



HomeStyle News

Utah Christian Home School Association

www.UTCH.org

Convention/Winter Edition

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2017 UTCH Convention

March 10 and 11, 2017
Kaysville Bible Church
181 N Flint Street
Kaysville, UT 84121

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:16)

If There was Ever a Time to Homeschool, It is Now

By Davis Carman our Keynote Speaker

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:16)

Twenty-six years ago when our first child was born, homeschooling was nowhere on my personal radar screen. Then in 1996, Rachael and I reluctantly began our journey down this path. Four years into it we were sold on the lifestyle and made a personal commitment for the long haul, even with high school looming in the not-too-distant future. Not long after that, we began to actively promote and support home education by serving on the board of North Carolinians for Home Education. Eight years ago I got more skin in the game by becoming a publisher of homeschooling curriculum as president of Apologia Educational Ministries.

Along the way, my encouragement and urging to families to undertake this adventure of a lifetime has increasingly moved from kind and gentle to bold and serious to completely politically incorrect. The bottom line is this: I don't understand how a Christian parent can even *consider* sending their children to a public school anymore.

You may be thinking, *That's a strong statement!* But it's been my observation that most people think public schools are terrible—that is, all public schools except the one their own kids attend. All those tragic news stories happen somewhere else. With all due respect to the families who lost loved ones at Sandy Hook, Columbine, and other cities, they thought their schools were safe. Although the subject of physical safety is a real and serious reason why you should consider homeschooling, it doesn't come close to the spiritual dangers your child faces at a public school today and especially in the days to come.

I present a workshop at conferences entitled *Give Me One Good Reason to Homeschool*. In that session, I start with a fun list of reasons to homeschool. Here are just a few:

- It's a short commute to school
- Your kids never miss the school bus
- Recess can last two hours on a sunny day
- Your kids don't have to read until they are good and ready
- Playing with LEGOs counts as learning
- Every kid gets a role in the school play
- No waiting in lines
- You can schedule trips to theme parks when the crowds are gone
- Cleaning out the refrigerator doubles as a science experiment

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- If you're caught talking to yourself, you can say you were having a parent-teacher meeting

And one of my personal favorites:

- [The teacher never goes on strike](#)

After breaking the ice with this list, I then transition to a serious list of reasons to educate your children at home. In this article, I want to address just one of these important reasons: *the liberal agenda*.

As you probably know, in 2015 the Supreme Court announced a deeply troubling opinion on marriage that goes against what the Supreme Being Himself said about marriage (Matthew 19:4–5). But truth *does* exist and real marriage has an actual definition and a spiritual meaning. And there is such a thing as a counterfeit disguising itself as the real thing. So what does this have to do with homeschooling? Quite a bit actually.

The enemy has been working his game plan and gaining traction by implementing a liberal agenda into the public school system for decades. Prayer was dismissed from classrooms in the 1960s. A culture of death became the norm in the '70s with the *Roe v. Wade* decision and the social acceptance of abortion. Parents willingly handed off their children to day-care facilities in droves during the '80s. During the 1990s and 2000s we saw the indoctrination of climate change propaganda and placing the love of creation over that of the Creator. Relativism and a "whatever" attitude came to permeate the hearts and minds of millions of young people, including those growing up in Christian families. Research uncovered the disturbing trend that teens were not only leaving the church when they graduated high school but that they were already gone in elementary school and junior high because of the false teachings they were exposed to so forcefully at an impressionable age.

History was made once more with the SCOTUS decision, which tries to force states to accept a false definition of marriage. One short year later, and the national discussion has been centered on gender identity (make that confusion) and bathroom policies. If you think you've seen a liberal agenda in the past, you ain't seen nothing yet. The National Education Association and its cronies want to cram it down the throat of every American, starting with your son and daughter in kindergarten and making sure they are devoted converts by the time they finish fifth grade.

So what's a Christian parent to do? You had better grab the people you love and get out of Egypt as fast as you can. I'm not kidding.

When I say that I no longer understand how Christian parents can consider sending their children to a public school, let me be clear about what I am *not* saying. I'm not saying that the Bible commands us to homeschool, although we *are* commanded to teach our children diligently to love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. I'm not saying that it's a sin to send your kids to public school. But I am saying that no five- or six-year-old kid is prepared to handle such an onslaught of brainwashing, bullying, and sexual deviancy. And I can't understand how Christian parents can be okay with sending their older children to these dark institutions to be harassed, pressured, desensitized, and possibly won over.

Let me remind you what's at stake here and refresh your memory of what is included in the liberal agenda: God is dead. Truth is whatever you want it to be. Darwin was a saint. Evolution is fact. Creationism is silly. Faith is for people who need a crutch. There is no right or wrong. When the choice is life or death, blessing or curses, they opt for death

and curses. And now, homosexuality is flaunted as a good and normal lifestyle that had better be accepted by everyone. This is the liberal curriculum. These are the messages your young children will learn, recite, memorize, read, and write about in public school. Save your children from these lies. Don't turn a blind eye, and please don't sacrifice your kids on this pagan altar. I know that you love them more than anyone else in the world, certainly more than any of the strangers who will indoctrinate them in public school. You simply can't ignore the facts any longer. If there was ever a time to homeschool, it is now!



Davis Carman is the president of Apologia Educational Ministries, the #1 publisher of creation-based science and Bible curriculum. He is also the author of four illustrated children's books. Good Morning, God is based on Deuteronomy 6, A Light for My Path is an ABC book based on Psalm 119, and In the Beginning is based on Genesis. His latest, Psalms to Know Early, is now available.

INTEGRATING GEOGRAPHY: GEOGRAPHY IS EVERYWHERE

by Cindy Wiggers

Geography is a subject that is easy to teach and fun to study. All you need is a good atlas, some simple outline maps, and whatever curriculum you are already using for history and science. Science? If you're thinking there may be an error here, let me set you straight—yes, science! You see, geography is much more than simply knowing WHERE a place is located on a map or memorizing states and capitals. Let's take a look at the definition as stated by the National Geographic Society:

GEOGRAPHY: *A knowledge of place names, location of cultural and physical features, distribution and patterns of languages, religions and physical phenomena, such as tectonic activity, land form, climate, bodies of water, soils, and flora and fauna; The changes in places and areas through time, including how people have modified the environment. Cartographers' tools, such as maps, instruments, graphs and statistics, are also a part of geography.*

Since the study of geography has so many facets, you can easily integrate it into your current curriculum. When studying plate tectonics, erosion, volcanoes, or weather in science, pull out an outline map and let your student depict the details of what you are learning on it. Weather maps are interesting projects to develop and so are see-through layered maps, made with clear plastic sheets. Layer each sheet on top of the next exposing a different theme. It's great fun to make a salt dough map of the area you are studying in history. Outline maps provide practical hands-on learning experiences for your students.

Here are just a few of many ideas to get you started:

- Draw explorers' maps.
- Record Biblical events on a map of Israel or the Middle East.
- Depict world empires on maps of Europe, Ancient Civilizations, etc.

Use maps whenever possible. From making vacation plans to reading the newspaper or watching the evening news, there are always opportunities to look up a place in an atlas. Seeing the place depicted on a map often improves the understanding of the event about which you are learning. Ask questions of your students to develop their skills of observation and their ability to draw conclusions. Do the physical features of the place play any role in the news event reported? What countries (or states) border the one in question? What do you suppose is the main source of water for this community? Label them on your map. Here are some important helpful hints to make adding a mapping assignment to your school day beneficial.

- Make sure your atlas is adequate and appropriate for the student's level and the assignment given.
- Does your student know how to use the atlas? A quick lesson will help alleviate frustration. Often good information on using the atlas is in the front of the atlas itself.
- Use color coding with colored pencils or colored pens to help clarify ages of history, types of mineral deposits, elevations in physical geography, etc.
- Sit with your student the first few times and encourage him with your help and direction.

- Allow plenty of time to get the job done right.
- Show off your student's maps whenever possible and praise him for his efforts.

Using the National Geographic Society definition of geography to enlighten your understanding of geography, challenge yourself to find creative "geography moments" throughout the school day. Your students will have an edge in understanding world affairs as they develop a fuller knowledge of geography.

CINDY WIGGERS, author of the *Trail Guide to Geography* series, publisher, and national speaker, established the family business, *Geography Matters*, with her husband in 1989. As a result of homeschooling her three children she developed a heart to help parents inspire their children with a love for learning. WWW.GEOMATTERS.COM

Convention Theme

Walk Wisely

Theme Verse

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:16)

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Davis Carman Topics

I Believe in Homeschooling

Most parents place a high value on the education they can give to their children. It prepares them for life and gives them hope for a happy future. In the old days, the three R's of schooling included reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. Is homeschooling succeeding because it is reclaiming the tried and true educational philosophy or is something else going on? In this workshop, Davis presents a compelling case for you to believe in the power of homeschooling and seven new R's to back it up.

Give Me One Good Reason to Homeschool

Are parents really qualified to teach their children everything? What about socialization? These are just a couple of the concerns that make homeschooling seem impossible. But you know homeschooling is continuing to grow. More and more families are considering it and taking the plunge. What are the top reasons? In this session, Davis discusses the moral, academic, and practical reasons to homeschool, and helps dispel the myths we all tend to believe. When you finish this workshop, you will know that if there was ever a time to homeschool, it is now.

Don't Ring the Bell (aka Never Ever Give Up)

Homeschooling is not for the faint of heart. It can be scary to start and just as daunting to continue. Statistics show that roughly 20% of parents who start this journey quit after the first year. Then another 20% stop after year two with 10% walking away by year three. The trend levels off by year four with a little less than half of those who started remaining. What separates those who stick with it from those who give up? Is it just a matter of persevering? Davis believes that every child is a homeschool child, but not every parent is a homeschool parent. Are you a homeschool parent? Come and find out. And if you are, Davis will give you five promises that should inspire you to never ever give up and four fundamentals to help you persevere and succeed.

Rachael Carman Topics

How Many Times Do I Have to Tell You?

God uses moments when we speak to our children to speak to us. Are we listening to Him the way we want our children to listen to us? Join Rachael as she shares how God meets us in every moment.

What about 'That' Child?

What face comes to mind when you hear 'that child'? Do you smile or scowl when you see *that* face? Do you see yourself in *that* face? Do you struggle to like *that child*? Does it seem difficult? Impossible? *That child* is a world changer. God has a plan for *that child*. All of that energy, all those questions, all

that strength, all THAT, is God-given for His glory. Come learn strategies for learning to like *that child*, to embrace *that child*, to train *that child*. They are worth it and He is worthy!

How to Have a HEART for Your Kids

In Proverbs 4:23 Solomon wisely wrote, "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." As we approach a heart relationship with our children, we need to focus our efforts on what really matters. As with so many things, the first step to having a heart is wanting to have a heart. This lesson uses the word H.E.A.R.T. as an acronym to suggest what really matters from a Biblical viewpoint.

Soaring Beyond Survival

Homeschooling is not easy. As a matter of fact, sometimes it gets downright overwhelming, and it can be tempting to slip into survival mode. Homeschooling is the adventure of a lifetime, and God will be your strength. It is not His will that you just survive; He wants you to thrive. Come hear Rachael Carman discuss what it takes to soar like an eagle.

Richard Stepanek Topics

Which God is the One True God?

Science gives evidence there is a god, but the problem is there are many gods in the world. Which god is the one true God, and which god will you put your faith in? We will examine the scientific, historical, and prophetic accuracy of Scripture. This presentation gives evidence that the one true God of the universe is also the God of the Bible.

Refuting Compromise

Why have so many Christians departed from the literal reading of Genesis? This session we'll address the teachings of the Gap Theory, Day Age Theory, Theistic Evolution, and Progressive Creationism. We will also look at the consequences of compromise and what is at stake in these issues.

Ideas have Consequences

What you believe about the origin of life will influence your thinking and behavior. We will examine how evolution affects our society in the areas of family, church, government, public schools, etc. This lecture is designed primarily for young adults and adults.

The Age of the Earth and the Fossil Record

In this presentation we will look at radiometric dating. Is it really accurate? Are there other scientific dating methods that give us a much younger age for the earth? I will reveal the best and most accurate method to use for dating purposes. What about the **fossil record**, does it provide evidence for evolution or creation? We will study some of the transitional forms (missing links) that are used to support evolution. Do they **really** exist or are they still missing? Next, I will present information about mutations (genetic

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mistakes), the mechanism used to generate new genetic information causing one creature to evolve into another creature. Are they truly helpful, or are they harmful?

Stem Cells and the Folly of Dolly (Cloning)

Learn the difference between embryonic and adult stem cells and the interesting research behind it. What is cloning? Discover the problems encountered with Dolly. Can humans be cloned? These and other questions will be answered in this eye-opening presentation.

Walk by Faith, Not by Sight

We cannot always trust our eyes and our brain, but we can trust the Bible. This is an illusion presentation where I trick the eye and the mind. I can make you see things that are **not** there, and make you **not** see things that are there. Evolution is an illusion, because there is no observational evidence to support it. I usually teach this lecture at the end of a long week of teaching creation. By this time my students are about brain dead from all the scientific information supporting creation and Genesis, and they need something less scientific.

Marvin Cowan Topic

“Why Do Mormons Proselyte Christians?”

If Mormons believe that Christians need to be proselyted into Mormonism to have God’s best in eternity, they must see a difference between Mormonism and Christianity. But LDS also call themselves “Christians.” Does that sound confusing? This break out session will help put things in perspective.

Jim and Terri Kerr Topics

Homeschooling Children to be Sexually Pure

Teaching Children to be sexually pure in a world where premarital sex is normalized is difficult. The media is selling sex to our children. Pornography is regularly viewed by 2.4 billion people of the 7 billion people that live on our planet. How do we raise children who seek sexual purity out of a love for God? How do we talk to them about the reality of their sexually charged culture? In this family seminar, we will look at methods to equip our children with the necessary and practical tools that promote their personal relationship with Christ to achieve sexual purity before and after marriage.

Teaching your Children and Sex Education.

Join us for fun activities and relevant information to make you an informed parent to give your children a strong foundation navigating their world to live, love and marry well in sexual purity.

Mike Stimpson Topic

Homeschooling (or not) for the glory of God. More details to follow.

Homeschool Graduates Panel

Recent homeschool graduates will share their experiences in college and getting jobs. They will cover topics such as getting into college, adjusting to a new lifestyle, applying for jobs and much more. Come with questions.

2017 Convention Programs

Programs for our Children

We have many wonderful opportunities for our children this year at the UTCH Convention! As you read through these opportunities, please remember that you are welcome to keep your registered children with you. If you choose to do this, please do keep them with you as we want to ensure their safety as well as keep things running quietly and smoothly for everyone. If you have an infant that you are keeping with you, please leave the room if they become fussy or noisy. In the sanctuary, there will be a designated area in the back right for parents with infants. Utilizing this area will allow you to come and go easily.

If you have a teen that would prefer to serve in the nursery, preschool or children’s program, there is a great need for servants. Please register them on the volunteer!

Children’s Program

Brush off your toga and find your sandals because we’re going back in time to the New Testament!

Children, ages 5-11, are invited to join us for an exciting new adventure where we will be diving into God’s word, studying alongside the Early Church! We’ll be joined by friends, some old and some new, to help us on our journey of faith, growing as His disciples. And as always there will be tons of fun crafts, songs, skits, and games. We hope to see you there!

Preschool Program

Arianna Edwards and friends will be serving our preschoolers with their wonderful gifts and talents. This year’s preschool program (3-5 years old) will have a Noah’s Ark theme. Children will explore Noah’s history and many different animals in our activities. They will practice developing skills including: pre-reading and math skills, large and small muscle skills, listening skills, expression and logic skills, as well as following directions. The program will include group activities, snack times, crafts, and free play time.

Nursery will and be provided for newborn children to 2 years of age. We will work hard to keep all babies content.

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Friday, March, 2017 Tentative Convention Schedule

Check website for up-to-date sessions

- Noon - Doors Open, Registration, Vendor Hall Open.
- 1:00-2:00 Workshops:
- Homeschooling (or not) for the Glory of God - Mike Simpson
 - Vendor Workshop – Why Do Mormons Proselyte Christians? – Marvin Cowan
 - Focus on Marriage - DVD
- 2:15-3:15 Workshops:
- Homeschooling Children to be Sexually Pure - Jim and Terri Kerr
 - Stem Cells and the Folly of Dolly – Richard Stepanek
 - Choosing Curriculum and Teaching Methods
- 3:30-4:30 Workshops:
- The Age of the Earth and the Fossil Record
 - Homeschooling Children to be Sexually Pure - Jim and Terri Kerr
 - The Forum Speech and Debate
- 4:30-6:00 Dinner Break - Vendor Hall Closed
- 6:00 - Children's Programs Check In (NO Onsite Registration for all Children's Programs)
Homeschool Graduates Panel – Teen Program
Teen Social
- 6:10 - Opening, Announcements, Song; (Vendor Hall Closed)
Evening Keynote: Rachael Carman

Saturday, March 11, 2017

- 7:30 am - Doors Open, Vendor Hall Open and Registration Available; Continental Breakfast
- 8:00-8:15 Pre-registered check-in for all children (NO Onsite Registration for Children's Programs); Vendor Hall Closed
- 8:15 Announcements, Keynote 1: Davis Carman – I Believe in Homeschooling
- 9:50-10:50 Workshop 1 – (Vendor Hall Open)
- Refuting Compromise – Richard Stepanek
 - How Many Times Do I Have to Tell You? – Rachael Carman
 - To Be Determined
 - To Be Determined
- 11:00-12:15 Keynote 2: Rachael Carman – How to Have a Heart for Your Kids – Rachael Carman
- 12:15-1:30 Lunch with your family – (Vendor Hall Open)
- 1:30-2:40 Graduation Presentation, Announcements,
Keynote 3: Davis Carman – Don't Ring the Bell – Davis Carman
- 2:50-3:50 Workshop 2 – (Vendor Hall Open)
- Which God Is the One True God? - Richard Stepanek
 - Give Me One Good Reason to Homeschool – Davis Carman
 - Teaching your Children and Sex Education - Jim and Terri Kerr
 - Father's Guiding their Children – Mike Stimpson
- 4:00-5:00 Workshop 3
- Walk by Faith and Not by Sight – Richard Stepanek
 - What about "That" Child? – Rachael Carman
 - Teaching your Children and Sex Education - Jim and Terri Kerr
 - To Be Determined
- 5:00 Pick Up All Children
- 5:10 Closing Round Up – Return Surveys and Prizes
- 6:00 Vendor Hall Closes

Volunteer at the Convention!

We are excited to gather as homeschool families to receive inspiration, encouragement, and like-minded fellowship; and we need YOUR help to make the convention run smoothly! Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, registration, nursery, children's program, and tear down.

“Many hands make light work”, so please visit the volunteer sign up <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c4da8ac283-utch> to find a spot to serve. Teens are especially encouraged to serve, giving their hard-working parents an opportunity to attend as much of the convention as possible. Each hour served is eligible for a \$5 rebate, payable at the end of convention. If you have any questions, please contact Susie Jackson.

Thank you!

Save the Date!

UTCH Convention Registration

**Early Bird Registration
ends on February 24th!**
Register today at utch.org.

2017 UTCH Convention

March 10 and 11, 2017
Kaysville Bible Church
181 N Flint Street
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2017 UTCH Graduation

June 3 @2:00 PM
More information will be
available on
UTCH.org soon.

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