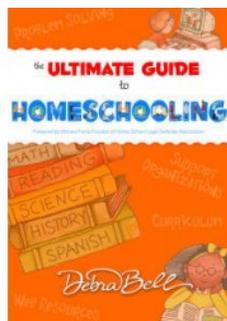
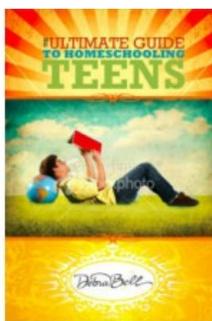




Debra Bell

Debra Bell, Ph.D., is the best-selling author of the award-winning *Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling*, *Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling Teens* and the Ultimate Planners for moms, teens and students (Apologia Press). A former high school and college English teacher, Debra and her husband Kermit home educated their four kids K-12; all of whom are now married, degreed, and employed (They also love Jesus). Debra holds a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Temple University (Philadelphia, PA). Her research interests include homeschooling, academic motivation, interest and online learning. More information about her online classes, books, forthcoming curriculum and speaking schedule can be found at DebraBell.com.

- Author, the best-selling *Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling*, 4th edition 2009, *Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling Teens* (Apologia, 2010), and *Ultimate Homeschool Planning System* (Apologia, 2011). Forthcoming *Writers-in-Residence*, a writing-focused language arts program (Apologia, 2014)
- Ph.D. educational psychology, Temple University.
- Keynote speaker, numerous state and regional conventions and High School @ Home seminars since 1988.
- English teacher, Creative Home Educators Support Services (1994-2008) and PA Homeschoolers' Online Advance Placement English (2000-2013). www.pahomeschoolers.com.
- Director, Lead Teacher: Aim Academy (aimacademy.co) Launched 2011.
- Founder, Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services; co-founder CHESS family school, Learning Center home school co-op and Encore! Home School Productions.



Personal:

- Married since 1981 to Kermit
- Four grown, college educated children, all graduates of homeschooling.
- Founding member of Living Hope Church, Harrisburg, PA. (28 years)

Seminar Topics:

8 Reasons Kids Learn Best At Home: If we started with what the research tells us about how kids learn best and built a school from the ground up – we'd build a home! Learn the critical factors that help explain why homeschooled kids succeed – and what you can do to keep the windows of wonder open in your house.

21st Century Homeschooling: Welcome to the digital age. What does the future of education look like, and how can the homeschool community take advantage of this? Here's a look at **free tools** and **free content sites** online that can make your homeschool more efficient, more economical and more powerful. Harness the educational advantage of online learning and give your kids a jumpstart on their future. We will look at how Web 2.0 applications are changing the definition of education - blogs, wikis, Google applications, Skype, VoiceThreads, open courseware, YouTube, Facebook and even Twitter, when used appropriately can really help kids learn.

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 child.

Developing Motivation and Interest in Kids of All Ages: This seminar covers the importance of intrinsic motivation and interest in learning. Research shows motivation to be an inherent characteristic of young children, but in a traditional setting, studies indicate most students show a steady loss in academic motivation the longer they are in school; however, homeschooling is an antidote to this decline. Learn practical ways to help your children and teens develop and retain motivation and enjoyment in academic pursuits.

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.

Hard-Wired to Learn: Your Child's Brain and God's Design: 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 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.

Online Learning: Does it work? Is it good for kids? From an educator with more than a decade of experience teaching online; as well as, a homeschool mom who used online learning extensively during the high school years—this session will review types of online classes, the types of students who fare best in each and how to get the best experience for your money.

College Credit for High School Work? Here are all the options for converting the work your teen completes during high school into college credit at a fraction of the cost. From CLEP and AP testing to dual enrollment, we'll cover the gamut of options, the costs and best type of student for each. Attendees receive a graphic organizer that shows how these options can best be turned into credit and a degree.

Study-Smart Student Strategies: The 20 Power Tools of Learning and the brain science behind them. For teens and their parents. Cut your study time in half, remember what you learn, recall it when you need it.

Homeschooling Teens: From the perspective of a mom who raised four 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.

Designing a College Prep High School Program: This session covers the timeline, coursework, tests and extra-curricular activities that position your teen for acceptance and scholarship-consideration at the colleges of his/her choice.

Spiritually-Focused Topics

The Comparison Trap:

They're not the competition! Friendships with other women are meant to be a significant source of support, comfort and grace. But, our own thinking and the enemy of our soul can shutoff or pervert this wonderful gift from God. Are we missing God's eternal intentions in the relationships that surround us? Or letting the comparison trap undermine our friendships? If we are willing to lock arms and share the joys and burdens of marriage, motherhood and homeschooling together, God will open up new rivers of grace in each of our lives.

Hope for Weary Moms: There is a Redeemer: God is working redemptively through homeschooling. Here is the hope we have for our failures, weaknesses and frustrations. God is at work to make Himself known to you more deeply and fully.

Standing Strong through High School: Why staying the course through the teen years can be the most fruitful and important years of homeschooling; as well as, the most rewarding for Mom and Dad.

Contact Information:

Jill Panyard, executive assistant: jillpanyard@gmail.com

Mailing Address: [For publication, please just publish my website and e-mail contact]

Debra Bell
9 Eagle Drive
Palmyra, PA 17078
Web site: DebraBell.com
info@debrabell.com

Private e-mail address for convention organizers: debraabell@gmail.com

Terms

- Expenses to include round trip air fare from Harrisburg International Airport [MDT]
- 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 \$500 -\$750/day. Factored in to this is the total time away from home required.