

Fact Sheet & Seminar Topics...



Debra Bell

- Author, the best-selling *Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling*, (Thomas Nelson, 1997, 2001, 2005)
 - Forthcoming: *The Homeschooler's Guide to High School and College* and *Ultimate Guide, 10th Anniversary Edition*.
 - Keynote speaker, numerous state and regional conventions and High School @ Home seminars.
- English teacher, Creative Home Educators Support Services and PA Homeschoolers' Online Advance Placement English. www.pahomeschoolers.com
 - Director, Debra Bell's Home School Resource Center: debrabell.com
 - Founder, Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services; co-founder CHESS family school, Learning Center home school co-op and Encore! Home School Productions.
 - Doctoral candidate in Educational Psychology, Temple University; M.A. in English; B.S. in Communications Education, Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Personal: Married since 1981 to Kermit; 4 children, all graduates of homeschooling. Founding member of Living Hope Church, Harrisburg, PA. Twenty-five years involvement with Sovereign Grace Ministries – a church-planting mission in the U.S. and abroad. www.sovereigngraceministries.org

Seminar Topics:

HOMESCHOOLING FROM A FOUNDATION OF GRACE:

In this seminar we revisit what it means to live with the Cross central to our homeschooling life. What does it mean to start in grace, continue in grace and finish in grace so that God alone receives the glory for the fruit of our lives? Here is a practical framework for homeschooling with eternity always in view. Be liberated once again from self-sufficiency, self-righteousness and condemnation through the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

[\[Good keynote\]](#)

RECOVERING OUR VISION: WHY HOMESCHOOLING MAKES SENSE NOW MORE THAN EVER:

Do you ever lose sight of the reasons home educating sounded like a good idea in the beginning? Never forget the grand scope of God's plan in this particular means of grace in our lives! Hear examples of why this lifestyle has shown itself to be richly rewarding for

Christian families and how God is using those who have gone out into the world from this base. Then learn a few keys to making sure we do not miss the big picture and lose heart. [\[Good keynote\]](#)

CULTIVATING A LOVE FOR LEARNING IN OUR HOMES:

A love for learning is a blessing God has for His children – one that is meant to enrich our lives, give us purpose and draw us into a quest to know the Creator. This workshop will give you a biblical foundation for safeguarding a child's natural curiosity and joy of discovery; and suggest ways to approach homeschooling that keeps this important element alive and growing in your home. [\[Can be keynote or workshop\]](#)

HOW CHILDREN LEARN or HOW ADOLESCENTS LEARN:

My enduring interest in how children learn best has led this retired home school mom back into the halls of academia in pursuit of a terminal degree in educational psychology. This seminar sifts through what we now know to be true about how God has hard-wired kids to learn. This seminar will review briefly the steps of cognitive development for kids K-6 or 6-12 and give you practical strategies for supporting their development in your home school program.

MOTIVATING THE RELUCTANT LEARNER: 10 proven strategies that kindle a love for learning in a child and help him master areas of difficulty; at the same time, reduce conflict and frustration for mom and kid.

RAISING AN INDEPENDENT LEARNER: Do you want a lifelong learner who initiates studies on his own? Then let go of the wheel and start giving your kids responsibility for their education. Here are practical, inexpensive steps that will encourage children to pursue their own learning, and prevent parent burnout as well.

PREVENTING BURNOUT: Meet Harriet Homeschooler, the ditzzy, stressed out homeschool mom who can't seem to figure out where things have gone wrong. But you can -- here are the foundational principles that enable you to appropriate the grace of God, keep priorities in focus and have fun! Especially good for new homeschoolers, but veterans love Harriet.

DEVELOPING CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS: What are thinking skills and why all the fuss? This seminar challenges traditional teaching methods head on by outlining the best way to teach so your child can remember and **use** what he has learned-- even when he is an adult. Analysis, synthesis and evaluation explained. Samples of creative and critical thinking. And lots of suggested resources and activities that are uncomplicated, time-saving, inexpensive and effective.

CHOOSING CURRICULUM: If you want to maximize your homeschool dollars and end up with materials best for your child, then answer these questions first before you buy.

CHOOSING AND USING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE. Covers some of the same material as above, but for a much broader age group. Here is an introduction to the best children's authors in each subject area, their titles, and scores of ways for integrating living books into your curriculum.

RE-ENERGIZE YOURSELF AND KIDS THROUGH CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING.

Homeschooling wasn't meant to be done in isolation. Well-designed group activities will stimulate and challenge students, plus give you the chance to network with other

homeschoolers and spread the teaching load around. Tips for organizing and surviving a homeschool co-op and many other group activities.

HOMESCHOOLING TEENS. From the perspective of the mother of teens, long time high school level teacher and evaluator of numerous high school homeschool programs. The high school years are your child's resume for the future. Here's how to maximize his time, prepare him for a changing job market, get doors to open, and facilitate non-traditional learning experiences.

DETERMINING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING STYLE. Save time, money and frustration. Before you buy anything, determine your child's learning style and then choose curriculum to match it. Does your son need to **do** to learn? Is your daughter motivated better in a group? Does your child need structure and routine or flexibility and independence? Four types of learners explained with sample programs for each. (This material is similar to learning style info in Cathy Duffy's book, but with my own experience and adaptation to a home school setting. If folks have not been exposed to learning style information, they find this workshop very helpful. This is our top selling tape.)

GETTING STARTED HOMESCHOOLING: Where do I start? What books should I read? What do I teach when? What curriculum should I buy? Here are the ABC's of homeschooling-- the sequential steps to follow to set up a program you and your kids will love.

SIX INGREDIENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL HOMESCHOOL: Success in homeschooling has little to do with degrees or teaching certificates, rather it has a lot to do with Christian character. Here are the six areas of your life you need to build upon for a long term, successful program. Plenty of suggestions for strengthening these crucial areas in your home.

OVERCOMING DISCOURAGEMENT: Ups and downs are par for the course in homeschooling, but don't let burn out make you a drop out. Here's how to benefit from your failures, discern underlying problems and most of all appropriate the grace of God to finish the course. Spiritually motivating and practical.

RAISING A WRITER: The job market of the future will demand exceptional communication skills. Learn how to motivate your reluctant writer, challenge your talented one and critique their work. Starting an effective writers' group will also be covered. Will also include how to help your children get published -- and sometimes even paid!

BATTER'S UP, PLAY BALL! I've always admired master teachers, such as Guy Doud, Jamie Escalante, and Marva Collins. But I found the most powerful model for teaching kids well in the least expected place: the ballfield. Here are the strategies from the diamond that will send your kids' educational success out of the park.

DESIGNING A COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM: What courses, tests, curricula and opportunities position your child for acceptance at the college of his choice. Tips for pulling it off when you don't have a clue how to use a graphing calculator, interpret Shakespeare or speak French. Extra bonus: How to be the guidance counselor, too!

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Terms

I try to be flexible with organizations, especially churches and ministries, so please don't hesitate to ask me to modify my terms if these make my participation in your event prohibitive. My husband and I will prayerfully consider all requests.

- Expenses to include round trip air fare from Harrisburg International Airport [MDT]
- Reimbursement for flight prior to my credit card bill coming due. In exchange, I'll get the best rate possible within the parameters of my schedule.
- Because of my writing schedule and coursework, I need Internet access in my non-smoking hotel room.
- I like to fly home on Saturday evening whenever possible in order to be in my home church on Sundays as frequently as I can.
- Honorarium of \$350-\$500/day. Factored in to this is the total time away from home required. Even though my children are grown, they all live close by and being wife and mom are my priorities.