

RVHEA Conference 2015 - Seminar Synopses and Speaker Biographies

8:45-9:00

Sanctuary: (HSLDA) Canadian and International Home School Legal Update

Paul Faris

Biography: Paul is the President of Home School Legal Defence Association of Canada. For the last twelve years he has served homeschooling families across Canada through the work of HSLDA in the Courts, the House of Commons, the Senate, provincial legislatures and ministries of education, in the media, and wherever else necessary. He is also a frequent speaker at conferences across Canada. Paul lives in St. Thomas, Ontario with his wife, Suzanne and his daughters, Abigail, Isabella and Evangeline. Both Paul and Suzanne were homeschooled and are homeschooling their children.

9:00-10:00 Keynote Speaker

Sanctuary: This We Believe

Todd Wilson

Dads and moms, in all the busyness of life and swell of expert advice, we've forgotten the fundamental truths of homeschooling and family. In short, we've forgotten why we do what we do. We have plenty of "how tos" but have forgotten the "why tos" and it evidences itself in our lack of joy of homeschooling, family, and parenting.

Biography: Join funny guy and familyman, Todd Wilson, as he sets the stage for a great homeschool convention and the best year ever as he brings us back to the basics of what we believe about family and homeschooling. You're not going to want to miss this for the world.

10:00-10:30

Room 1: Fun and Fellowship: Youth Welcoming Activities (All Youth)

Mikaela Lemke and Matt Lemke

10:30-11:30

Sanctuary: Raising Dangerous Sons in a Safe and Mediocre Culture

Todd Wilson

Let's face it! Most men today are yellow-bellied, Lilly-livered weenies. They may wear tall Stetsons, drive fast cars, bungee jump from bridges, collect souped-up power tools, and carry big black Bibles, but they're weenies. They flex their biceps and proclaim their faith, but when the economy collapses, the newest pandemic hits the scene, a family crisis arises, or the going gets tough...they play it safe. Truth is: God wants your sons to leave the heavily-populated, safe waters and live dangerously. He wants your sons to trust dangerously, work dangerously, and love dangerously. But, that doesn't come naturally. Everyone around them, from the talking heads in the media to pastors in the pulpit, keep repeating, "Play it safe." Here's a secret: dangerous living leads to joy, family happiness, and real success while safe living results in worry, family failure, and heartache. So join Todd as he encourages you and your sons to GET DANGEROUS.

Biography: see 9:00-10:00, Sanctuary

Room 1: Overcoming Fear (Youth)

Cory McAree

Every person out there struggles with fear at some point. Fear of failing, fear of danger, fear of disappointing, fear of another person - fear. Fear can keep us from doing things for God, from pursuing opportunities, and from using the gifts and talents God has blessed us with. In this seminar, taught from the perspective of a police officer, we will talk about what fear looks like and how we can face it.

Biography: Cory and Ellen McAree have been married for almost ten years and have three children, Kirstin (7), Annika (5), and Josiah (1). Their homeschool journey began years ago with Ellen's own homeschool education and it continues with joys and challenges as they pursue home learning within their own family. Cory works as a police officer within Ottawa schools and in his spare time, loves to play hockey. Ellen's focus is on home and homeschool and when she has extra minutes, she can usually be found with her nose in a book.

Room 2: Home School Through High School: What an Opportunity!

Lia Lindeman

You can do it! Lia will help walk you through lots of ideas on how-to-home-school: curriculum choices and prep to go on either to university, college or other programs.

Biography: Lia is wife to Rob for 31 years, mom to 9 children, grandma to 6, and a home schooling veteran of 24 years. They have launched 6 of their children with the last three still in high school at home. Like their father, 5 out of 9 of the children have differing issues with dyslexia, one with borderline autism and one child with brain damage. When her husband became handicapped, Lia answered the call from Titus to help teach the younger women to love their husbands and to keep home and help them with practical ways to run the race with joy. As an Organizing and Home School Consultant, Lia comes alongside moms in their homes using biblical advice. Lia can be reached at: lindeman.clan11@hotmail.com

Room 3: Exploding the Myths of Successful Homeschooling

Louise House

What does a successful homeschool family really look like? Do you ever wonder if you can be a successful homeschooler? Do you struggle to choose the right curriculum, wonder if your kids will be able to get into university, or feel like everyone else does this homeschool thing better than you do? If so come and be encouraged as we explode the myths of successful homeschooling.

Biography: Louise and her husband Harold homeschooled their 4 children for 20 years from K through Gr. 12. They own and operate The Learning House, a homeschool supply company, in scenic Goderich, Ontario. Louise has acted as a homeschool consultant for many years. She speaks at conferences and holds full-day seminars on various aspects of home education. Areas of expertise include: learning challenges, homeschooling high school, and curriculum consultation. She counts it a privilege to "walk in the way" with homeschool families.

Room 4: The Joys and Struggles of Homeschooling through the Middle School Years

Diana Rolston

Rolston

Homeschooling your pre-teens through their middle school years is both hard work and exceedingly rewarding. We will take a look at some interesting research about the physical and emotional changes they are experiencing and how this affects their learning. We will discuss some ideas of how we motivate these students who are developing into confident youth while still being playful and, often, irresponsible children. Diana will be honest in sharing some of her struggles and successes. We will end this session with questions and discussions.

Biography: Diana has recently homeschooled her three teens through their middle school years and continues to homeschool through high school. Her style of homeschooling is relaxed while exploring her children's passions and delving deeply in these areas. Diana is a recent Teacher's College graduate who loves to learn. Her greatest desire is to awaken her children to the unique gifts God has given each of them and help develop these for His glory.

Room 5: Truth: The Central Pillar of Christian Education

Cori Dean

How do we define a Christian Education? First, it is founded on God's Word and the Person of Jesus. The framework of our teaching extends from that foundation and must be built with the Truth of the Word. In this seminar, we examine this framework by looking at what truth is, how it affects our educational choices and how it plays out practically in our homeschools. We will look at the why, what, and how of teaching truth while investigating how we relate to our students, how we plan our children's education, the way we set up our days, the materials that we choose, and how our lifestyles reflect and enhance these choices.

Biography: Cori Dean is a wife, a mom, a teacher and the proprietress of Maple Tree Publications. Her joy is in living with, raising and learning with her four young princesses alongside their knight in shining armor. After spending nearly 20 years teaching math Cori now enjoys writing and speaking to homeschoolers and is the author and editor of several publications from Maple Tree including Working Together: Teamwork Starts at Home Base. She enjoys reading, gardening, scrapbooking, cycling and geocaching. Cori and her husband Mark live in Bradford, Ontario and are in full-time ministry with Youth for Christ.

Room 7: What does the Research Say about Homeschooling?

Paul Faris

The results are in: Statistics have shown home schooling to be one of the most effective forms of education in the world today. How do homeschooled students do academically and socially? Do they go on to further education and participate in their communities? Do they get married, have kids, get jobs, and make money? Join Paul Faris as he

discusses the results of homeschooling research in Canada. Come prepared for some very encouraging statistics and thought provoking analysis.

Biography: see 8:45-9:00, Sanctuary

1:00-2:00

Sanctuary: An Unbeatable Team (for Husbands and Wives)

Todd Wilson

In the sometimes bleak and harsh world of homeschooling, we need each other to make it through. So, if you've homeschooled for over 10 years, are new to the game, or are about to toss in the towel, you need to join us. And in case you are a dad and think you're off the hook, you're not! You're needed most of all. We promise that you'll laugh, be encouraged, and be challenged in YOUR distinct role on the Homeschool TEAM.

Biography: see 9:00-10:00, Sanctuary

Room 1: Reflections of a Guinea Pig (Youth)

Paul Faris

From one guinea pig to another, this session is about those common experiences home educated students can relate to. Homeschooled on his family's goat farm along with his six younger siblings, Paul went on to attend UWO and ultimately law school. Join him as he shares his journey and offers a few words of advice.

Biography: see 8:45-9:00, Sanctuary

Room 2: Homeschool 101

Cory and Ellen McAree

Just getting started on your homeschool journey? This seminar will look at some common questions that new homeschoolers have, with the aim to encourage and help you as you begin. There will be time for discussion and Q&A and Ellen and Cory will share from their past experience - Ellen's as a homeschool graduate who went on to university and Cory's as a police officer with a background in child and youth work - and current experiences as they homeschool their own children.

Biography: see 10:30-11:30, Room 1

Room 3: Life and Laughter in the Language Arts

Hildy Sloots

You know that Language Arts is important, but do you struggle with making it meaningful and fun? God speaks to us through His Word. We speak to God and others with words. God designed us to communicate. Reading, writing, grammar and spelling are necessary AND they are beautiful and enjoyable subjects to teach to your children. I pray that this session will provide renewed excitement and creative ideas to bring fresh life and laughter to your elementary level Language Arts program.

Biography: I am a child of the Most High God, living under His grace as I serve my favourite friend and five wonderfully created children. Each child is a joy, but because they have diverse learning styles, some with more challenges than others, I have enjoyed trying different ways to teach them reading and writing. I also enjoy music, words, the Word, laughing, God's creation, visits with family and friends, and many more of the gifts God showers down on us daily.

Room 4: Single Income Living in a Double Income Culture

Cori Dean

Choosing to homeschool makes your family countercultural for many reasons. Living by a different economy is one of those reasons. As homeschoolers, we have to learn to live more on less. This seminar looks at how it is that we can not only survive on less but thrive on one income. We will look at ways to save money in our homeschools and how to invest what we do spend wisely. Cori will also share about ways that their family has turned their home educating efforts into opportunities to earn money for the kids and for small business income that has helped the family's bottom line by paying for homeschool costs.

Biography: see 10:30-11:30, Room 5

Room 5: Managing a Busy Household

Lia Lindeman

Juggling laundry, chores, academics, discipline issues, and meals with various aged children can be over whelming at times. Let Lia give you proven helpful tips to help you manage a busy household.

Biography: see 10:30-11:30, Room 2

Room 7: Homeschoolers and the University (session will not be recorded)

Hugh Hunter

How should homeschoolers, and particularly Christian homeschoolers, approach university or college? This seminar will consist of a brief presentation followed by a Q & A with a former homeschooler who now works as a professor at a college and a university in Ottawa.

Biography: Dr. Hugh Hunter was homeschooled through high school as part of RVHEA until 2000 and spent the next 14 years learning and teaching at 2 colleges and 8 universities in Canada, the US, and Europe. He and his wife Cheryl live in Ottawa.

2:30-3:30

Sanctuary: Taming the Techno Beast in the Internet Age

Todd Wilson

X-Boxes, Game-Cubes, the INTERNET, Facebook, and iPhones have changed the way we live, have fun, and interact. Children quietly glued to game monitors for hours have replaced laughter and creativity. They beg to play, whine when they can't, and even lie about the time they've spent on "the gadget". Teens and pre-teens spend most of their waking hours texting, chatting on Facebook, or 'tweeting' on Twitter. Today's latest-breaking technology becomes tomorrow's obsession, demanding more time, attention, and sacrifices. Technology has become a powerful tool and 'everyone is doing it'...but maybe you feel like you've lost control in your own home. Does the chill down your spine tell you that something is terribly wrong? Do you feel like a beast has invaded your home, but you don't know how to handle it? If so, then join me as we talk together about the timely topic of taming the TECHNO-BEAST!

Biography: see 9:00-10:00, Sanctuary

Youth: Taming the Techno Beast in the Internet Age (Held in Sanctuary)

Todd Wilson

Room 2: Homeschooling During the Preschool Years

Roberta Bond

Homeschooling with preschoolers underfoot can be both exciting and challenging. Parents are often caught between the delight of watching their little ones blossom and the despair that comes from constantly managing a household that is frequently interrupted by noise, messes, and crisis on a regular basis. This seminar will primarily be a time of sharing ideas and resources that have helped others to navigate this unique stage of homeschooling.

Biography: Roberta Bond has been married 28 years and is mother of 8 children ranging in age from 25 to 5 years of age. She has been homeschooling for 20 years. Currently she has three children in post-secondary education, one child in grade 11, one in grade 6, one hanging out in heaven with Jesus, one in grade two and one in senior kindergarten. When she has the opportunity, she enjoys gardening, sewing, origami, jigsaw puzzles, biking, skating, horseback riding, reading, and talking to the cat.

Room 3: Beauty and Truth in Art (session will not be recorded)

Hugh Hunter

Christians have long understood that art which is beautiful and true is an important part of the Christian heritage. Today, art is more readily available than at any other time in history, and so homeschoolers can incorporate this heritage in their teaching. This seminar will explore two art works, a poem and a painting. We will consider the theory and practice of finding beauty and truth in art in light of the medieval observation that beauty and truth are ultimately ways to lift our thoughts up to God.

Biography: see 1:00-2:00, Room 7

Room 4: Developing a Broader Vision for Home Education

Paul Faris

Knowing your motivation and your vision for home school is crucial for inspiring your own family. But more than that, understanding the historical vision and momentum of the homeschooling movement is crucial for seeing how, together, we can progress in the future. Join Paul Faris as he discusses the varied motivations for homeschooling, and as he shows how the homeschool movement may be the most powerful and significant movement in Canada today.

Biography: see 8:45-9:00, Sanctuary

Room 5: Encouragement for Families of Children with Special Needs

Lia Lindeman

You've done the research and know the prognosis. Lia's here to encourage you to carry on and to give you many practical tips to handle, manage and teach your special needs child(ren). Come let's encourage one another.

Biography: 10:30-11:30, Room 2

Room 7: Enhancing Your Math Teaching

Cori Dean

In this seminar we will look at ways to enrich the basics that you are studying in your math curriculum so that your family can move beyond the theoretical study of a pure science into the realm of everyday life through practical

application. Enhancing teaching through the use of games, literature, activities and manipulatives as well as through unit studies, and various subjects, such as science and art, are just starters to helping your family enjoy their math studies.

Biography: see 10:30 - 11:30, Room 5