

OCHEC 2011 Convention – Keynote Topics

Andrew Pudewa

Rebuilding Your Education Paradigm: Teaching for “Freedomship”

Escaping the “conveyor belt” approach of institutional education by which most of us were shaped isn't easy, but it has to be done. For many parents, our greatest handicap as teachers is our own education—but it need not be so. In this inspiring and empowering session, you will not only come to understand the nature and purpose of today's educational system as it was originally conceived and designed, but you will see a shining alternative path, one that develops true thinkers, leaders, and communicators—so desperately needed in today's world.

Teaching Boys & Other Children Who Would Rather Make Forts All Day

Children like to do what they can do; they want to do what they think they can do, and they hate to do what they think they cannot do. If you want excited and enthusiastic children who learn well, you must understand these key laws of motivation, and focus on the essential requirement of relevancy. If it matters, children will learn it, and if it doesn't, they won't. This session will enlighten you with specific ways to find and create relevancy for children, even when they have no apparent interest.

Nurturing Excellent Writers and Speakers – The Power of Linguistic Patterns

Many parents think that good readers will naturally become good writers. Others think that writing talent is just that—a natural ability—some have it; others don't. Both are myths. History and modern research show very clearly how good writers have developed. What are the two most critical things you can do as a parent to develop a high level of aptitude, from a young age and into high school? With humor and insight, Andrew will share the two easy but unbelievably powerful things you can do to build language patterns and nurture competent communicators in your family.

Fairy Tales and the Moral Imagination

Are fairy tales good, even important for Christian students? Where did they come from, what can they teach our children, and should we spend our valuable time reading them? In this session we will discuss several basic themes in fairy tales and traditional children's literature (goodness, truth, beauty, hope, honesty, wishes, etc.) as well as key archetypes of literature and their importance to the moral imagination. With the confusion surrounding modern fantasy writing, many parents feel uncertain in discerning the good and important literature from misleading and confusing books, stories, and movies.

Conquering Corrupt Culture by Raising Christian Communicators

“Conquering” implies that we are in an extended campaign—a war—for the heart of our Christian society, now corrupted by a continuous onslaught of relativism in thought, art, and morality, resulting in a culture of death, debt, and despair. We, as Christian homeschoolers, must have more than just “nice” reasons to homeschool—it's not about academics; it's about reclaiming Western Civilization for Jesus Christ, and the choices we make every day have eternal significance as we strive to raise up a generation of young people who will be empowered to communicate the truth in a world of liars and lead their clueless peers through the coming crises. We have an immediate and urgent responsibility to raise up an army of “culture warriors.”

The Profound Influence of Music on Life

Music has become such an ever-present influence in our daily life, we seldom stop to consider what effect it has on us. But we must. As we changed over the last 100 years from being music “makers” to music “consumers,” we have gradually lost control over, and even awareness of, our auditory environment. In what way is music beneficial to our bodies and minds? In what circumstances can it actually be harmful? Solid scientific research provides some astounding answers to such questions--indeed, facts that must not be ignored by today's parents and children.

The Influence of Music on Life, Part II: Evaluating Musical Elements

Picking up from where "The Profound Influence of Music on Life" talk leaves off, this presentation uses musical samples to help listeners learn to hear more actively, both to gain the most out of their listening experience as well as to encourage "defensive" listening and teach their children to listen with greater discernment. Musical selections of baroque, classical, folk, and popular genres are played and discussed, with the goal of helping listeners identify and understand the significance of rhythm, harmony, melody, repetition, syncopation, pattern and complexity. Without saying, "this is good, this is bad," Mr. Pudewa presents a unique perspective on the question of whether all music is equally beneficial to the Christian.

Hal Young

The World, The Flesh, and The Young'uns: Protecting Your Wife in the Homeschooling Life

Studies show that nearly all of the active homeschooling task is done by the mother – which makes sense, because most fathers spend the majority of their days earning the family's living. While the teaching may be delegated to Mom, Dad needs to be aware of her critical need for more than financial and moral support. She needs protection from things that may not have occurred to either one of them. Hal Young points out where some of the hidden land mines lie, and offers suggestions for how husbands can protect their wives.

Developing the Next Generation of Leadership

Don't wait until you are so burnt out that you quit cold turkey and your support group dies as leaders we know have done. Learn what to look for in potential leaders, how to recruit them and how to disciple them to take over and keep the ministry going for your children's generation.

Surviving and Appreciating Boys

In spite of what the culture is telling us, boys and girls are different. Have you ever had a war break out in the middle of history, or had a single math lesson take three hours? Then you're probably raising boys! If the world seems intent on gender-bending and forcing our sons into a feminized mold, Hal and Melanie, parents of six boys, explain the Biblical way out – and a better way to turn homeschool wigglers into Christian men!

Homeschooling and the Pursuit of Happiness

Homeschooling is a task that demands dedication, discipline, self-sacrifice and time. According to several research studies, though, homeschooling parents and their students are finding significant happiness and satisfaction in the experience. What gives? Find out in this unusual session that will encourage you that we're doing the right thing.

Hal and Melanie

Homeschooling Is Not Enough

Because none of it will matter if they don't follow Christ. Many homeschoolers hope and pray that because they've homeschooled their children will turn out all right, but unfortunately, we are seeing a number of homeschooled children turning away from God in rebellion. We can't make our children serve Christ, but we can make sure we aren't standing in the way! Find out about the power of delighting in your children and loving them as Christ loves us. Hear how to point them to the Savior and teach them to serve Him!

Strengthening Your Marriage

Homeschool marriages are breaking up everywhere. How can this be? What is wrong when a family at the forefront of the culture war spins apart? If you homeschool, you know you are in a spiritual battle. Don't let your marriage be the weak point in your armor. Find out about challenges your marriage may face, and how to work it through, not just to stay together, but to find joy and strength in your bond as you mirror the relationship of Christ and the church to your children and world.

Don't Lose Heart—The Critical Importance of Finishing What You've Started

It's easy to get burned out, tired and overwhelmed with homeschooling, and, as the years pass, challenges often come too, such as job loss, illness, difficult family times, and learning challenges that make surviving even harder. How can we press on through these things and do what we know is right? In this hopeful, funny, and encouraging session the Youngs look at the importance to your family, your children and our world of finishing what you've started and making it all the way to graduation.

Melanie Young

Three Simple Goals for Your First Year

Over years of calls from brand new homeschoolers, Melanie learned that there were really three things that needed to be accomplished the first year in order for new families to succeed at homeschooling. They must foster or restore a love of learning in their children, develop discipline and respect in the family and get the basics done. Learn how to get through your first year without leaving anyone bald-headed, including yourself!

Homeschooling through Hard Times

Homeschooling is a challenge at any time. Sickness, job loss, learning disabilities, business travel, and relocation are just a few of the extra stresses that can derail our best efforts to teach at home. Hal and Melanie Young have seen God's grace in all of these situations and more. The good news is that God can enable you to teach and learn more through the hard times than you ever thought possible. Come for a frank and encouraging look at what God can do through difficulties, and why it's so important to keep homeschooling in spite of the challenges

Homeschooling A Houseful

Sometimes homeschooling feels like one of those plate-spinning acts and you wonder how in the world you're going to meet everyone's needs. The baby needs to be changed, the toddler is playing in the toilet, your highschooler is impatiently waiting for you to help with his biology experiment, and two other children say, —I can't do anything else without you, Mom. Melanie Young, mother of eight, shares encouragement and ideas for how to keep all of those plates spinning at once without your life spinning out of control. Learn how to raise independent learners, keep the household moving, and make sure the little ones get enough attention.

Andy Bannister

Apologetics and the Art of the Question: An Introduction to Conversational Apologetics

Too often apologetics is misunderstood as being all about knowing the right information to “drop” on somebody when they raise an objection to the gospel — but apologetics is not just about answering questions, it’s also about learning to question the question. We’ll look at how Jesus himself did exactly this, before teaching you some powerful tools to use in your own evangelism.

Ideas Have Consequences: The Christian Worldview and Why It Matters

All of us — Christian or Buddhist, Muslim or atheist — have to wrestle with the big questions life throws up, questions of origin, meaning, morality and destiny. Where did we come from? What’s the purpose of life? How do I decide how to act and live? And, ultimately, where are we headed? But the answers given by different “worldviews” can be hugely divergent. We’ll explore what those answers look like for our friends who think differently to us, show how the Christian worldview offers the most coherent answers, and explore how we use these themes in personal evangelism.

Responding to the Challenge of the "New Atheism"

Our culture is increasingly secular. Turn on the TV and we hear the message loudly: “There is no God!” “Religion is irrational!” “Science has disproven religion!” “Religion just causes war and suffering” — and so on. Many of our friends and neighbors may hold to some of these ideas — so how do we begin engaging and conversing with them? This workshop will help you understand atheism and the worldview that underpins it: naturalism and so be better equipped to talk to your friends.

Responding to the Challenge of Islam

Islam is growing rapidly here in North Canada. Even if we don’t, we can’t escape the subject when we turn on the TV news or open our newspapers. So what do Muslims believe? What are the origins of Islam? How does the Islamic worldview differ from what Christians believe? And how can we befriend our Muslim neighbors so as to effectively share Christ with them?