

The Guardian News

A Kansas Homeschool Publication.



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Kansas Author Publishes Book About Homeschooling

Kansas homeschool graduate and certified music teacher Natalie Wickham is now a published author. The oldest of six children, five girls and one boy, she was homeschooled from fourth grade through her college years alongside her five siblings. She has a passion for challenging and equipping upcoming generations of homeschoolers to be godly leaders. Natalie owns and operates a successful piano studio and music educator's blog and is the current Director of Adventures in Character. Wickham received a completed copy of her published work, *Pajama School*, at the beginning of March.

The book may be purchased and chapter one can be read for free at the *Pajama School* website: www.pajamaschool.com. Guardian Readers may also be interested in viewing on the website, some of the endorsements Wickham's book has received. A few of her endorsers include Mike Smith, President, HSLDA, Bill Gothard, Founder, Institute in Basic Life Principles, and Jan Bloom veteran homeschool mom of three and author of, *Who Should We Then Read?*

The following are questions and answers from an e-mail interview Natalie conducted with *The Guardian News*.

Can you give Guardian Readers a little background about yourself?

It's becoming more and more common to homeschool all the way through high school, however most people are still astonished when I tell them that I homeschooled through college. After considerable prayer, counsel, and seeking the Lord, I decided not to pursue a traditional path toward higher education, but to remain at home and continue my education through short-term intensive courses, clep tests, and correspondence work. This approach enabled me to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM), while also pursuing interests in web development, character education training, graphic design, business and financial studies, and writing.

I think often of Proverbs 16:9, "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps." I have had to learn to die to my own dreams over and over again, but God faithfully replaces them with what He knows is best, and I have grown so much closer to Him as a result of it. Now, I am so thrilled with the different avenues the Lord



Homeschool graduate and newly published author Natalie Wickham holding the first issue of her first book.

has given me in which to invest my time and energy. I run an independent piano studio with approximately 30 students that I just love! MusicMattersBlog.com is a website I developed several years ago that has become a wonderful way to connect with other music teachers, share ideas and resources, and convey a vision for running a studio and teaching in a way that glorifies the Lord.

Warriors Lego Robotics Teams Take Home Several Awards

By Emily Griekspoor

The Wichita Homeschool Warriors Lego Robotics teams are seemingly unbeatable! After weeks of preparation, both NXT Warriors teams emerged from the 2009 LEGO Mindstorms competition with several victories.

Since the Wichita Homeschool Warriors Lego Robotics Club was created by David and Rena Hixon in 2004, the club has greatly increased. The organization, a club intended for learning purposes, successfully competes with two full teams in the annual LEGO Mindstorms competition.

This year the Homeschool LEGO Robotics Club had 33 students who were then divided into 2 different teams; NXTreme and NXTerminators. The teams met together 3 times a week for 6 weeks prior to the competition. In addition to the students putting in their effort, the coaches were outstanding in helping the students prepare for competition day. Mentors from the high school robotics team also aided in several areas to help the students. A lot of time, work, and energy were put into making this year successful for both teams.

In this year's challenge, which took place at Wichita State University, teams competing at the expert level were required to complete 5 of the 6 challenges that went along with the theme "Myths and Legends." In addition to the

We are also getting ready for our tenth year of Adventures in Character – a children's program that a group of friends and I started under the direction of the Teaching Parents Association (TPA) Board to provide a way for children to attend the annual TPA Convention with their parents. We have a core staff that develops a new theme each year, complete with an original drama script, curriculum, student workbook, and songs. It is a ton of work, but it's so exciting to see the enthusiasm of both the children and parents as they express how much they appreciate the role AIC has played in encouraging them in their homeschooling endeavor. The heart of AIC is best expressed in our mission statement: "Coming together to support parents in instilling the principles of God's Word in the lives of the next generation." You can find out more about this year's jungle adventure at our website: www.adventuresincharacter.com.

How many years were you homeschooled?

My parents started homeschooling my sisters and me the year that I was going into fourth grade, and we've continued homeschooling ever since. I graduated from high school in 1999.

What is your book about?

Pajama School is a collection of stories that begins with our first day of homeschooling. Subsequent chapters tell of our struggles transitioning to this new lifestyle, the experiences I encountered, my journey beyond high school graduation,

Continued on page 5



Team members at their scenarios on competition day.

Continued on page 4

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Good To Know

The Teaching Parents Association
Invites
All Area Home School Families and Their Guests
To Attend
The 2009 TPA Homeschool Graduation
At
Central Christian Church
2900 N. Rock Road, Wichita, KS
Saturday, May 19, 2009
At 1:00 PM
Reception Immediately Following

TPA is excited to announce that U.S. Senator Sam Brownback will be the keynote speaker for the 2009 TPA Graduation. Fifty-six seniors will participate in the commencement.

Cassia Williams will perform a harp solo during the prelude. Tracy Travis and Emmi Willcox will present an instrumental selection and Olivia Cota and Susan Hansen will perform a vocal duet.

The reception committee is looking for parents or students (14yrs and older) who are willing to assist in preparing and serving the reception that follows the ceremony. We will be able to pay \$15 for your assistance. Contact Kay Spangler at dspangler4@cox.net if you are interested in serving.

Sonlight Support Group

We meet as an informal group of families who use Sonlight Curriculum in our home schools. We usually get together twice a month, once for the moms only on the first Friday evening, and once for a children's activity. At the monthly meetings, we plan the field trips and discuss a "teacher topic", such as teaching science. We also have refreshments and plenty of time for getting to know each other through informal sharing. We ask that you attend at least one moms' meeting to be considered an active member. Membership dues are \$10 per family per year, which covers the cost of our website, www.wichitasonlight.org and payment for facilities as needed.

If you are interested in using Sonlight Curriculum for your next school year, or in meeting some moms in our support group, please come to our 2nd Annual Sonlight Open House, on Saturday, April 4, from 2-4pm at the home of Heidi Whitman, 6614 E. Magill. Many of the Instructor's Guides, books and other materials will be on display for browsing through, as well as the new Sonlight catalogs. Experienced Sonlight moms will be there to answer your questions and help you choose what is right for your family. Heidi Whitman is the Sonlight Curriculum Consultant for this area, and she welcomes your questions at 691-1321, or hwhitman@sonlight.com.

CORRECTION: The article "Sonlight Curriculum For Sale at Open House" appearing on page 3 of the March issue of *The Guardian* was an incorrect title. Books will not be available for direct purchase at the April 4th Sonlight Open House. Materials will be displayed and may be ordered. *The Guardian News* regrets the error and apologizes for the mistake.

Used Book Sale

Central Homeschool Family Ministries

MAY 6: Central Homeschool Family Ministries (CHFM) Used Book Sale!

- 9:00 am-12:00 pm (Set up and shop from 8:00 to 9:00 am if you are selling books!)
- Central Court at Central Christian Church, 2900 North Rock Road, Wichita
- To register a table for the book sale, email Mary Kahrs at marykahrs@sbcglobal.net, or contact her at 733-2383 (home) or 573-7887 (cell).
- The fee for a 6 foot table is \$5.00 or \$10.00 for a 12 foot table. Please mail the table fees to Mary Kahrs, 1705 South Triple Crown; Wichita, KS 67230.

HOMESCHOOL PROM

APRIL 25, 2009

Homeschool prom is officially on the calendar for April 25, 2009 from 7-10 p.m. We will hold the event at Gallery One-Nine, a stunning venue at 125 N. Market St, Wichita, KS on the 18th and 19th floors of the SCTelcom building. The theme the students decided on for this year is "Black Tie & White Diamonds."

Prom will be chaperoned by parents. It is open to juniors and seniors who are home-schooled, but they may bring a guest who doesn't meet those criteria. This is not like the traditional "bring-a-date" prom, as many students come with a group of friends. Dress is either formal or semi-formal and modest. Music will be clean and geared towards swing dancing and waltzing.

We also voted to have one or two swing dance lessons at Harry Reese Dance Studio on Sunday nights at some point before prom. Please contact Dawna Blanton at dawna.b@cox.net for more information on the dance lessons or prom details and rules.

The cost of prom tickets is \$25 each. Please send your \$25 ASAP to: Lisa Rago, 8316 E. Morris, Wichita, KS 67207. We hope you can be a part of the 4th annual homeschool prom. It will be an elegant night to remember!

Know of something that should be included on this page? Contact The Guardian and tell us about it.

Are you a Homeschooler in another part of the state? Let us know what is going on in your area so other Kansans can come check it out!

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Informational Meeting State Wide Bible Bee

Come Find Out What The Buzz Is All About!



Date: Saturday, April 4
Time: 9:30am
Place: First Evangelical Free Church
1825 N. Woodlawn, Wichita, Kansas
Bible Bee Registration Ends April 30th!

The Shelby Kennedy Foundation is excited to introduce the first annual National Bible Bee, a motivating Bible memory competition for children and youth from ages 7 to 18. The goal of the Bible Bee is to build godly character in young people by calling them to the discipline of Scripture memorization. Most people are familiar with the Scripps National Spelling Bee, where youth compete annually in the Nation's longest running educational contest. While it is certainly beneficial for our children to commit the spelling of words to memory, imagine how much more life changing it will be for them to hid the Word of God in their hearts.

The National Bible Bee is similar to a spelling bee, except contestants are required to recite Bible passages and facts rather than spell words. The event is presented by the Shelby Kennedy Institute and designed to promote godly character in children and youth by motivating them to memorize passages and facts in the Bible.

Join us on April 4th to hear more! Local Bible Bee Contests will be conducted throughout the United States on Saturday, September 12, 2009.

For more info about the Bible Bee and to register, visit:
www.biblebee.org

Local contact: Brittany Barden /316-993-9165
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 UnsearchableRichesOfChrist@gmail.com

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Mark Your Calendars TPA Used Book Sale

Mark your calendars now for the TPA Used Book Sale May 16, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Sedgwick County Extension Education Center, 7001 W. 21st Street in Wichita. Twice the space as last year! Twice the sellers as last year! Sign up to be a seller so you can earn a little money for your curriculum for next year, or plan to come and shop the great sale prices for used curriculum!

- Sellers: Reservations for tables for sellers begins on April 15, 2009 by sending an e-mail to jeffgorman@juno.com
- Cost: \$12.00 for an entire 8 foot table, \$6.00 for 1/2 table

K.C. Homeschool Conference

The 2009 Midwest Parent Educators (MPE) Conference and Curriculum Fair will take place at the KCI Expo Center on April 17 & 18 In Kansas City.

The keynote address by Michael Farris on "Homeschooling Freedom: Past, Present and Future (with Parental Rights)" will be on Thursday, Apr. 16, 7.00 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66212. This will be open to the public (a freewill offering will be taken). There will be no child-care. This address will not be repeated during the Conference.

There will be an exclusive track at the conference for those who are homeschooling children with learning challenges.

Thursday, 16 April 2009 - Michael Farris will give the keynote address: "Homeschooling Freedom: Past, Present and Future" at 7.00 p.m. Location to be determined. **Friday, 17 April 2009** - Registration for the conference begins at 8 a.m. Workshops begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. The Exhibitor Hall will open to the public at 9 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. Exhibitor or vendor workshops begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. **Saturday, 18 April 2009** - The Exhibitor Hall will open to the public at 8 a.m. and close by 5 p.m.

For more information visit www.midwesthomeschoolers.org

AIC Program Now Taking Registrations

Calling all children ages six through twelve! Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have the plane you were riding on crash in the middle of a jungle? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to eat a diet of coconuts and an occasional worm for weeks on end? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be treated like royalty, with a host of servants at your beck and call? Well, now you must wonder no more! Come to Adventures in Character (AIC) at the Teaching Parents Association (TPA) convention this year and you will see all these curious situations played out before your very eyes. A cast of dedicated young people is rehearsing hard to bring you another one of AIC's famously captivating dramas!

During small group times with other young homeschoolers, you will be learning important skills and principles to help you escape from what the Bible calls "the corruption that is in the world because of

sinful desire." In fact, in that same passage (2 Peter 1:3-8), we are given eight key ingredients for living effective and fruitful lives: faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. Lots of games, lessons, crafts, and stories will help reinforce these eight qualities and leave you inspired to grow in your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The convention is May 29-30, 2009. You can register to attend this exciting weekend at www.teachingparents.com. The cost is \$25 for the first child, and \$20 for each additional sibling. This covers the cost of all supplies throughout the weekend, plus a themed t-shirt for each child. You won't want to miss this adventure! For more information, visit our website at www.adventuresincharacter.com, or call the AIC Director, Natalie Wickham, at (316) 207-3134.



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actual courses, each team also had to make an oral presentation, create a display booth, put together an explanatory note book, and show good spirit and sportsmanship throughout the day. All of these fields contributed to each team's final score.



Twecky the Lego Man Mascot; costume made by student.

Competition day started out fairly relaxed as teams set up and prepared to test their robots. Once everything got under way, subgroups settled into the familiar routine of test running and making changes. When the coach felt confident that their robot was capable of scoring points on their course, they would do an official run.

There were several technical issues throughout the day,



however. One of the official registered bricks was malfunctioning and it was preventing programs from being read correctly. It was affecting the success of the courses that still needed to do an official run. The team coach was able to work with the students and figure out what the problem was. There were also various engineering issues with both teams because any small change in a scenario could affect the performance of the robot. Students were faced with




unexpected challenges that they learned to counter and overcome on competition day. Their efforts paid off and both teams won several awards.



NXTerminators 2nd place overall
Oral Presentation Casey Jones Judges
Choic Spirit and Sportsmanship



NXTreme 1st place overall
Table Display/Notebook



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Continued from page 1

and the many things God taught me along the way. Ultimately, it's an account of God's personal and faithful work in my life, and how homeschooling was the vehicle He used to teach me important truths about life.

When did you decide to write *Pajama School* and how long did it take?

At the end of 2006 as I was thinking through what goals I wanted to set for the next year, the idea came to me suddenly. I wrote sporadically throughout 2007, but then really buckled down and worked on it consistently starting in June of 2008.



What was your desire or goal in writing this book?

The primary impetus behind writing *Pajama School* came from Daniel 12:3, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever." My heart's desire is that those who read *Pajama School* will see the sufficiency of Jesus Christ to work in each of our lives to accomplish His purpose and mold us more and more into His image. I also want others to see what a beautiful way of life homeschooling is – not because it is without struggles,

but because it is such a natural extension of God's design for the family as we live together, work together, and learn together, all with the end goal of loving the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Has writing always been something that interested you?

I've always loved writing! A shelf full of overflowing journals will attest to this. Growing up, I also wrote short stories for fun, participated in writing contests, and even sponsored a short story contest for local homeschoolers when I was in my early teens. Both of my parents helped me develop my writing skills. My Mom is a big fan of creative writing and had a collection of random ideas that she would pull from each day to give my sisters and me a creative writing assignment. The topics covered a wide range, and this exercise helped us learn to think more clearly and communicate more effectively. Dad has always been my editor. I talk about the role he played in my life as the bearer of the Red Pen in my book, but suffice it to say that his high standard of excellence forced me to greater heights than I ever would have attempted without his influence. Even with all of this writing background, though, I honestly had never thought about writing a book until the idea for this one popped into my head a couple of years ago.

Is this your first published work?

I've written (and had published) numerous articles over the years, but *Pajama School* is my first published book.

How did you go about getting your work published? Did you have prior experience with publishing?

Now that could be another book in itself! When I started writing *Pajama School*, it was with the

assumption that once I was done I would submit my manuscript to a publisher for consideration.

But as I spent more time researching the pros and cons of traditional publishing versus self-publishing, I became hooked on the idea of self-publishing. It seemed like it would be a huge amount of work, but I decided to give it a try – hoping that it would be worth it in the end. When I first started doing my research, I didn't have a clue about anything publishing related! But there are a lot of resources available, and after an intense summer of "vigorous self-education,"



The Wickham Family: front row, L-R: Joseph, Nancy, John, Naomi; Back Row, L-R: Andy & Nicole Bloyer, Nadine, Natalie, Noelle

I had a better idea of what was getting into, and what steps would be required. I still have many moments of feeling clueless and overwhelmed, but it has been an incredible learning experience and the Lord has provided so many people and resources that have been an invaluable part of this project. When I began my intense summer of work on *Pajama School*, I also launched a blog – www.JourneyToSelfPublishing.com – and invited others to join me on the journey. Journey to Self-Publishing takes interested readers through the self-publishing process one step at a time. My hope is that it will continue to be a valuable resource for others who are also interested in traveling this route.

What are your future aspirations?

There are always lots of ideas swirling around in my mind! It's just a matter of deciding what's most important. Someday I would love to be married and have children that I can homeschool, carrying on the legacy that my parents have given my sisters and brother and me. But until that time, I trust that the Lord will continue to guide my steps according to His will. Some of the things I'm considering now include: starting a foundation, publishing several music-related ebooks, researching some new business developments, or maybe just lounging around in my pajamas reading books all day...!

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Home Educators Encouraged to Plan Science Field Trip

A unique opportunity for a first hand encounter with the world of geology, rocks, minerals, craftsmanship and art is offered each year by the Wichita Gem and Mineral Society. Their 56th annual show will be held at Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Boulevard, on April 24, 25 and 26, 2009.



Since education is one of the primary purposes of our society, we wish to again invite educators to plan field trips to the show. Classes of all ages, accompanied by adult leadership will be welcome at no charge all day Friday. We do limit you to a maximum of one free adult for each child attending.

The theme of the show is Great Plains Treasures. The show will feature gemstones, jewelry, crystals, beads, agates, polished stones, minerals and meteorites. Every year we have skilled craftsmen that demonstrate a variety of lapidary arts such

as arrowhead making, faceting, capping, rock tumbling, beading, wire wrapping and sphere making. Educational displays of rocks, minerals and fossils are a key part of our show. This year we will again have representatives from the Kansas Meteorological Society.

On "Sid the Science Kid Education Day" Friday we offer a special education program for children. It is a hands-on lesson in rock and mineral classification. We will discuss the difference between rocks and minerals and use scientific inquiry to determine the identity of 6 rocks and minerals. Participation in this program is by reservation only. Reservations are taken on a first come, first serve basis. Once the slots are full we will have waiting lists to fill in for cancellations.

You can make a reservation at www.wgmsks.org, click on the Educators link and fill out a Reservation Form. You can also make a reservation with Carolyn White (see contact information below). Include your name, school, grade level, the number of children in your group and an email and/or mailing address. We will start taking reservations January 15th.

Reservations are not required if you just want to attend the show. In addition to the displays and demonstrations mentioned above we will have available:

- Grab Bags @ \$1.50. Each bag contains a necklace, a shark tooth, a polished stone, an identified fossil and 6 identified mineral specimens.
- Junior Rock Pile @ 50 cents. Students 6th grade and under will have the opportunity to fill a sack with specimens of their choice
- Dealers will have many items available for students to purchase.
- Identifying Rocks and Minerals book @ \$1.00
- Identifying Fossils book @ \$1.00
- There will be a snack bar available.

Questions may be directed to: Carolyn White e-mail: educ@wgmsks.org ph: (316) 250-6182.

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College Notes

College Success for Homeschoolers

By Tyler Hiebert
SGA Vice President of Butler Community College

How can a homeschooler achieve success in college? The answer to this question has been the objective of many articles, books and speeches. I believe that I can answer this question in part, if not in whole. However, before I can answer this question, I must define what "success" really means. When I speak of success, I don't refer merely to getting good grades or being at the top of your class. Instead, being a successful college student is about maximizing your talents, building long-lasting relationships and expanding your perspective. But how do you achieve success in these areas? The answer may be simpler than you think.

As a homeschool graduate preparing for college, I knew that I wanted to be involved in my college beyond the classroom itself. Thus, I applied to be a part of the Student Government Association at Butler Community College. In reality, the SGA's full-ride scholarship and books, resume builder and position was what appealed to me the most. However, after a short period of time, I came to realize that Student Government was teaching me more than even my classes. By being involved in SGA, I was learning all of the three "success" areas I mentioned before. In addition, I was given an incredible opportunity to daily live out my Christian faith in unique and exciting ways.

As prospective students, or parents of students, you probably also would like to integrate these "success" principles into your own/your student's college experience. The answer is simple. Be more involved than the average student. Proactively seek opportunities for involvement and personal growth. As homeschool students, you can start as early as a year or more before your high school graduation. That way, you can get dual college/high school credits and get a taste of the college experience.

One of the best ways to look for involvement is through the student life/development center at your college. Go ask them about opportunities for involvement or about your special interests. There are almost always great opportunities for meeting other like-minded students and participating in great events. The keys to successful college can be best achieved through involvement in your college. Being in student government has given me dozens of opportunities and experiences I wouldn't have otherwise had. It has really made my education a lot more successful. Involvement can help you do the same.

Quote of the Month
"If ever time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin."
~Samuel Adams~



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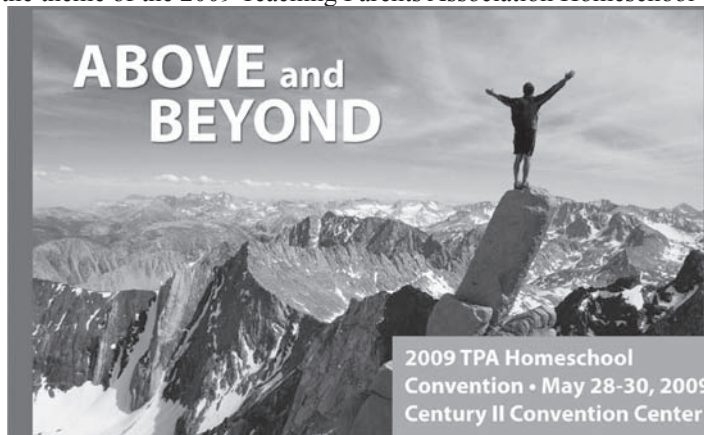
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2009 TPA Homeschool Convention

Courtesy of TPA

'Above and Beyond', this statement speaks of reaching a goal that is higher than the norm, of going further than others and doing more than what is simply required. 'Above and Beyond' is the theme of the 2009 Teaching Parents Association Homeschooling Convention. As home educators we believe in providing a solid education to our children as well as building foundations of Godly character, wisdom and family and that is Above and Beyond! Come and join over 2,000 of your homeschooling friends at this year's convention. The TPA



Homeschooling Convention is being held at Century II Convention Center in Downtown Wichita, Kansas, Thursday through Saturday May 28- 30. Convention registration and Exhibitor Hall open Friday morning at 8:00am with workshops beginning at 9:00am.

The 2009 TPA Homeschooling Convention is proud to have Chris Klicka and James and Stacy McDonald as our keynote speakers. They will be providing encouraging and challenging keynote sessions and workshops.

Chris is Senior Counsel of the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) and Executive Director of the National Center for Home Education. Chris is a nationally known speaker on the right to homeschool as well as motivating homeschool parents. Chris will be speaking Friday night on "Homeschooling; the good the bad and the ugly". Saturday he will speak on the timely subject of "The battle for the right to homeschool in the courts, legislatures, congress and across the world". Lately, homeschooling has come under fire and Chris will provide vital information on the climate of homeschooling today and the battle to keep our right to homeschool. This will be a session you will not want to miss!

Also, at the 2009 TPA Homeschooling Convention is James and Stacy McDonald. James is president of Family Reformation Ministries and a national motivational speaker communicating God's truth on marriage, family, homeschooling and child training with energy and humor. Stacy McDonald is the author of, 'Passionate housewives: Desperate for God' and 'Raising Maidens of Virtue'. Stacy has taught women around the globe on issues relating to the roles of a wife, mother, biblical beauty and homeschooling. James will keynote Friday afternoon on developing a multi-generational vision for the family through his session titled 'Cathedral Building'. All of our keynote speakers will be providing informative and encouraging workshops throughout the convention, visit our webpage for workshop sessions at www.teachingparents.org.

If you are new to homeschooling or haven't been to a TPA homeschooling convention and would like to get the inside scoop there is a free 'New Homeschoolers Night' Thursday evening from

7-9pm in room 101 at Century II Convention Hall. This event will have the convention leaders on hand to highlight events as well as having small group breakout sessions with experienced homeschool educators to field your questions. Your paid registration to convention provides access to incredible teaching and encouraging through keynote sessions with Chris Klicka and the McDonalds, exhibitors, and general workshop sessions.

Spend time in the vendor hall as you look for curriculum, resources and services to homeschooling families with over 100 vendor booths. You can also meet TPA Board Members at our booth in Vendor Hall. As you stroll through the hall you will have the chance to not just purchase vital materials for your homeschool but actually speak to the authors as you visit their booths.

Adventures in Character (AIC) is our children's program that runs concurrently with the TPA Convention each year. Registration to AIC enables families to enjoy the benefits of attending the weekend convention by providing daily supervised classes for children. AIC's Escape-2009 will be an exciting and fun packed journey for your children as they enjoy biblical based stories, crafts, music, and drama learning eight key ingredients to living out an effective Christian life. You can read more about the Teaching Parents Association, get more information on homeschooling and local events or register for convention online at our website, www.teachingparents.org.

Fees for Convention are \$50 for general registration (keynotes, workshops & shopping), \$35 for early registration before May 16. For shoppers only there is a \$20 fee. Registration to AIC is \$25 for the first child and \$20 for each additional child which includes a 2009 AIC t-shirt.

We are very excited about the 2009 TPA Homeschooling Convention and the powerful lineup of speakers and events for educators to be encouraged and motivated. We intend to go 'Above and Beyond' for you at this year's convention to prepare you to go 'Above and Beyond' for your children in their education. Hope to see you there!

Guardian Watch



"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

-Thomas Paine-

Fight To Protect Your Rights as Parents

by Michael P. Farris, Esq

March 3, 2009

Eighty years ago the Supreme Court declared that "the child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations." *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925).

Thirty years ago the Court continued this line of reasoning with the pronouncement that the "primary role of the parents in the upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition." *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205 (1972).

Yet in 2000, when the State of Washington gave any person the ability to override a good parent's decision about visitation by simply claiming that it would be "best" for children to allow the third-party to have visitation rights, in the Supreme Court:

--There were six separate opinions and none reached a five-vote majority

--Justice Thomas was the only Justice to clearly state that parental rights receive the same high legal standard of protection as other fundamental rights

--Justice Scalia held that parents have no constitutionally protected rights whatsoever

Support for a high-view of parental rights has been seriously undermined by the current Court.

As a consequence, numerous lower federal courts refuse to treat parental rights as deserving of protection as a fundamental right.

At the same time, America is poised to adopt the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. President Obama supports this treaty. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has been a leading advocate of this treaty for over twenty years. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) has "promised" that this treaty will be ratified during this term of Congress.

If this treaty is ratified:

--The laws of all 50 states on children and parents would be superseded by this international law by virtue of a specific provision of the US Constitution which expressly declares treaties to be supreme over state law. Virtually all law on children and parents is state law.

--Good parents would no longer be entitled to the legal presumption that they act in the best interests of their children. Instead, the government would have the authority to overrule all parents on any decision concerning the child if the government believed it could make a better decision.

--Parents could no longer spank their children.

--Children would have the legal right to choose their own religion. Parents would be permitted only to give advice.

--America would be under a binding legal obligation to massively increase its federal spending on children's programs.

The only kind of law that can override a treaty is the Constitution of the United States. State laws or state constitutions cannot override treaties. There is no guarantee that federal statutes could override treaties—moreover, we enter a binding legal promise to obey a treaty when we ratify it. America should not promise to obey a treaty and then claim it is appropriate to obey the treaty only when we want to. America of all nations must respect the rule of law.

There is only one possible solution for the eroding support for parental rights in the Supreme Court that can also stop the encroachment of international law.

We need to place the time-honored test of parental rights, as recognized by the Supreme Court for over seventy years, into the explicit text of the Constitution.

We cannot wait until our rights are formally demolished. We must act now to stop international law and protect these two key principles:

--Fit parents should be allowed to direct the upbringing of their children.

-- American legislators, not international tribunals, should make the public policy for America on families and children.

If you believe these two principles, become a supporter of parental rights. Get involved at www.parentalrights.org

Editorials may be submitted by the 20th of each month. Please include name, city, state and age if author is of school age.

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(BETHANY, OKLA.)---Southern Nazarene University head volleyball coach, Kevin Ingram, has announced the signing of Wichita, Kansas high school senior, Aimee Shroud. Shroud, a 6'0 middle blocker, will join the SNU volleyball team in the fall of 2009. Shroud has been a standout in the home school division in Wichita throughout her high school career. Aimee was a KCAA All-League selection for four years from 2005-08 and earned NHSVBT All-Tournament honors in 2007 and 2008. Shroud was also named to the Canton/Galva All-Tournament team in 2007 and 2008 and earned Pomona All-Tournament honors in '06. "Aimee is a solid player, and will add another great blocker to our line up," said SNU head coach Kevin Ingram. "Her added height will not only assist in what she will add as a blocker, but also as a big hitter. We look for her to continue to develop as she starts her college career, and become a big asset in the years to come." Shroud will join an SNU volleyball team that went 18-17 last year. In eight years at the helm of the Crimson Storm volleyball program, Kevin Ingram has compiled a 174-143 record and led SNU to the 2006 Sooner Athletic Conference tournament title. *Courtesy of SNU Sports Information*



Wichita Warriors See Players Signed With Colleges

Courtesy of Wichita Warriors

Aimee Shroud, senior hitter for the Wichita Warriors, signed a letter-of-intent with Southern Nazarene University to play volleyball. Amy has been a part of the Wichita Warriors volleyball and basketball program for the past 4 years. She and her family have been a real blessing to us and we wish her God's best in her new adventure. We know she will be a great asset to Southern Nazarene, spiritually and as a player.

Ashley Colliate, senior libero for the Warriors, also signed a letter-of-intent this past month. Ashley will be playing for Barclay College next year. Ashley and her family have been a part of the Warriors for 5 years. We wish Ashley God's best in her adventure.

Ashley and Amy were part of teams that won 3 KCAA State Championships and finished second nationally at the National Homeschool Tournament in 2007. They are both All KCAA volleyball players. We thank their families for all their hard work for the Warriors and wish them well in their new endeavors.

Defenders Wrap Up Season

Courtesy of Wichita Defenders

The Defenders families, coaches, and players would like to thank everyone who prayed for our safety as we closed our season by traveling to Olathe, Omaha, and Springfield Mo. for the National Home School Basketball Championships. Intertwined with these road trips we had our final home game and tribute to our seniors, Abby Carbon, Chris Jensen, David Griekspoor, Dixon Sellin, Leslie Graham, Shawna Dester and Victoria Kelley. The Defenders thank each of these players and families for making a lasting impression and contribution to the success of the organization.

Whether you are a parent or a coach, it is always exciting to see players receive recognition for their efforts throughout the season. The Defenders were blessed with the kind of talent that garnered All American honors at state, regional, and nationals. Our state All Americans were: Tate Jackson, Sarah Munds, and Victoria Kelley, with honorable mentions awarded to Kileab Ammons and Angie Waalkes. At regionals/nationals, Sarah Munds was awarded 2nd team All American and named to the all-region team. In addition, Tate Jackson and Victoria Kelley each were named 3rd team All Americans and Dixon Sellin and Angie Waalkes each received national honorable mentions. During the nationals showcase night on March 18, each of the All American players had the opportunity to play 6:00 minutes with fellow All Americans in front a crowd of 4,000. Infused into the crowd were scouts from Georgetown, Tennessee, South Florida, Miami, Oral Roberts, Missouri State, Arkansas Little Rock and Alabama. Plus there were dozens of scouts and college coaches from schools like Mid-America University, SE Missouri State, Crown Christian College, Barclay College, Pensacola, North Dakota, Pittsburg State, Drury College and SW Louisiana.

The Defenders were blessed with the ability to take to nationals a total of 49 players representing 7 different aged teams. Thanks to the numerous volunteers within the Defenders family, all challenges associated with lodging, travel, scheduling, and meals were met. In the end our U18 varsity boys and girls were national runners-up in division 2A and 4A respectfully. Congratulations to all of our teams for finishing the season strong.

God is good and He blessed the Defenders with an amazing basketball season that will be celebrated during our upcoming banquet.

There is no better time to check us out and find how God has equipped the Defenders to provide young athletes the opportunity to learn biblically based lessons through competitive sports. Our website is www.wichitadefenders.org or you may inquire by email at defenders@swbell.net.

