

## DESCRIPTION GUEST SPEAKER BIOS AND WORKSHOPS

### ISRAEL WAYNE: \*featured 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 also the Director of Family Renewal. He and his wife, Brook, both homeschool graduates, are home educating their ten children in SW Michigan. [www.FamilyRenewal.org](http://www.FamilyRenewal.org)

- **(1) Education: Does God Have An Opinion?** -Is education a neutral subject? What does the Bible teach about schooling? Are public schools a viable option for Christians? These questions and more will be discussed in this engaging presentation.
- **(11) The Difference Between Schooling and Education** - Learn why most people are schooled, but never truly educated, and how you can ensure your children get a great education, even without schooling.
- **(21) Banquet: Homeschooling: Our Past, Present, & Future**
- **(29) Being Salt and Light** - What is the balance between sheltering our children and reaching out to a lost world around us? In this session you will learn how you can equip your children for the 'real world' by developing a family ministry.
- **(33) Homeschooling From a Biblical Worldview** - Are your children prepared to face the "Real World?" Learn how to equip your children to stand against the flood of secularism that threatens to drown them. Discover how to teach your children to view the core subjects (and all of life) through the lenses of scripture.
- **(39) What About Socialization?** Do you know where the theory of peer group socialization originated? Israel will go back in History and reveal the engineers behind modern social education theory. You may be surprised to learn what is truly behind this infamous question.
- **(48) Pitchin' A Fit: Overcoming Angry and Stressed-Out Parenting** - Are you tired of being stressed out, and ready to have a peaceful atmosphere in your home? Learn how in this important workshop.

### MARK SPENCE: \*featured speaker

\*Mark Spence is the Dean of The School of Biblical Evangelism, which founded alongside Ray Comfort and Kirk Cameron. He received his pastoral ordination and served as a pastor for almost six years. He served as the Dean of Calvary Chapel Bible College. He co-hosts a weekday program, The Comfort Zone, alongside Ray Comfort and Emeal Zwayne and is also the Producer and Editor of numerous award-winning films. He has been the keynote speaker at numerous conferences, events, learning institutes, and churches around the world. Mark's passion is to equip and

disciple Christians to be effective ambassadors unto the glory of God. He resides in Southern California with his wife where they homeschool their five children.

- **(6) A Father's Final Farewell** - God created us for a radical purpose! He calls us to think and dream big. This session will encourage you and your kids to live and die boasting in Christ and to ultimately make the glory of God your singular passion.
- **(14) Your Family's Foundation in the Gospel** - In this straightforward talk, Mark expounds on the Gospel (the "good news"), starting with God in creation and climaxing with Christ in an empty tomb. This is a message you can't afford to ignore as the simplicity of the cross is explained and boldly proclaimed.
- **(19) Your Atheist Professor Doesn't Stand a Chance** - In Romans 1, the Bible clearly teaches us God has revealed Himself to everyone. In this teaching, Mark will debunk the notion that atheists exist, answer the most common questions a skeptic will bring up, and discuss the greatest need of a skeptic which is their need to get born again.
- **(34) Does God Have a Wonderful Plan for You and Your Kids?** - The vital biblical principles in this session will force you to reexamine what you're teaching your children concerning the Gospel in order to make sure they are not disillusioned concerning what it means to be called a Christian.
- **(36) The Parent God Uses** - Are you overwhelmed at parenting? Do you feel unqualified? Are you second guessing your decision to homeschool? Does the idea of leading your family make you nervous? You are not alone. The Apostle Paul has some very practical and encouraging advice that will lay your objections to rest once and for all.
- **(44) The Parent's Lasting Legacy** - Our children will walk in the steps that we now walk. What is the legacy that we will leave behind? In this teaching, Mark looks at three key factors that are necessary in making sure our kids are filled with wisdom from above.

#### ZARA FAGEN PhD: \*featured speaker

\*Zara Fagen, PhD firmly believes that you don't have to choose between educational success and sanity while homeschooling - you can have both by decluttering your child's education. Zara applies her unique brand of analysis and reproducible results that she gained as a neurobiologist to teach other homeschoolers how to be awesome at homeschooling, instead of trying to be it all. Zara keeps things as simple as possible in Indiana with her husband, 4 children, and 3 businesses. She is a recovering perfectionist, proud science geek, and aspiring snowbird. You can connect with her on facebook @groups/minimalisthomeschoolingzara; or at her blog [www.ZaraPhD.com](http://www.ZaraPhD.com).

- **(10) Minimalist Homeschooling** - In this presentation, Zara helps homeschoolers rethink how they spend their time and energy in order to gain MORE educational value in their homeschool by doing LESS.
- **(15) Baby Steps to Begin Minimalist Homeschooling** - In this workshop, Zara gives dozens of ideas to begin decluttering your homeschool right away, without a major overhaul. Get plenty of practical tips for creating more space, more clarity, more confidence, and more value in your homeschool.
- **(30) Your 168-Hour Week: How to Make the Most of Your Time** - How will you do your best homeschooling in the actual (and limited) time you have available? In this workshop, you will learn how to plan a homeschool that is focused and high-value, while allowing plenty of time to breathe and enjoy impromptu learning.
- **(46) Rethinking Self-Care and Making It Happen** - How do we reconcile the increased demands on our time, with the increased importance of being at your best? In this workshop, you will be encouraged to rethink self-care, and to establish realistic and effective ways to keep us at our best.

**DR. JAY WILE: \*featured speaker**

\*Dr. Jay Wile holds an earned Ph.D. in nuclear chemistry and a B.S. in chemistry, both from the University of Rochester. He has won several awards for excellence in teaching and is an internationally-known speaker, having presented lectures on the topics of Nuclear Chemistry, Christian Apologetics, Homeschooling, and Creation vs. Evolution in several different countries. He is best known for his award-winning K-12 science textbooks designed specifically for the home school. Dr. Wile and his wife of more than 30 years, Kathleen, homeschooled their daughter, Dawn, from the time they adopted her until she graduated high school. You can learn about Dr. Wile's curriculum at [www.bereanbuilders.com](http://www.bereanbuilders.com)

- **(4) Teaching Science at Home** - In this seminar Dr. Wile will give you an overview of how to teach science at home and stresses the differences between elementary and high school science and how to use the middle school years to bridge the two. He also surveys the curricula available to homeschooling parents and makes recommendations.
- **(9) Why Homeschool THROUGH High School** - Using data gathered from many different sources, including his own experiences, Dr. Wile demonstrates that homeschooled students are better academically prepared and better socialized than their publicly- or privately-schooled counterparts. These facts allow Dr. Wile to make a compelling case that the best thing for a homeschooled student is to stay in homeschool, regardless of the parent's academic abilities.

- **(20) “Teaching” High School at Home** - In this seminar, Dr. Wile discusses the subjects that make up a rigorous, college-preparatory high school experience, gives you helpful tips on how you can help your child learn these subjects, and discusses the record-keeping that must be done at the high school level.
- **(26) Teaching Critical Thinking** - In this seminar, you will be given specific suggestions as to how you can teach your child to think critically, regardless of the subject matter. You will learn how to help your student evaluate statements, look for hidden assumptions, find political/social agendas, and discover faulty logic. Dr.Wile will show you how critical thinking applies to all academic areas, as well as all facets of your life.
- **(31) Teaching Elementary Science Using History as a Guide** - In this seminar, Dr. Wile discusses a different method for teaching science in the elementary years: covering science topics chronologically. If science is taught this way, students cover a wide range of topics each year and then revisit many of them as they were improved by later scientists. The student learns the topic in context of a new scientist and his improvements on the idea. This produces high levels of recall, is more interesting to the students, and gives a more realistic view of how science is done in the real world.
- **(41) College and Faith: What’s the Real Story?** - In this talk, Dr. Wile shows data that shows students who go to college are less likely to give up the Christian faith than those who do not attend college. He discusses strategies that will promote a vital spiritual life as well as a rewarding academic experience.

**JENNIFER PEPITO: \*featured speaker**

\*Jennifer Pepito is the founder of The Peaceful Press:

[www.thepeacefulpress.com](http://www.thepeacefulpress.com), a company committed to providing young families with learning resources that promote connection between parents and children. Her resources earn rave reviews from mothers of young children. Jennifer’s writing has been featured in several online and print journals, including *Wild and Free*, *The M.O.B. Society*, and *Home Educating Family*. She lives in the California foothills with her husband, Scott, and their seven children. She has homeschooled for over 21 years, and has graduated three of her children from her educational program. She is a firm believer in the power of home to shape culture, and foster connection, and she loves to encourage others towards identifying their essentials, and creating a home life that nurtures those ideals.

- **(35) Teaching History the Classical and Charlotte Mason Way** - In this workshop Jennifer will show you how to use the Charlotte Mason and Classical methods to make the study of history your child’s favorite subject.

She offers strategies for teaching history, book lists, and curriculum suggestions as well as practical techniques for using children's literature, timelines and projects to make history come alive.

- **(37) Peaceful Preschool** - In this informative workshop, you will receive tips and ideas for meeting the developmental needs of young children while teaching your school age children. Much of the information is taken from the teachings of Charlotte Mason and Maria Montessori, as well as other prominent philosophers on home schooling and education.
- **(45) Bountiful Homeschool on a Budget** - In this workshop, Jennifer will give tips and ideas for homeschooling your children when funds are limited. She will suggest to you creative resources for giving your children a quality education on a budget.
- **(5) A Divine Education With Charlotte Mason** - A Charlotte Mason education can awaken your child to the beauty of the world around them, and to the unfolding potential in their own life to impact the world for good. In this workshop you will learn how to incorporate Charlotte Mason into your own homeschool program in a way that is simple, but deeply enriching.
- **(13) The Power of Play** - In this encouraging talk, Jennifer highlights the benefits of play to your developing child, and shares strategies for capitalizing on the value of play in your homeschool. Parents will leave with new tools for harnessing the power of play.
- **(18) Homeschooling With Insight** - In this workshop you will discover how taking the time to identify your own personality style and that of your children, as well as evaluating your child's developmental readiness, can make your homeschool rhythm more simple, effective, and peaceful.

#### KATHLEEN COTTER LAWLER

\*Kathleen Cotter Lawler is the daughter of Dr. Joan A. Cotter, author and creator of the RightStart Mathematics program. She was one of the first children to grow up under the Activities for Learning principles. Kathleen has a degree in Home Economics from the University of Minnesota and has two Masters Degrees from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. Kathleen is the mother of four children ages 20 to 25. Kathleen is currently responsible for program development support, marketing, sales, and general management. She travels all across the US and Canada, sharing the RightStart mission of helping children understand, apply, and enjoy mathematics. In her spare time, Kathleen designs and sews quilts and is re-learning how to ride a unicycle.

- **(8) Math Myths, Math Anxiety, and Math Learning Challenges** - In this workshop you will learn some teaching strategies and techniques that will

help children with learning challenges, reduce math anxiety, and debunk the myths that make your task harder than it needs to be.

- **(23) The Importance of Counting and Place Value** - Come to this workshop and learn effective and efficient ways to recognize quantities, understand place value, and master addition and subtraction.
- **(27) You CAN Be a Great Math Teacher** - Find out the science and art of teaching math. It is a science because much research has been done on how children learn, especially in math. It is an art because each child is different and lessons need to be tweaked. Come learn and become a great math teacher.
- **(47) Teaching Math with Card Games? Yes, You Can!** - Use games to teach and review math facts. Imagine your kids asking you to practice their math facts! Come and discover games to help your child learn math!

### REBECCA KOCSIS

\*Rebecca Kocsis and her beloved, Ed, homeschooled all five of their children, graduating their youngest in 2006 from their homeschool. They are now the proud grandparents of an ever-growing tribe of energetic boys and girls (11 to date) who are their greatest delight. Rebecca served for 15 years as PSP administrator and for several years on CHEA's Regional Advisory Board. She also serves as CHEA's Support Network Director and General Manager. She is author of the devotional booklet *Let Not Your Feathers Be Ruffled*.

- **(17) Pressure to Go Public or Just Take the Money** - In this session, Rebecca will talk about why private Christian home education is still a great idea, why it's a freedom worth fighting for, and share some practical ways to help you stand firm against the pressure from your peers to "just take the money."
- **(32) Let Not Your Feathers Be Ruffled** - This workshop will encourage home educators in every season of life to take God at His Word. "Let not your hearts be troubled; you believe in God; believe also in Me." John 14:1

### DENNIS PETERSEN\*

\*Dennis Petersen is the author of *Unlocking the Mysteries of Creation* seminar, book and video curriculum. He is the Founder and President of the Creation Resource Foundation and host of the Sacramento Radio Show, *Reclaiming Your Legacy*, on KFIA am710 and is an at-large presenter for Genesis Apologetics. He, as a former museum curator and pastor, founded the Creation Resource Foundation in 1983 and it is the providential result of a vision Dennis shares to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to our information-flooded, media-confused generation.

- **(50) Genesis Creation: Ancient Clues Reveal the Truth of the Most Controversial Reality of All Time** - Let's explore and unlock some of the mysteries about 3 topics that have left amazing evidence for the integrity of the Bible: The Flood, the true story in the stars, and the "chief" example of God's creation in the animal kingdom - Dinosaurs.

#### **PATRICK NURRE**

\*Drawing on over 40 years of speaking on creation and the Genesis Flood from a geological perspective, Patrick Nurre's seminars are always popular and a favorite with those looking for answers in the whole creation/evolution arena. With an easy humor and speaking style, Patrick unlocks many of the mysteries of Genesis through the door of geology. From rocks, fossils, and dinosaurs, to the Flood of Egyptian Chronology, you will come away with a new appreciation for the veracity of Genesis, and practical ways to help your children understand and apply what they learn.

- **(25) Why You Need To Teach Geology and How** - Geology is the beginning point of understanding biology, astronomy, paleontology, and so much more. It is important that we teach geology and related subjects to win the battle for our children's minds in the area of worldview.

#### **ADAM HAILSTONE**

\*Adam is passionate about building a vibrant and expanding community to support your student in their adventure through online learning. Adam joined Williamsburg Learning in 2010 as a mentor and has designed and taught much of the Williamsburg Curriculum. He has presented talks on alternative education throughout the U.S. and Canada and loves finding creative ways to expand and enhance the Williamsburg tribe. Adam holds a B.A. in Liberal Arts from George Wythe University. He lives with his wife, Laura, of thirteen years and their son Emmet in St. George, Utah. Adam loves wrestling with his son, hiking, reading, discussing, CrossFit, cinema, and making delicious food for family and friends.

- **(24) Helping Students Own Their Education** - In this presentation, Adam will explore the subconscious drives (or desires) that get us to procrastinate, decrease our motivation, and stifle our initiative. Come get training on a simple process of taking ownership of your drives and how to help your students to own their education and live their lives on purpose.

#### **TONYA KUBO**

\*Tonya Kubo is a writer, speaker, and public relations professional who loves living life at 90 miles per hour. She is a frequent contributor to MOPS International publications and leads Kathi Lipp's Clutter Free Academy

Facebook Group. She is a passionate advocate for neurodiversity, believing differently wired brains are a part of God's perfect design. She lives in Merced with her husband, Brian, their daughters Lily and Abby, and one very tolerant cat.

- **(22) Thriving in a Neurodiverse Family** - Are you overwhelmed by the special needs of your child or spouse, putting you in survival mode? This session is a message of hope, offering a practical plan for families to embrace their unique dynamics.

### **JULIEBETH LAMB**

\*JulieBeth Lamb and her husband Rex, live in rural Oakdale, CA and are celebrating 35 years of marriage. They homeschooled their five children for 20 years, graduating the youngest from their family high school in 2013. She is blessed to have opportunities to encourage families in their homeschooling and parenting adventures, and enjoys teaching classes, planning field trips, and coordinating activities. She desires only to impart the Lord's perspective and hopes everyone will hold all she shares up to God's Word. JulieBeth loves spending time with her six grandchildren, is active in her church, and is also a Christian childbirth educator/doula/lactation specialist, and volunteers with the Alzheimer Dementia Support Center and MOPS.

- **(3) Introduction to Home Education** - Learn the freedom you can have in home education from a 20+ year homeschooling veteran, including options to teach your children at home, CA laws, styles of education, school planning, record keeping, organizing your day, activities, enrichment, support systems, and homeschooling through high school. Learn what you can get out of this homeschool convention and ask questions!
- **(28) Moving From Charter to Private Homeschooling** - Discover the easy process to move from a charter school to private homeschooling independently or with a PSP (Private Satellite Program, cover school, umbrella school). Learn the process to withdraw a child legally from school to enroll in a private homeschool and request the child's records. Find out the options for private homeschooling and ask questions of a 20 year veteran private, independent homeschool mom.

### **BRYNN BURGER**

\*Brynn Burger is the creator of The Mama on the Rocks blog and social media community. She is a writer, speaker, and coach to parents of extreme children, fellow and future Roadschoolers, and folks looking to simplify their lives to reclaim the joy-filled journey we're meant to live. Most recently, Brynn published *Simple Living Right Now: Ending Life's Chaos &*

*Reclaiming Joy.* She is a licensed teacher in two states, has four years educating at both a STEM academy as well as teaching inner-city, formerly incarcerated youth. Since downsizing, Brynn has created eCourses, spoken at conferences, and taught educators, professionals, and parents throughout the country at event surrounding simple living and why it is possible and beneficial for everyone, no matter the size of their home.

- **(2) Reaching the Difficult Learner** - This session will address how to create lessons that are relevant and interesting to a difficult learner and how to keep them engaged.
- **(12) The Benefits of Simplified Schooling for Mental Health** - This session will address how simplifying the learning environment can benefit the mental well-being of both teacher and students, without compromising curriculum.
- **(38) Reaching the Extreme Child** - This session will address how to create lessons that will be engaging for students with behavior diagnoses.
- **(43) Incorporating Hands-On STEM Lessons Simplified** - This session will address the benefits of and how to take a simple approach to incorporating hands-on STEM lessons into everyday curriculum.

#### SAM BLACK

\*Sam Black, a vice president at Covenant Eyes, trains moms and dads across the US and Canada on parenting the Internet generation and protecting our kids online. Sam is the author of *The Porn Circuit*, which examines the impact of porn use on the brain. He joined the Covenant Eyes team in 2007 after 18 years as a journalist. He edited 16 books on the impact of pornography and how to protect our families. Married for 23 years, he is the father of two.

- **(40) Raising Courageous Kids to Confront a Sexualized Culture** - Families will learn how to create a safe online space and encourage ongoing conversations that empower kids to not only look away from sexualized media, but also to confront our sex-obsessed culture.
- **(16) Becoming a Tech Confident Parent** - Parents have tough questions about social media and their children's devices. If you're looking for answers to solve today's tech dilemmas this session is for you.

#### ALEX COOK

\*Alex Cook is a technical writer, working in Silicon Valley. Growing up, he spent a total of five years as a homeschool student. As a teenager, he founded an organization to give young people the opportunity to write, act, and direct in a theatrical setting. He has spent the last seven years balancing a career in tech with his work as a semiprofessional actor.

- **(42) The Value of Arts in Education** - Engagement with artistic activities has a proven positive impact on the learning process. In this workshop, we'll cover ways you can get your kids involved in the arts and how you can help them succeed.
- **(49) Technology Interested Kids** - Technology represents a powerful educational resource and an eminently viable career path for the next generation. In this workshop, we'll cover a responsible, formative framework for cultivating your kids' tech interests.

#### SANDI OLSEN

\*Sandi is a Ranch wife and mom of 6 children, ages 19 down to 8 year old twins. As a former government school teacher, she has home schooled her own children from the beginning. As an accidental activist for medical freedom and other parental rights issues, she is co-founder of Central Valley Advocates for Parental Rights.

- **(7) California Politics and the Family: How Your Educational Choices and Health Freedom are at Risk:** This workshop is an overview of legislation in California over the past four years targeting the family, education and health choices. Sandi will discuss current legislation of concern, bills that have been defeated, and how to get involved.