



July 20, 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.
You shall teach them diligently to your children,
and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.*

~ Deuteronomy 6:4-7 ~

*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet
before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.
And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers,
lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."*

~ Malachi 4:5-6 ~

*In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

~ Matthew 5:16 ~

In June 2005, four veteran home educating families launched CHRISTIAN HERITAGE HOME EDUCATORS OF WASHINGTON to help revive the passion & purpose held dear by most Christian homeschooling pioneers in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

Unfortunately, as the early homeschooling movement grew, most dads were consumed with providing for their families, and it rapidly became almost exclusively mom's movement. And over the years, homeschooling has increasingly tended to focus on instruction of just the intellect rather than the training of the heart.

Recognizing this, we at **CHRISTIAN HERITAGE** desired to help restore a Biblical vision of family training and to encourage men to step into the vital role of leading and discipling their families. Our goal then—to inspire in parents a passion to build a **CHRISTIAN HERITAGE** through home-based-discipleship. We purposed to provide encouragement, inspiration, and training. In addition, we recognized the need to provide an environment where parents could network with other like-minded families who were also seriously committed to living consistently for Christ and to raising up generations of family, church, and community leaders for His glory.

During these four years, God has mightily blessed the efforts of the **CHRISTIAN HERITAGE** board and volunteers, inspiring the hearts of hundreds of individuals & families throughout Washington and the Northwest. In terms of numbers, our first annual conference in 2006 surprised us by drawing nearly one thousand paid attendees. This year over twenty-two hundred registered, not counting over 125 volunteers and staff. Only by His power and grace!

Even more significant are the grateful testimonies of lives that have been changed, children whose hearts have been turned back to their parents, and men who are now purposing to fulfil, by His grace, their God-designed roles in their families:

"Thank you so much for the WONDERFUL conference. My husband and I were blessed, encouraged, convicted and energized and are looking forward to our homeschooling journey based on what we heard and learned from your speakers. We ... are looking so forward to next year."

"We look forward to this conference every year now. It focuses us, encourages us, and challenges us. We come away inspired and enriched, desiring to serve our God with all our might and teach our children to love the Lord in every word and action."

"We are really looking forward to the [next Christian Heritage] conference. We are praying that some other families will be coming with us ... We would love for them to catch the vision of Godly Homeschooling and Family Discipleship ... Thanks for all you do at Christian Heritage ... it has been life-transforming for our family and our walk with the Lord."

And from a venue staff member: "I still cannot get over the vast difference in the attitude of many of the youth and children [at your conference], and those I so often encounter in our culture . . . THANK YOU for resisting the temptation to be pressed into the shape of this world, and for laboring wholeheartedly to impress the very likeness of Christ into the lives of families."

But as CHRISTIAN HERITAGE events and its ministry have grown, so have its needs. This letter is written to inform you of four of them.

1—OUR FIRST and GREATEST NEED IS PRAYER. The enemy hates to see families effectively discipling their children in biblical faithfulness. The sampling of testimonies above give evidence of a work of the Spirit in the hearts of parents and children. Praise God for using this ministry as part of that work! In the political and spiritual climate of our time, we covet your prayers for our ability to help maintain homeschooling freedoms and to spread a passion and vision for home-based-discipleship. Homeschooling has produced leaders. Pray with us that it would produce the Godly and mighty leaders which are so desperately needed today in families, churches, and communities. And pray with us that **CHRISTIAN HERITAGE** could be even more effective in this work.

2— OUR SECOND NEED is for a salaried, part-time Executive Director and the means to faithfully support him. Over the past four years, the administration of **CHRISTIAN HERITAGE** has mushroomed into a nearly full time job—averaging at least 20-30 hours per week to manage and coordinate its many volunteers, events, and services much of the year, and requiring more than 40 hours per week in the several months prior to the annual conference.

This responsibility has become more than one board couple can reasonably carry out as a volunteer position—even with many other superb volunteers helping to carry the load. Because of this, the Christian Heritage board decided **1)** to create an Executive Director position to administer & coordinate this ministry and **2)** to pray that God will provide the funds for this paid position.

Finding the right person for the job was our first hurdle. The position clearly requires a man who shares our passion & commitment to the **CHRISTIAN HERITAGE** vision, who has significant & successful experience with home-based discipleship in his own family and in the wider home education arena, and who can ably handle the myriad of details involved in this ministry.

Neil Craig, co-founder and board member of **CHRISTIAN HERITAGE** has agreed to step into this position. Neil is a living example of a Christian Heritage. Both he and his wife Mary have served the Lord faithfully throughout their lives. Their five children, ages 20-34, were all discipled and educated at home from infancy and are skillful young adults who each have a vibrant relationship with Christ. Neil has ministered through **CHRISTIAN HERITAGE** as treasurer and as the annual conference Chorale instructor and director. He is also an able and well-experienced administrator.

3—OUR THIRD NEED is to better equip the CHRISTIAN HERITAGE board couples by sending them to the annual ALLIANCE Leadership Conference in Colorado Springs.

The four couples on the **CHRISTIAN HERITAGE** board each have significant personal experience with long-term, successful home education and with Christian leadership. But leading a state homeschool organization involves in-depth knowledge in many technical areas. State leaders need to be "experts" on the following: state homeschool law; the functioning of their state government and its key players; various avenues for protecting our homeschool freedoms; current local and state-level challenges to homeschooling laws and how to handle them; ways to help homeschool support groups function well and meet the needs of their local homeschooling families; wisdom for counseling those facing difficulties in homeschooling their children; challenges & issues involved in

planning & executing annual homeschool conferences; legal issues facing Christian organizations in our hostile non-Christian culture . . . and much more. We often find ourselves falling short of the wisdom and knowledge to answer the complex issues our state homeschoolers face.

The National ALLIANCE of Christian Home Education Leadership is an organization dedicated to equipping state Christian homeschool leaders for dealing with these and other crucial issues facing home educators. Its main vehicle for doing so is the annual ALLIANCE CONFERENCE—this year, near Colorado Springs, CO. The four of us who have attended have tremendously benefitted from the event. In the current political climate, we think it is critical for as many of our board team as possible to attend and to be as informed and equipped as we can be.

4—OUR FOURTH NEED is to expand our base of faithful donors.

We have had a small number of faithful donors who have sustained us through a very difficult and all-consuming start-up process. Some have contributed to make scholarship funds available to those who need help affording registration fees. Others have known how expensive the facilities and other costs have been, and they have given toward those needs. Now, in order for us to continue to function, we must significantly increase our donor base.

So, finally, if CHRISTIAN HERITAGE has been a blessing to your family or the families you are close to, would you consider taking these four steps of faith with us?

1. *Will you commit to pray regularly for this ministry? And, if you are willing to do so—as individuals, as a family, or as a group of families—would you please let us know?*
2. *Will you seriously consider contributing monthly or increasing your monthly donation to support our Executive Director in his important role? Many families contributing a little can make it possible.*
3. *Will you seriously consider making a donation toward sending our board couples to the ALLIANCE National Conference in September? We must have these funds by early August to be able to attend.*
4. *And will you encourage your friends to consider supporting CHRISTIAN HERITAGE in one or more of the ways listed above?*

God has met our every need and sustained us at each step along the way. We trust He will continue to do so through those who share our vision. Please know that your *gifts are tax deductible* and can be made *online* or *by mail*. To donate, see www.ChristianHeritageOnline.org, or send your check to: Christian Heritage, 11716 S. Player Drive, Spokane, WA 99223.)

Whether you are able to help regularly or only occasionally, your faithful prayers and your financial encouragement are a tremendous blessing to us. May God continue to bless and prosper a revival of Biblical heart-discipleship in our homes and to use this ministry, however He chooses, to produce a mighty CHRISTIAN HERITAGE for His glory.

Serving Washington Christian Home Educators for God's Glory,

Michael Bradrick,

for the CHRISTIAN HERITAGE Board of Directors

Neil Craig

Michael Bradrick

Tim Roth

Bret Bryan