

## OCHEC 2009 Convention – Keynote Topics

### Kevin Swanson

#### **Homeschooling – Capturing the Vision!**

What is it about home education that has profoundly re-energized education and produced such outstanding academic results? Incredibly, the average Homeschool 8th grader without teacher-credentialed parents tests 4 grade levels above the national average on nationally standardized tests. And it is not because we have taken a public school system complete with desks and bolted them to the floor of our living rooms. In this visionary, ground-breaking presentation on the Homeschool vision, Kevin presents the basic elements that make up an outstanding homeschooling experience for your child. This message will give the first-time homeschooler confidence and vision and will provide encouragement and a reality check for the experienced home educator.

#### **Entertainment and Your Family**

In the words of one cultural commentator, are we entertaining our families to death? As a father of five, Kevin Swanson is engaging a multi-generational attempt to find the right balance of entertainment, work, and serving in life. What role should entertainment play in our children's life? Here Kevin Swanson measures the relative benefits or drawbacks of the cotton-candy novel (eg. Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew), historical adventures (eg. G.A. Henty), the "classic" novels, the 19th century Victorian fare, the fantasy genre, Walt Disney motion pictures, television (from *Andy Griffith* to *24*), recorded music, and radio drama. This very practical presentation will provide some helpful suggestions for bringing biblical principle to bear as you seek maximum edification for your family.

#### **Thesis, Antithesis, and Synthesis - Defining Your Relationship with the World**

As Christian children mature and see more of the "world," they are challenged with the question of how they should relate to the world. Should Christians escape the world, amalgamate into the world, or *change* the world? Kevin Swanson works with the multiple definitions of "the world," and then leaves the audience with a challenge they will not likely forget.

#### **History's Heroes**

Teach history to your children and you may end up changing history! Everyone has heroes whom they admire and emulate. The heroes of many children today are entertainers who are often devoid of any outstanding character traits any great acts of courage and heroism. But history is full of exciting heroes who exhibit strong virtues worth emulating; many of whom, by their godly leadership, changed the course of history. In this challenging and inspiring presentation, Kevin shows how you can uncover real meaning in history, and how, through your history curriculum, you can very well change your children's lives.

#### **Child Training in the Homeschool - 99% of the Job**

Biblically speaking, the education of children is far more than books and tests. Character training of our children is the foundation of successful child-raising whether we aim for success academically, spiritually, or in any other area. In this powerful, fast-paced survey of character training, Kevin lays out a vision that will help parents understand and undertake the beautiful job of child-training.

#### **Why Homeschooling Will Change the World**

Is it saying too much that homeschooling will change the world? It already has. Ideal for keynote, this presentation will draw from history, real research data, and the Bible to illustrate the power of relationship-based, parent-guided learning. The real reason why homeschooling will change the world is found where it is least expected.

## **Mike Goheen**

### **The Western Cultural Story and Education**

Education will be shaped by some story, some understanding of the world. The powerful humanist story of the West has deeply shaped education all over the world. What is this story? How has it shaped education? How has it shaped home education?

### **One Family's Journey in Home Education**

Sometimes stories can be encouraging and instructive. Tell our story: four early stepping stones into home education as well as creating a home environment for home education. Don't be fooled into thinking this seminar will just be a story! It will raise substantive issues like the importance of worldview, purpose of education, family worship, struggles of technology, learning to critique culture, and more.

### **The Use of the Bible in Home Education**

How should the Bible be used in home education?

### **The Biblical Story and Education**

If we reject the humanist story of the West, and believe the Bible to be true, how would it shape education?

### **Why We Home-Educated and Why We'd Do It Again**

What motivated us to home-educate? After four kids through high school what were the benefits-- especially those things we didn't foresee? Why would we do it again?

## **Marnie Goheen**

### **Five Pillars for Home Education**

There are five basic pillars that have upheld our home educating: the Bible as one story with a gospel of the kingdom at the centre, a biblical worldview that understands creation, sin and redemption in a comprehensive way, a rich understanding of creation, a recognition of the religious idolatrous beliefs that shape our culture, and the goal of witness to God's kingdom in every area of life.

### **Why Educate?**

What are we aiming at in education? There are many unhelpful reasons folk home educate. How might Scripture lead us here?

### **The Arts in Home Education**

What role should the arts, especially music, play in home education?

### **Canadian Idols**

What cultural idols are threatening our children today?