches as senior pastor for over twenty years. Jeff is now part of the faculty in the College of Theology at Grand Canyon University where he appreciates the opportunity to impact students for Christ. Michelle has served AFHE since 2016 on the Convention team, and enjoys encouraging families in the many stages of their homeschool journey.

The Jibbens have homeschooled their four sons from kindergarten through high school since 1996—first in Minnesota, and then in Arizona since 2010. They are currently finishing high school with their youngest, and are also proud grandparents to one. As they celebrate 35 years of marriage this year, Jeff and Michelle are passionate about faith, families, and lifelong education. They are excited to serve the homeschool community in a new capacity through the AFHE mission of inspiring parents, promoting homeschooling, preserving homeschool freedoms in Arizona, and supporting families.



Our deepest thanks to these couples >>>>>>>>
retiring from the **AFHE BOARD**

MICHAEL & KRISTINA ABBOTT



Michael and Kristina Abbott joined the AFHE Board in August 2020, and we joyfully thank them for their vital contributions to our organization.

Michael's professional experience and analytical approach were a perfect fit as he carried out the position of AFHE Treasurer with excellence. Moreover, at his instigation and with his leadership AFHE developed and launched our mobile app in 2021. Michael was the "champion" this project needed.

In an extraordinary season, Kristina assisted hundreds of people who reached out to us via phone and email, connecting parents with the information and resources they sought. Kris was deeply involved in our 2021 events, and she continues working with our 2022 graduation committee. Her service on the AFHE Board has inspired Kris to seek out homeschool mentoring opportunities.

It has been a joy and honor to serve with and for the families of AFHE over the past eighteen months. We pray that God will continue to bless our community and the amazing families that make up our organization. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

- Michael & Kristina Abbott

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Thank you for supporting the work of AFHE with your annual membership! Your support helps us to **INSPIRE** parents to home educate their children; **PROMOTE** parent-directed home-based education; **PRESERVE** the freedom to homeschool; and **SUPPORT** parents who choose a home-based education option for their children.

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PETER & ALLISON GENTALA



Peter and Allison Gentala announced their retirement from the AFHE Board at the AFHE Convention in July 2021, after nearly five years of wholehearted and impactful service and leadership for the Arizona homeschool community.

Peter served as AFHE Board Vice President and then as President, prayerfully and humbly guiding AFHE through the tumultuous years of 2020 and 2021. Peter's background as an attorney serving nonprofits and working with the state legislature have been of immense benefit, providing critical experience within AFHE's Government Affairs team as we evaluate proposed legislation and interact with various members of state government.

Allison also served in Government Affairs as our registered lobbyist and spent innumerable hours at the state capitol, meeting with legislators or their staff and attending committee meetings. In 2021 she found she could work even more efficiently as most interactions had to move to virtual meetings, allowing her greater flexibility than being onsite.

While on the board, Allison passionately pursued development of support and guidance for families who are homeschooling their children with special needs. In 2021 she presided over AFHE's first free "Getting Started Homeschooling with Special Needs" mini-conference, and she has presented workshops at our convention to address these families' questions.

Homeschooling has been such a blessing to our family. After being homeschooled and then homeschooling our children, we are entering a new season in life. We love all our homeschool friends and look forward to staying in touch with each of you over the years to come.

- Peter & Allison Gentala



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