

The Adventist Home Educator Newsletter

Encouragement for Seventh-day Adventist
Homeschooling Families

June 2012

ISSUE # 159

Changes...

By Melissa B., Iowa



The newsletter is taking on a new look and some new challenges. We will be making some changes bit by bit, adding more content as we get used to the new format.

Some things that we have always had in the newsletter, like book reviews, will be moving to the blog. As soon as the book reviews are organized, you will start seeing them released on Thursdays on the blog. Consider enrolling in the email reminders for the AHE Blog. You will get updates for each new post as they are released. To sign up for email notifications, go to our website at www.adventisthomeducator.org and click on the tab for the blog. Once there, in the side-

bar, you will find a place to sign up for email notifications.

We hope you will like the new ideas that are coming for the newsletter. We would love input and would love some of you to take part in writing some of the content as well. We are striving to create a format that is more interactive, but still not as time consuming as an email list, which some struggle in keeping up with. Please pray for the newsletter, that its content will reach and encourage those who read it.



True Education Quote...

Having received the faith of the gospel, the next work of the believer is to add to his character virtue, and thus cleanse the heart and prepare the mind for the reception of the knowledge of God. This knowledge is the foundation of all true education and of all true service. It is the only real safeguard against temptation; and it is this alone that can make one like God in character. Through the knowledge of God and of His Son Jesus Christ, are given to the believer "all things that pertain unto life and godliness." No good gift is withheld from him who sincerely desires to obtain the righteousness of God. {Acts of Apostles 530.3}

"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Deuteronomy 6:7

Family Worship

By Melissa B., Iowa

When we first began homeschooling many years ago, there was one change that we knew we needed to make. We had been sending our kids to church school for reasons that they taught and emphasized our faith while teaching the kids and we were glad that they had morning worship with the kids. When we pulled our kids out of church school, we found a few things that needed changing and the big one was having family worship.

You see, my husband and I both came from Adventist homes, but neither of us was brought up with any type of family worship. We could talk about God freely in our homes, but we didn't worship God in our homes together as a family, unless we went to some type of church or school event. So, when we married, we continued that same pattern. It was only when homeschooling was suggested to us that we had to question our pattern. "What about worship? Who will do that for us?" It sounds so silly to write that now, but that is how it was.



Because family worship can sometimes seem so daunting, rigid, legalistic, and boring we wanted to have a feature in our newsletter that focuses on just that, Family Worship. We want all of you to share ideas that may be anything from how we do family worship... to the best family worship we had was... to a favorite worship for our little ones on up to whatever age level... and more.

This month's tip is to simply START. Talk with your spouse in starting to have a family worship. Start small, so as to not scare you with your kids' reactions, your spouse's reaction, your own reaction. A starting point might be to simply have prayer and take a set of Bible story books in your child's level and start reading, or their SS lesson and read the daily lesson for that day.



"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

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Family Worship Neglected.--If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now. Infidelity and skepticism prevail. Iniquity abounds. Corruption flows in the vital currents of the soul, and rebellion against God breaks out in the life. Enslaved by sin, the moral powers are under the tyranny of Satan. The soul is made the sport of his temptations; and unless some mighty arm is stretched out to rescue him, man goes where the archrebel leads the way.

And yet, in this time of fearful peril, some who profess to be Christians have no family worship. They do not honor God in the home; they do not teach their children to love and fear Him. Many have separated themselves so far from Him that they feel under condemnation in approaching Him. They cannot "come boldly unto the throne of grace," "lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." Hebrews 4:16; 1 Timothy 2:8. They have not a living connection with God. Theirs is a form of godliness without the power.

The idea that prayer is not essential is one of Satan's most successful devices to ruin souls. Prayer is communion with God, the Fountain of wisdom, the Source of strength, and peace, and happiness. {Child Guidance 517.2 -518.1}

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We want to give you more ideas, but we will need some help here, so your input is requested. What makes family worship special? What makes it work for your family? What are your struggles?

Email us at adventisthomeducator@gmail.com to submit your thoughts or articles on family worship.

The youth who are in harmony with Christ will choose companions who will help them in right doing, and will shun society that gives no aid in the development of right principles and noble purposes. In every place are to be found youth whose minds are cast in an inferior mould. When brought into association with this class, those who have placed themselves without reserve on the side of Christ will stand firmly by that which reason and conscience tell them is right.
Counsels to Teachers, Parents, and Students, p. 226.

AHE Teens Closing/ AHE Youth Opening

Due to lack of participation, this month we will be closing our email group for teens. Instead we have decided to offer a group on Facebook. If you have a child who is already on Facebook, you might want to just give a heads up that we have a group on Facebook for Adventist homeschooling youth. The group is called AHE Youth.

We realize that kids these days are seeking social networks online. We found the email groups did not work. Parents signed up their kids and their kids were shy or reluctant to talk. Understandable. When I am brought into a new situation and asked to participate, I am quite reluctant to make an effort as well, especially if it wasn't my idea. Facebook is a place where there is a lot of Adventist youth online. Many have joined to keep up with church friends, camp friends, family, and more. Many youth want to be on Facebook. Now we did not create a Facebook group to try to twist your arms to get your kids to join Facebook. That was never our intention. Our intention was to reach out to the youth that ARE currently on Facebook.

We wanted to offer a little safe haven on there to allow homeschooling kids a chance to meet, make friendships, share, witness and more. Since the group is moderated (as in watched, we cannot stop messages from going through, but someone is watching to stop inappropriate conversations or to settle down a conversation), there is likely going to be more respect shown because they know others are watching what they are saying.

The group will be a private group. This means that it is not public on Facebook. You will have to ask to join the group. The youth will be asked to verify whether they are SDA and whether they are or have been homeschooled. We will try as hard as possible to notify parents of children that have joined our Facebook group as well.

This group will be for ages 13 and up. The requirements to be on the group will be that they are homeschooled or have been homeschooled. This way when a child graduates or turns 18, they don't have to drop the group. It also allows those that have homeschooled for several years and have homeschooling friends to be on the group as well.

The group will be moderated by some parents and some of the adult Adventist youth. Inappropriate conversations and comments will be deleted. Persons making inappropriate comments will also be moderated and/or removed from the group.

For the safety of your child, please tell them not to communicate with persons from the group off the list until they have your approval. We try to take as many measures as we can to prevent problems, but anyone can message anyone on Facebook (unless you are blocked) whether you are friends or not. So, please talk with your child about messaging outside of their friends list and to ask you before adding some of these new friends from the group, to be sure you are okay with them.

You can find our Facebook group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AHE.Youth/>

"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:"
Romans 15:5

○ Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes ○

Submitted by Yolanda P.

2.5 lbs potatoes

½ - 1 bulb of roasted garlic

Non-dairy Margarine (to taste)

Salt (to taste)

Olive oil

Boil potatoes until tender. Drain and place in mixing bowl. Add a few tablespoons of margarine (more if needed). Mix with a hand mixer until smooth. Mash roasted garlic (I use a garlic press) and fold in.

To roast garlic, preheat oven to 400. Place garlic in foil and drizzle with olive oil.

Bake 20-25 minutes or until golden brown and tender.

Serves 6-8



We hope to share more healthy recipes with you. If you have a recipe you would like to submit to our newsletter, please contact our Recipe Editor, Yolanda.

Email us at adventisthomeducator@gmail.com to submit your recipes.



Do not neglect to teach your children how to prepare healthful food. In giving them these lessons in physiology and in good cooking, you are giving them the first steps in some of the most useful branches of education, and inculcating principles which are needful elements in a religious education.

Christian Education p. 174

AHE Summer Projects

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We'd like to encourage you to all participate in our AHE Projects. These will be some common activities that we can report on our activities and share our results. In a way, we'll all be working together. I may create webpages of photos or a special newsletter to share your projects if we get enough submissions. I hope you will join us!

Pick a project. Let your child work with you on the project. Document your project with pictures, lap-books, notebooking, journaling, blogging, etc. Share the results with us here at AHE.

- 1) Garden—Have your child help with the summer garden. They can have their own box garden or help with the family garden.
- 2) Up Close with Nature—Find one animal/creature to follow through the summer.
- 3) Summer Jobs—Report on your summer job. Take some photos to document.
- 4) Summer Vacation— Document your summer vacation, your week at camp. Would you suggest it to someone else? Make an advertisement for the camp, campout, or vacation spot.
- 5) The Summer Kitchen—Share some new skills that you learned about preserving foods.

Send your submissions to AHE in August at:
adventisthomeducator@gmail.com

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The last commandment condemns covetousness. Every selfish desire, every degree of discontent, every act of overreaching, every selfish gratification works to the strengthening and developing of a character which will destroy the Christlikeness of the human agent, and close the gates of the city of God against him. {Sons and Daughters of God, 65.2}

Too Much Stuff

By Melissa B.

I have been recently uncluttering my home. After living in the same home for over 16 years, a person begins to accumulate things in unknown nooks and crannies. I also have been finding long lost items that were tucked away during some stressful times in our past. Large plastic tubs are handy for keeping items, but not so good at seeing what is inside. As I've been cleaning out, I realized how much stuff we have and how much time stuff can waste.

There are so many ways we just keep adding to our lives. We go shopping and find that a real cute shirt comes in 10 colors, 3 of which you cannot decide which to get, so you get all three. You find all kinds of deals online... free posters, free trial size samples, free coupons, free newsletters, and more. You like a particular style, but then a new style comes into fashion and that just seems so much more "you", so you decide to switch over, but in the switch over, you struggle with letting go of the older stuff. Well-meaning friends and relatives give you hand-me-downs or items they just feel you need, especially since you are homeschooling.

When I first began homeschooling, I looked on used sites to get items really cheap, so I could review them and see if the materials fit us. I spent a lot of time inves-

tigating other curriculums and watching people's thoughts of other curriculums. I have bookshelves of materials I will never use. Some of it is great stuff! Some of it is very nice. But I don't have time to do it all. And my kids don't need all of that stuff, either.

My husband has been the backbone of reason when it comes to materials for homeschooling. Stating the obvious, "You need another book on math? Why did we spend money on this other curriculum? Are you going to sell the other curriculum?" Now, my husband realizes how eclectic I am with materials... enough to tell

others that if they are wondering what we use, you won't get a simple answer. He also has found that it is nice to have a backup plan for times when life gets a bit hairy around here. Some curriculum fits us when I have time to work it, other times I need something I can grab and run with. But even with this, I still need to watch what we have and be reasonable.

A big part of having too much stuff is that we covet. As homeschoolers we are tempted to covet over and over. Go to a homeschool convention and look at all the booths, all wanting you to choose them, pick them, and buy from them. Homeschool catalogs are not much different. We get the feeling we are missing out if we do not have a particular item. Reviews tell us how a family just loved a product and it was what made the difference in their child's attitude towards math or reading or science, etc. We get newsletters that tell us stories of how materials helped a child, a family, do better. We desire to be like them, so we assume it is the stuff that gets us there. We also find things that look "wonderful" and buy for times down the road. Often, down the road, our vision has changed and we go with something entirely different. Are we satisfied if we are constantly looking for something better? God knows us so well, to counsel us to not covet what others have.

The one big thing I found with having so much stuff is that it is so time consuming to deal with it all. I have a large house, and it can house many bookshelves. However, when I need something, I may still struggle with finding it. A friend asked if she could borrow a book that I knew I had, but I could not find it. (I found it recently in the big clean out at our home). Some of the issues could be organizational that would allow you to house more stuff and still keep on top of it. But sometimes a person just gets too much stuff. Even with organizing, there is still the time of keeping it organized, with little fingers to pull things out. Your lifestyle changes as the kids grow and you may need to reorgan-

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." **Matthew 6:19-21**

○ Too Much Stuff, continued ○

ize the home to fit in another child, to take in a family member and more... if you have so much stuff, you may move it to make room, but that takes so much time to reorganize it in such a way that you can still review and use what you have. It is during times like these that I often boxed up a few tubs of school materials, knowing I wouldn't use it for a while, just to get it out of the immediate living area. When I rediscovered my books, I found I might not need them anymore because I waited too long to dig into the boxes in the basement or attic.

Have you ever bought a book, knowing you liked the author, checked your bookshelves and couldn't find a book by that name and you buy it again? Down the road, during a big clean out, you find duplicates of books. Too much stuff hampers how you use it. Too much stuff can hamper how you spend your money as well. Can you use it all if you have so much stuff? Can you find it?

I visited a friend's home recently and was amazed at how uncluttered her home was. (She homeschools and works at home besides). I prayed that God would help me find some of that peace that comes from having a



simplified (homeschooling) lifestyle. Help me let go of my fears that I cannot live without stuff. Help me rely on You to provide the nudge to purchase something new. Help me realize there is more to my days than reorganizing my stuff or looking for that perfect fit (whether it be homeschool materials, new Apps, freebies, etc.) and help me to find a better balance in how I spend my time and my money.

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Do you have some tips and hints to share on organizing, planning, and paring down the stuff in your home? We'd love to share some tips in upcoming newsletters.



"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor's." Exodus 20:17

I believe that some homeschoolers quit homeschooling because the homeschooling lifestyle is a hard one to live. Homeschooling challenges you in organization, in stewardship, in balancing your activities, in being home to cook and clean all day long, and so much more. It is so much more than teaching our kids, it is living and being sane with our life. Many of us learn the areas where we do not have it altogether. Some of us have learned things that help us in this lifestyle. I want to encourage you all to encourage one another and share some of the things that help your life run smoother and allow the homeschooling lifestyle to not be so overwhelming. Do you have questions in areas of your life that you just struggle to overcome? We can cover those, too.

Drop us a line at adventisthomeducator@gmail.com.

The Adventist Home Educator

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AHE Resources:

AHE Newsletter You are reading it now. Short monthly articles to encourage you with homeschooling. When email lists are too much for you, a monthly newsletter can encourage you and help you feel connected among friends. The newsletter tries to present information in such a way that it is clutter free.

AHE Website The website is home central for all the ministries of AHE. Find information on each of the AHE ministry arms. Also, we are trying to build our information base and as time goes on, you will find more articles on the website to encourage you with your homeschooling. Check back every so often to see what is new. www.adventisthomeducator.org

AHE Curriculum Guide Located currently on the AHE website, the Curriculum Guide is being placed on our website to help you find resources that will fit your family while we are working on the new AHE Handbook.

AHE on Facebook...Search for "The Adventist Home Educator" on Facebook and click "like" to connect with us there.

AHE on Twitter...If you tweet, follow us on Twitter. AHE@SDAHomeschool (New, still learning the ropes of Twitter!)



AHE Blog, *Shaping Hearts and Hands*, is a place you can find Adventist Homeschooling applied. We'll share principles and how we apply them to specific situations, so that you can learn to do the same. Plus some warm encouragement in a more homey atmosphere.
www.adventisthomeducator.org

AHE Study Board Our study board is open for those desiring to study a book together. Currently we are studying the book Education by Ellen White. <http://aheboards.forumotion.com>

AHE Email Lists:

The **AHE-List** is a place for Adventist homeschoolers to come together for friendly and informative discussion about home education from birth through high school. With an emphasis on true education, we share our ideas and experiences relating to teaching methods, learning styles, scheduling, curriculum choices and many other homeschooling topics. This is a place where we can help others along their homeschooling journey and also learn some new things ourselves. To join, send a blank email to:

AHE-List-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

AHE-Living... is a friendly place for sharing encouraging words as we work together to create grace-filled, loving homes and pure hearts for the Kingdom. This is a place to visit about child rearing, home decorating, healthy cooking, health and wellness, family relationships, spiritual growth and family worship, sewing and crafts, gardening and flowers, and other topics near and dear to our hearts. This is a supplemental group affiliated with AHE; a place where we can discuss all aspects of Christian living. You will need to be a member of the AHE-list in order to join. To join, visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AHE-Living/>

AHE-Swap...if you have curriculum to purchase or to sell, here is another outlet for getting the word out. To join, send a blank email to:

AHE-Swap-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

AHE Youth...is a place for our teen children to interact with other Seventh-day Adventist homeschoolers and past homeschoolers (meaning we don't necessarily drop you from the list if you are no longer homeschooled). This group is located on Facebook. To join, your teen will need a Facebook account. Please contact Melissa at adventisthomeducator@gmail.com to connect with us there.

You may forward the *Adventist Home Educator Newsletter* to other Adventist homeschoolers.

Please forward entire newsletter.