

The Adventist Home Educator Newsletter

Encouragement for Seventh-day
Adventist Homeschoolers

February 2011, Issue 151

Hope: The Olive Leaf
by Editor



In Genesis chapter 8, we read about Noah in the ark. At this point, we are learning how long Noah was in the ark. After settling on ground, Noah had to wait for the waters to recede. Imagine how it would have felt to finally rest, no longer being tossed, to and fro, by the waters. Even though they had come to rest, their time in the ark, continued on. Day after day, Noah and his family wait for the ark to be opened, but the door remained shut. After a while, Noah, wanting to know what is going on, sends out a raven, and then a dove. Still nothing. A week later, the dove is sent out again, and late in the evening it returns with an olive leaf. Can you imagine the hope that sprung forth from this one little leaf?

As we homeschool, days can run into one another and we can also feel the tension of having to continue on. We wonder if our days will change. Will we always be struggling over the diphthongs, science vocabulary or algebraic equations? Will the laundry get caught up? We wonder if this season in our lives will ever end. Sometimes we, like Noah, need an olive leaf to help us keep going.

This olive leaf need not be large. The encouragement that was brought to Noah in the form of a small leaf was huge. Can you imagine... a leaf! In other circumstances, a leaf might be laughed off, perhaps considered very insignificant, maybe not even worth the effort. But to the one needing the encouragement the olive leaf can mean so much!

Encouragement can come from God in many forms... a small feat, recognition of one insignificant letter, a serene landscape, a well-timed verse, a call from a friend, a hug from a neighbor, a compliment, reassurance, and so much more. Have you considered your role in being an olive leaf for someone else?

While we often want encouragement to take the form of something we desire, we can miss the blessing by looking for a particular shape instead of recognizing what is there before us. Do you often desire 100% victory before you will celebrate, before you will even acknowledge that progress is being made? Let's also recognize the small steps that get us there; those small steps which encourage us to keep going.

AHE NEWS

- The Curriculum Guide on the website continues to be updated. Keep watching as new categories are added.
- Book and Curriculum Reviews Your help is wanted! See article on page 2 for more information.
- If you have a special talent you would like to share with AHE, please contact Melissa at:

adventisthomeducator@gmail.com



"Parents must trust implicitly in the power of Christ to transform the tendencies to wrong which have been transmitted to their children. Have patience, fathers and mothers. Often your past neglect will make your work hard. But God will give you strength if you will trust in Him. Deal wisely and tenderly with your children."
Adventist Home p. 174



WANTED! Book and Curriculum Reviews

AHE is looking for help in offering book or curriculum reviews in the newsletter. We are wanting reviews from the point of view of a SDA homeschooler. We can't possibly read every book or look at every curriculum, so we are wanting to open this up to other homeschool parents to help review books or curriculum they have used. We may even use well-written book reports from homeschooling children.

You can contact adventisthomeducator@gmail.com for more information. First, we will confirm the item (s) you wish to review. If accepted, we will send you a copy of the guidelines for the review. The guidelines are to help you formulate your review to cover points that are of interest to many of our readers.

The reviews will be posted in newsletters as space allows. We will not post full names of authors, but rather use first names only, or initials. We look forward to working with many of you on this new project.

Online Homeschool Conferences

By Melissa, Iowa

Online conferences can be a way to get some extra encouragement and some good "parent teaching" in. Always be aware that some of the ideas out there are not what we are counseled to follow. Some sound so good, but may not be good for us. Keep your heart guarded to things that are not good. If you are unsure of what is good advice or not, read the book *Education* BEFORE going out to a convention or watching/listening to an online convention.

There still may be wonderful ideas amongst some of the not so good ones, you just need to choose wisely. Some ideas are application ideas, which can be very helpful and encouraging, especially if we feel like we are stuck in a rut or we realize things aren't working very well with our current ways of teaching.

The Ultimate Homeschool Expo is quite a large program. I purchased a ticket for 2010's Expo. After the Expo, you can go online and download the seminars in mp3s and listen to them at your own leisure. I found that I was pleased with the content of at least 80 percent of the programs. Some I eliminated just by their title; I didn't even listen to them. I find that it is better to just not touch some things, I need to spend my time wisely and choose that which is good. I was still overall pleased with the bulk of what I received and still considered it a good value.

For most of these online conferences, you can get a good feel for the speakers and their educational slant by reading the conference schedules.

If you aren't able to make it to a local or state homeschool conference, an online conference may be just what you need for a little encouragement.

*Request to review your favorite book
or curriculum.*

Contact:

adventisthomeducator@gmail.com



Your children can write book reviews for the newsletter to get more writing experience.



Online Homeschool Conferences:

February 21-23, 2011
Heart of the Matter Online Conference
[http://
conference.heartofthematteronline.com/](http://conference.heartofthematteronline.com/)

May 2 – 6, 2011
Ultimate Homeschool Expo
<http://www.ultimatehomeschoolexpo.com/>

May 16 – 20, 2011
Schoolhouse Expo
<http://thehomeschoolmagazine.com/>

*“Above all else, guard your heart,
for it is the wellspring of life.”*

Proverbs 4:23

Book Review: Cooking Up U.S. History

Review written by: Melissa, Iowa

Cooking Up U.S. History

By Suzanne I. Barchers and Patricia C. Marden

(first edition review)

Grade level: elementary grades, multi-age teaching can be done

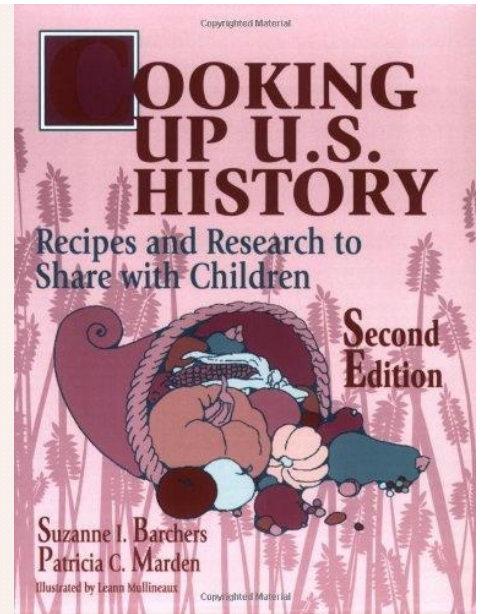
Rating (1-5): 4

The book is divided by eras. Each era features a word list, recipes common to that time period, and then a bibliography of books that share book titles and appropriate grade levels, it even divides books into categories (non-fiction, fiction) and each book is given a short description. There are also questions throughout, called library links, which you can give to your children to search for answers at the library. (Answers are in the back of the book). Limited copying permission is given for teachers. The book is rather expensive at around \$28 each, but you can find used copies at different used book sites for a more reasonable price.

This book can be quite useful in creating unit studies. When studying a particular era, you can open up and add to a unit study quite easily. You can find books to read by appropriate reading levels, plus some fun library activities like finding which king loved sweet potato pie so much that he imported sweet potatoes from Spain? The word lists are great reminders of common terms that are no longer common and make for great conversation starters and good vocabulary studies. The book itself is not a book to read, but rather a resource for a parent or teacher in putting together a study.

The recipes in the book are pretty much as they were back in the day, so you will find some recipes that are inappropriate for SDAs because they include pork or meat products that many typically do not eat. However, there are many recipes for each era and you will be able to find some that will work for a common SDA diet.

This book is beneficial in adding to studies on American History, helping the children to experience a bit of life through the suggested books, vocabulary, and recipes.



Book Review Rating Scale

Very Poor (not recommended)	1
OK (neither loved, nor hated, got the learning accomplished)	2
Average (Good resource, nice if a few changes are made)	3
Good (a good book, worthy of adding to your curriculum)	4
Excellent (enjoyed without changes)	5



From the Pen of Inspiration...

"The things of life He placed in their true relation, as subordinate to those of eternal interest; but He did not ignore their importance. He taught that heaven and earth are linked together, and that a knowledge of divine truth prepares a man better to perform the duties of daily life."
Education p. 82



**You may forward the
Adventist Home Educator
Newsletter to other
Adventist homeschoolers.
Please forward entire
newsletter.**



The Adventist Home Educator
3450 Quail Avenue
Manly, Iowa 50456

<http://adventisthomeducator.org>

AHE Resources:

AHE Newsletter You are reading it now. Short monthly articles to encourage you with homeschooling. When email lists are too much for you, a monthly newsletter can encourage you and help you feel connected among friends. The newsletter tries to present information in such a way that it is clutter free.

AHE Website The website is home central for all the ministries of AHE. Find information on each of the AHE ministry arms. Also, we are trying to build our information base and as time goes on, you will find more articles on the website to encourage you with your homeschooling. Check back every so often to see what is new.
www.adventisthomeducator.org

AHE Curriculum Guide Located currently on the AHE website, the Curriculum Guide is being placed on our website to help you find resources that will fit your family while we are working on the new AHE Handbook.

AHE on Facebook...Search for "The Adventist Home Educator" on Facebook and click "like" to connect with us there.

AHE Blog, *Shaping Hearts and Hands*, is a place you can find Adventist Homeschooling applied. We'll share principles and how we apply them to specific situations, so that you can learn to do the same. Plus some warm encouragement in a more homey atmosphere. www.aheblog.org

AHE Email Lists:

The **AHE-List** is a place for Adventist homeschoolers to come together for friendly and informative discussion about home education from birth through high school. With an emphasis on true education, we share our ideas and experiences relating to teaching methods, learning styles, scheduling, curriculum choices and many other homeschooling topics. This is a place where we can help others along their homeschooling journey and also learn some new things ourselves. To join, send a blank email to:
AHE-List-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

AHE-Living... is a friendly place for sharing encouraging words as we work together to create grace-filled, loving homes and pure hearts for the Kingdom. This is a place to visit about child rearing, home decorating, healthy cooking, health and wellness, family relationships, spiritual growth and family worships, sewing and crafts, gardening and flowers, and other topics near and dear to our hearts. This is a supplemental group affiliated with AHE; a place where we can discuss all aspects of Christian living. You will need to be a member of the AHE-list in order to join. To join, visit:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AHE-Living/>

AHE-Swap...if you have curriculum to purchase or to sell, here is another outlet for getting the word out. To join, send a blank email to:
AHE-Swap-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

AHE Teens...is a place for our teen children to interact with other Seventh-day Adventist homeschoolers. To join, parents need to send an email to Melissa at onthefarminiowa@myclearwave.net with their children's names, ages, and email addresses.

Email:
adventisthomeducator@gmail.com