

2010 Graduate Recognition

Would you like to publicly recognize the hard work and achievements of your homeschool graduate? This June, in conjunction with the annual conference, OCEANNetwork will hold a graduate recognition ceremony at the Oregon Convention Center. The ceremony recognizes the completion of an academic milestone in the life of your child and your family.

Graduate Recognition provides an opportunity for friends and family to honor the hard work of students and parents alike. The God-honoring ceremony also provides encouragement for younger homeschool families to continue homeschooling.

If you would like your student to participate in OCEANNetwork's 2010 Graduate Recognition, please contact bullocks@oceanetwork.org for more information.

OCEANNetwork Conference June 25 & 26, 2010

You'll want to save the dates for the 16th annual Oregon Christian Home Education Conference June 25 and 26, 2010. Once again it will be held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland where we have room for many workshops to equip and encourage you, a 30,000 square-foot exhibit hall, a used curriculum sale and the graduate recognition.

Make it a special weekend for mom and dad or a family vacation. Children and young adults are welcome to attend. See you there.

In Memoriam: Chris Klicka – 1961 – 2009

A longtime champion of homeschooling rights around the globe, Home School Legal Defense Association Senior Counsel and Director of State and International Relations Christopher J. Klicka was called home by his Lord on October 12, 2009, at age 48, following a 15-year battle with multiple sclerosis. An attorney, spokesman, lobbyist, and homeschooling husband and father, Chris is survived by his wife, Tracy, their seven children (ages 11–21), and his parents, Ardath and George Klicka.

“Chris was both a people person and a goal person. He cared deeply about people, but was also driven to always do more!” says HSLDA President J. Michael Smith. “He was the most determined person I ever met in my life. Even with all the things he accomplished every day at HSLDA, he continually wanted to tackle new challenges and serve homeschoolers in more and better ways. An integral part of Home School Legal Defense Association's staff for 24 years, Chris was HSLDA's first full-time employee, first executive director, and first full-time attorney. He believed passionately that homeschooling was the best educational method for children and demonstrated that passion in every area of his life.

He lobbied state legislators, U.S. senators, and foreign diplomats to support homeschooling. He sought greater freedom for homeschooling parents and students in every area—from local school districts to sports associations, college admissions

departments, and military recruitment requirements.

Even deeper than his passion for homeschooling was his deep love for his Lord. We may never know how many people Chris inspired to homeschool or continue homeschooling, or how many people he inspired to draw near to his Lord.

“Chris's accomplishments as a lawyer for homeschooling are clear and cannot be overstated. He was one of the most important pioneers of our movement,” says HSLDA Chairman Mike Farris. “He believed that this truly is God's way to teach children to love God.

HSLDA deeply appreciates and honors Chris's life and his dedicated contribution to our organization and to homeschooling. Our staff will miss him more than we can express, and we are praying with and for his family. The homeschooling movement has lost one of its greatest advocates and friends, but Chris leaves an incredible legacy of freedom and awareness of homeschooling to the thousands of homeschooled students whose parents have made The Right Choice.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” II Timothy 4:7-8

“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Revelation 2:10.

Excerpted from HSLDA's e-let service.

Homeschool Day: Inventors and Aircraft Evolution

Nov. 19, 9am-2:30pm
Evergreen Aviation and Space
Museum
McMinnville

Next in a series of specially designed field trip days for homeschoolers being presented by Evergreen Museum this year, this month's class will teach students what drives inventors. Middle school and high school students will learn about the evolution of aircraft from Curtiss Pusher to modern jets of today and then apply this to a hands-on inventor challenge. Classes are divided into two levels of students, K-4, and 5-12. Cost is \$15 for non-members, \$8 for members. Pre-registration suggested. For more information see their website at www.sprucegoose.org or Cory Fuqua at cory.fuqua@sprucegoose.org 503-434-4185 ext. 4463.

Moving On

By Christine Bullock

Last month our family moved across town from a home we had lived in for nine years. Now we are getting accustomed to new neighbors, new streets, and grocery stores. Some things are easier – our church is right next door. Some are harder. Moving is such a revealing thing. Possessions were reprioritized, only the things we would continue to use moved with us.

It was bittersweet as I packed boxes in our school room and made separate piles: things to go into the new house, and things we were finished with. The reality that kids grow up and that homeschooling is a process of constant change was brought afresh to my attention. This year we have a high school junior, two middle school students and a fourth grader. What a change from the day we moved in! Gone are the preschool games and lacing cards. Gone are the early elementary science experiments and lazy days spent

reading picture books. The bookshelves we use now are filled with physics textbooks, Drivers Ed and poetry books. Everything feels like it is more serious now that it is written on a transcript, even if it is a homemade one.

When we started this unique educational journey it was mostly for social and academic reasons. We figured that by middle school, or high school at the latest, we would put our children into private Christian school. By then we assumed our kids would be strong in the Lord and have a good academic foundation. But actually homeschooling changed our mindset. Learning at home was such a natural extension of our desire to raise Christ centered kids that once we started we were hooked.

I remember distinctly the year my husband took away the “get out of homeschool free” card and let me know that this had become the lifestyle choice for our family from then on out. The chance to spend time investing in the character of our kids as well as the academics changed our perspective. While I was very glad we had a plan, in the back of my mind there was part of me that was thinking about the door that had shut.

Knowing that high school and middle school were on the way I spent time with other parents who were already there. I wanted them to help me scope out the “neighborhood” of homeschooling older children. They told me what I needed to get me started by giving me the lay of land like my new neighbors who have pointed out the tricks to avoid traffic.

Since homeschool moms have what school teachers refer to as “prep years” every year as they teach one grade after another, bottlenecks happen. Sometimes we find that something just doesn't fit our child and needs to be changed; other times we find small repairs that need to be fixed quickly before they grow into major problems. You have to figure out what things go where. Where do we put the basics? Where are those

obscure but needed items going to go? What subjects do we need to most focus on to get us where we want to go? Surely there is something we can scrap completely because it isn't really that helpful even if it is on the state standards list? Planning out middle school and high school is a process of give and take.

As I washed walls and scrubbed floors in empty rooms, I remembered that homeschooling didn't come without mistakes and messes. There were times we had to admit we blew it as parents. Maybe it was our attitudes, our lack of consistency or poor planning. Many homeschooling moms of older children talk about “homeschool regret.” This is that feeling that we didn't do enough or missed an opportunity that will never return. Joy for this time can be stolen by regret. It is important that we keep looking ahead and not get sidetracked by what lies behind.

Romans 8:1 addresses this, *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”* As believers we know that the all powerful Father God can redeem the “years the locusts have eaten” when school took a back seat to life circumstances like mom's pregnancy, grandma's illness, or dad's unemployment. What we do with those seasons teaches so much to our children. We have the chance to take care of the problems, and not just overlook them. We have the opportunity to patch the holes with our children by our sides, using it as an object lesson for them to use in the future.

As much as I miss that precious stage of little hands and boys shorter than me, I am enjoying homeschooling in this new season. This is a good time and I don't want to waste a moment of it. I agree with those veterans who told me I would think it had all flown by far too fast.

The Bullocks saved a box of treasured books and irreplaceable games for their future grandchildren in their new home in Eugene.