

Keynote Speaker



Israel Wayne is an author and conference speaker who has a passion for defending the Christian faith and promoting a Biblical worldview. He is the author of the books Questions God Asks, Questions Jesus Asks, Pitchin' a Fit: Overcoming Angry and Stressed-Out Parenting, Education: Does God Have an Opinion?, Answers for Homeschooling: Top 25 Questions Critics Ask, Raising Them Up: Parenting for Christians, Foundations in Faith, and Foundational Truths. He is also the site editor for ChristianWorldview.net and the founder of Family Renewal.

Israel and his wife Brook (both homeschooled graduates) were joined in marriage in 1999 and have 11 homeschooled children.

Featured Speakers

Chuck Black is a former F-16 fighter pilot and tactical combat communications engineer, is the author of twenty-one novels. His heart is to equip and encourage families in their pursuit of Christ. He speaks at conferences across the United States and Canada. He is also an entrepreneur with sixteen patents and is currently the president and general manager for FlowCore Systems, a chemical injection automation company in the oil and gas industry. He is devoted to his wife, Andrea, and their six children and multiple grandchildren. Chuck and Andrea homeschooled their children for twenty-four years.



Andrea Black, wife of Chuck, mother of six and grandmother of multiple grandchildren, spent twenty-four years homeschooling her own personal Brady Bunch. When she ran out of children at home, she borrowed other people's and taught 5th & 6th grades at Trinity Christian School. With degrees in English and Speech/Theatre Education, she enjoyed coaching the local Christian school speech team for many years. She credits being an Air Force wife for challenging her to trust completely in Jesus while she waited for and supported her husband. Her love for her Savior gives her purpose and passion for a life lived in service to Him!

Seann Dikkers is a husband and father of two homeschooled children. He currently works as Chief Product Officer at Portals, developing support for new homeschooling families. He has worked as a middle school teacher, high school principal, researcher, Department Chair of Education at Bethel University, Executive Director of MACHE, and authored books including *TeacherCraft*, *Mobile Media Learning*, and *Real-Time Research* exploring the powerful impact of play, design, and, *gasp* even having fun while learning.



Speaker Bios



Nancy Bjorkman - After being a homeschool skeptic, Nancy began homeschooling her four children in 1992, and saw it work. Now a mentor to homeschooling families, she has spoken at homeschool conferences in over 10 states, where she is known for her enthusiasm, energy, and encouragement. Her favorite times are spent with her growing family including 9 grandchildren. She and her husband owned HEPPNER'S LEGACY, a homeschool store in Elk River, MN, for 18 years and now are learning what it's like to have more free time as they make the handoff to the new owners.

Lori Wentz is the Special Needs Coordinator for the NDHSA. As part of those duties, she frequently mentors parents one on one, as well as advocating for parents interacting with school districts. Over the years she has been a Parent Representative for Head-Start, a member of the RICC (Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee) on the local and state level and represented ND as a presenter at the National Alliance Conference.



Theresa Deckert has been homeschooling since 1986...before it was legal in ND! She and her husband, Jeff, served on the NDHSA Board of Directors for 17 years, and she was the Office Administrator from 2012-2021. Theresa has spent years lobbying for better homeschool laws in our state. Her four children were homeschooled from birth and are all married. She is now able to be more involved with her grandchildren through babysitting, teaching them piano, and helping with homeschooling. She's grateful for the 2019 legislation allowing others (grandparents) to be enlisted as tutors! Mrs. Deckert has much musical experience, she has spent 50 years as a private piano teacher and she is currently a keyboardist for the Devils Lake Community Orchestra.

Sharon Fisher is a wife, mother, and grandmother who is passionate about encouraging homeschool parents and Christian educators to teach children with excellence and a biblical worldview. She holds a B.S. and an M.A. in Elementary Education. With years of full-time teaching experience in elementary classrooms and as a former elementary author for BJU Press, she has made significant contributions to various educational materials. Additionally, she has presented workshops nationally and internationally on many topics and teaching methods. Currently, she serves as the Social Media Coordinator, Workshop Speaker and Coordinator, Blog Writer, and Curriculum Specialist for HomeWorks by Precept, a trusted provider of homeschool materials.



"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all." - Helen Keller.



Speaker Bios



Caleb Hoverson is a 2016 homeschool graduate and a Minot native. After studying Classical Liberal Arts and Philosophy at Patrick Henry College and graduating from Liberty University online, he is now finishing his MA in Theology from Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne. Caleb is also pursuing a campus apologetics ministry at Minot State University. He and his wife Delie are blessed with three children: Hosanna (4), Micah (2), and Enoch (months old), whom they intend---and have already started---to homeschool.

Liz Buck is a homeschooling mom of three boys (ages 22, 18, and almost 14) and has homeschooled for 17 years. She is also the office administrator/editor and board member at the ND homeschool association, a role she began in 2021. She has been married to her husband, Dave, for 27 years, and they live near Wing, ND.



Mindy Dicken is a follower of Jesus, the wife of a British-American sound engineer, and the mother of four hilarious homeschooled children. A Minot native, she was blessed to pursue her passion for music as a singer/songwriter for ten years in Kansas City before returning to Minot to raise a family. She began teaching music at the Children's Music Academy of Minot in 2019 and subsequently became the owner in 2023. Her desire is to impart the significant role music education plays in the overall health and development of every child, and to make it attainable for all, especially those with no musical background.

Susy Oliver was introduced to politics in Minnesota and volunteered for many years at the grassroots level before moving to North Dakota. A Fargo resident since 2017, she served two terms as the Republican District Chair of D11 from 2021-2025 and as a member of the NDGOP State Executive Committee as the Southeast Regional Chair from 2023-2025. Susy is currently working to activate and grow the conservative movement across North Dakota by teaching the political process and sharing three simple actions every busy citizen can take to make a difference.



Jeff Hoverson, husband of one wife (female) and father of six children - all walking in the truth (2 John 1:4) - three boys married to strong, Christian women, who have delighted us with, so far, four grandchildren. Pastor of Living Word Lutheran Brethren Church of Minot, ND and Legislator in the ND House of Representatives - District 3

Speaker Bios



Chris Herrin serves as the Director of Admissions at Emmaus University, where he helps families navigate the college decision process with clarity, low-pressure, and a deep conviction to a boldly Christian education. With more than a decade of experience in admissions and ministry, Chris understands both the hopes and concerns parents carry as they guide their students toward life after high school. Chris holds three master's degrees in Christian Education, Theology, and Philosophy, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Apologetics. This blend of education and experience helps him equip families to think critically about where to send their student to college. Known for his energy, warmth, and practical wisdom, Chris loves helping parents ask the right questions and make decisions that honor both Christ and their students' future.

Llora Knight is a homeschool mom of fourteen, blessed grandma of thirty, and great-grandma of three. She homeschooled for 39 years in 3 countries and 3 states. Llora was married to Ken, her high school sweetheart, for nearly 45 years, until he graduated to heaven in June of 2021. She earned her master's degree in curriculum development in May of 2024. She now lives in Dickinson, North Dakota with her two youngest daughters, her dog Sadie, and her cat Blueberry. Llora served on the NDHSA board of directors for 12 years. She is the author of 19 books, five of which are *The Story of North Dakota*.



Teen Track Speakers



Tim Brenner grew up on a small farm in rural South Dakota and came to know the Lord at a young age. While attending college in Bismarck, ND, in 2003, he began working with the ministry of Crystal Springs Camp in Medina, ND. Shortly after graduating with a degree in Communications, he began to work with the camp's ministry full-time. He has now served as the camp's Executive Director for the last 15 years. Tim and his family enjoy the outdoors, particularly fishing and spending time together on the lake in their spare time. Tim's passion is to help young people think through the difficult questions of the faith and to help prepare them to engage every argument and lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God.

LeAnn Lindteigen has known the Lord as her savior since she was young. She has a passion for sharing this truth with people of all ages! She enjoys serving others, reading good books, and hanging out with family and friends. For the last 14 years, she has served as the Program Director at Crystal Springs Camp, Medina, ND.



"Not all who wander are lost." - J.R.R. Tolkien