

November 2025

# Home

## MATTERS



THE VOICE OF  
**AHEA**  
Alberta Home Education  
Association



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# HOME Matters

Serving the Home Education Community of Alberta

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## Cover Photo

by Dallas Lammiman

Do you have a photo that would be perfect for a Home Matters front cover? Send it to [Editor@AheaOnline.com](mailto:Editor@AheaOnline.com).

AHEA's focus continues to be in support of parents who have chosen to direct and deliver the education of their children and not in offering information on teacher-directed forms of education (including online, private, or charter schools). The mandate and philosophy of AHEA centres around the advocacy and promotion of parent-directed home education.

*HOME Matters* is published three times each year and is distributed by means of a mailing house that does not keep the distribution list on file. While *HOME Matters* accepts unsolicited articles on occasion, we would appreciate a query letter first. The actual article must ultimately be approved by both the editor and the AHEA board before publication.

Articles submitted and published in *HOME Matters* are not necessarily endorsed by the AHEA board of directors and only reflect the views held by the author.

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# From the AHEA Board

Peter Verhoog, Board Chair

It's hard to believe we're sneaking up on Christmas already. Where has the year gone? And what a year it's been. From the politics of nations spilling into our everyday lives, to the nation of Canada selecting a new leader who promised the world, but is delivering his unique version of it. The downward spiral in our culture and society seems unending and moving forward at warp speed. Talk of secession and a second public school strike in a few years is the here and now of the current narrative, unsurprisingly fraught with opinion but short on truth and real solutions.

Let's lay that all aside for a moment and find a bit of sunlight in the midst of the drear. No, don't stick your head in the sand. Awareness and understanding are imperative at a time like this. And at no other time has it been as necessary to stand for truth, help spread truth, and find hope to share with those around us.

First and foremost—Christ lives, and He's on the throne. Critical facts that undergird the faith we share. It is these words that give us hope in the midst of turmoil. When everything around us looks to be falling apart and common sense ceases to exist, we have these words to remind us of the outcome, reminding me of a song that says, “I've read the back of the book and we win.” Between here and there is life to live. Sanctifying experiences shaping our lives each and every day, for the better or worse.

So in the context of those words, how do we proceed? Well, for starters, it may mean we need to live more sacrificially. Simply to say that we may have to decide more stringently between what we really need and other things we want, but aren't on the first list. Early on in our marriage, we decided to live on one income once the kids arrived. That meant certain things fell from the priority list. We lived in rentals and then moved on to “fixer-uppers” for the rest of our existence. I could go on, but suffice it to say we lived simply and frugally, and even

today, as our neighbour reminded us recently, we don't live in a palace. Don't get me wrong. Every family has decisions to make as to how to make ends meet. What I am saying is that, sometimes we're forced to make decisions we would rather not for the betterment of our families.

**Home education** is one decision you've made in that direction. **Home education without funding may be another choice some of you have made**, simply to allow yourself greater freedom to do and impart to your children those things most important to you. **Community involvement may be another calling** on your time and resources. Living a balanced Christian life was never meant to be a solitary existence. Your impact on your community is something you will never fully appreciate because that impact is rarely immediate nor visible. It is simply an opportunity that each of us has to do something beyond ourselves and our families. Inasmuch as it can be challenging and downright hard at times, there can be reward and gratification in it as well. And it will stretch you, sanctify you, and make you a more well-rounded person if you allow it to. So I would encourage you to get at least one iron in a worthy fire. Go ahead, put yourself out there, find an organization or volunteer situation, and see if the Lord doesn't bless you in some way you hadn't imagined. 🙏

Galatians 6:9-10 (King James Version)

*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

2 Thessalonians 3:13,16

*But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.*

# The Teachers' Union is Coming For Independent Schools

by John Hilton-O'Brien  
Parents for Choice in Education

## The attack on independent schools in Alberta is also an attack on home education

A \$3 million power grab disguised as “equity”—The ATA's war on independent schools.

I guess that it was bound to happen.

There are around 48,000 students in independent schools. That means there are close to 2,000 teachers in them—none of whom are forced to join the Alberta Teachers' Association. To the ATA—which charges \$1422 in union dues—that is close to \$3 million in foregone revenue.

So, no surprise: someone from the ATA Board of Directors has launched a petition for a referendum to defund independent schools. **The naked self-interest on display is breathtaking**—but there is more to this story. The campaign relies on misinformation—and it is a dog whistle for something far darker.

Demands to eliminate funding for Alberta's independent schools are old. The age of the arguments is no indicator of quality. As economist Bruce Wilkinson noted in a 1994 book, the arguments are debunked thoroughly every time. But immediately after, self-proclaimed “public education advocates,” who always turn out to have a financial stake in the matter, pretend that their arguments are sound. His case in point? His correspondents in the very book he was writing in didn't even try to respond to the economic analysis that proved them wrong.

In 2019, Parents for Choice in Education commissioned a report entitled “How educational choice saved Alberta taxpayers \$1.9 Billion and supports student success.” It concluded that **independent education actually subsidizes public education**. The money saved by underfunding the independent schools goes straight into the public schools.

Remove those independent schools, and you strip hundreds of millions of dollars out of the public system.

That report also busted some of the myths about independent schools that the union is still repeating.

First, **independent schools get better results** — by any measure. Anti-choice proponents try to claim that this is because the schools “cream” the best students from the public system. While it is true that admission to elite schools is competitive, this is also true of special programs in the public system, such as International Baccalaureate streams. More importantly, the argument does not explain the better results achieved by independent schools in general. Studies done of both elite and non-elite independent schools show that the students in the non-elite schools are also doing vastly better than the public schools. Independent schools simply offer a better educational option than the public system.

Secondly, the ATA claims that funding for independent schools is simply giving a subsidy to “the rich.” The truth? **Only about 1-in-6 private schools cater to “elites.”** The overwhelming majority — 83% of them — cater to families whose average income is below the provincial average. The main effect of independent schools is to improve educational access to lower and middle income families. These aren't elite schools: they are for the working class.

Thirdly, **independent schools honour student diversity in a way that the public system simply doesn't.** Part of the reason that they get better results is that the learning environments vary between schools. If a child is not thriving in one environment, you can change environments. Public systems—in spite of excellent special programs—are standardized. They simply can't adapt to student needs as quickly or radically as independent schools do.

Beyond that report, we should observe that there is nothing “private” about Alberta's independent schools. The government dictates the curriculum. They are subject to regular inspections which the “public” system does not undergo. And as Section 35.1 of the Education Act makes clear, the government can even tell a private school what clubs it can have.

Government control is absolute.

Underneath the false claims and myths of the public-school lobby, however, lurks something far more sinister.

According to a recent Cardus study, 105 of Alberta's 180 independent schools are religious. They are generally minority religions — various Christian denominations, Sikh, Jewish, and Islamic. If we remove funding for independent schools, we are removing funding for them.

Now, foes of choice may claim that these can simply be programs within the aggressively secular public system. But that amounts to claiming the right to decide what can and cannot be taught as part of someone else's faith. It's not just patronizing — it's an attack on minority religions.


We've seen such attacks before. In 1875, American Senator James Blaine tried to introduce a Constitutional amendment to forbid money from going to sectarian schools. He intended it to eliminate educational rights for minority religions — specifically Catholics. While he failed federally, 38 states adopted their own state-level Blaine Amendments.

In fact, the ATA's ballot measure is a Blaine Amendment. Same language. Same purpose. Same effect.

In the US, however, Blaine Amendments have been dying. Not just in the court of popular opinion, either: one by one, the courts have struck down Blaine Amendments on human rights grounds. And the fact is that we have signed international agreements to the effect that people have a right to their independent schools — and they are entitled to funding for them.

While the ATA's move may be morally and intellectually bankrupt, it is flush with cash. In 2022, they announced that they had diverted \$16 million from their “Special Emergency Fund” (the strike fund) into a “Defence and Advocacy Fund,” intended to be used for political advocacy. Nobody opposing them has comparable resources. Independent schools need to treat this as the existential threat it is.

However, the petition's very attack on religious freedom is the key to defense. Independent schools can potentially certify a class-action lawsuit, alleging religious discrimination for the fact that they have not received equal funding to begin with. That knocks the petition off the table, and the province can negotiate a settlement that protects the rights of independent schools forever.

And if their timing is right, the ATA's management may have plundered the membership's strike fund in vain. 

John Hilton-O'Brien is the Executive Director of Parents for Choice in Education, [www.parentchoice.ca](http://www.parentchoice.ca)

This article originally appeared in the Western Standard on October 13th, 2025. A printable pdf is available.



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# Home Schooling With Special Needs

by Elizabeth Heikoopz

A mother tells her story of the blessing of homeschooling and God's provision in the raising of ten children, two of whom have special needs.

Whenever I see another mama who has a child with special needs, I just want to give them a high five! What ends up happening is me trying to give an encouraging smile, but I wish they could know how I respect and admire them for the incredibly hard and exhausting work they do for their child. Thoughts like, "Wow! Mama, you're doing amazing. You are conquering so many battles, as you love and fight for your child." Though we may share some similarities in the world of special needs, there is one battle that many moms have, that I haven't had to fight. Public school education. The joy of being able to homeschool all of our children, and not worrying about the challenge of social and academic inclusivity, IEP's, teachers, classmates, not being invited to birthday parties or being too far ahead or behind of the school system—missing all of that, is a gift that is from the Lord. Ultimately, we are called as parents to teach the children God gives us, in His ways. And even when He brings you a child that is not a typical learner, they can still learn much alongside the rest of us!

I do want to preface my stance that while I'm ultimately seeing the blessing of homeschooling my kids with special needs at home, I realize that is not everyone's gift, or can be their situation. Sometimes, children need the extra specialists, classes, and educators that will go above and beyond for them. And I am grateful for those teachers! So, while I think homeschooling should be the first option to be prayed about, that might not be His best situation for you. But I do want to encourage you, that He is faithful to help you lead and teach those precious little lives that are on their own timeline! And if His will is to have them taught by you, He is also faithful to provide you with what you need.



Our journey into the world of special needs began when our 6th child, Jason Mark, was born in 2017. After his homebirth, I noticed that he didn't look quite like my other children. Our midwives gently told us they suspected he had Down Syndrome. We spent a week in the hospital to get feeding sorted, then almost lost him at nine days, after he went septic from a perforated bowel. We were in and out of the hospital for the first four months of his life, but since then, it's been relatively calm on the medical side of things. Routine began again, but with more appointments and therapies, while embracing all of the cuteness and different milestones that children with Down Syndrome bring!

Then a few years later, life got a bit more intense as our 8th child, Michael Andrew, was born. He was 5 weeks early at our local hospital, and even though we just had an ultrasound hours before his premature birth, nothing prepared us for the physical deformities and challenges he had. He never took his first breath or made a cry; Code Pink was called, and a crazy number of doctors and nurses sprang into the room to save him. What a lifesaving gift being in hospital was! One month and a half later, at a Children's hospital, we were given his diagnosis – Bent Bone Dysplasia -meaning all of his bones are actually curved/bent. It is a rare condition (he's 1 of 4 worldwide, we discovered later), and the few cases they had data on, all died because of termination, or they were taken off the ventilator. Diagnosis aside, the main worry the doctors had, was the same they had since birth; with his rib cage

being so mishappen, would they grow and accommodate his lungs or would it suffocate him? There were also many other concerning issues, like his very small airway, the need for a permanent feeding tube, and the need for many cranial vaulting/reconstructing surgeries. The doctors, while kind, gave little hope. We pushed for a tracheotomy to gain a more stable airway, which was successful. We then were trained at the hospital for four months so we could care for him. And after many miracles, we finally brought him home to the siblings he had never met! We had mini-NICU in our living room, with an incredible team of night nurses so we could sleep. We thought he may only live for a few months, but God kept surprising and blessing us. Michael just kept thriving! Around 10 months old, he started to push himself onto his hands, then at 1.5 years old, was sitting on his own. (We didn't know if he would ever sit unassisted)! At two, he started walking around furniture, and at 2.5 years he took his first steps. We just kept being amazed. In January 2024, he came off the ventilator in the daytime, which was a huge step—another one we never dreamed of! We are much more mobile without lugging that heavy vent wherever we go! Michael is pretty smart, and while nonverbal because of his trach, he is learning Sign Language (ASL) and uses Augmentative and Alternative Communication on his iPad. He understands pretty much everything you say, has the best humor, and loves to show off his new learnings. Chris, from YouTube's *Special Books by Special Kids* recently came up from the states and interviewed Michael and our family, which was a neat experience. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Uxq9ROFqvo>)

We started kindergarten this fall with Michael, and God has provided a couple of our dedicated night nurses to also work with him three mornings a week. That gives me some uninterrupted time to teach our other children, and a break from his medical care. Michael has to have eyes on him 24-7, and his medical care adds quite a bit more to our days. We are homeschooling eight children, ranging from grades 11-JK, with a busy little toddler and 8-month-old in the mix. Ten blessings in total! It definitely is a busy and full schooling season, but the gift that we CAN homeschool is amazing. Ontario doesn't give any homeschooling subsidy, but we do get some funding to help both boys with educational supplies, sports and respite. I'm able to also use some of that funding to help out with housecleaning, which definitely helps keep our ship afloat! No woman can do it all, and when you throw in the extra hours of medical care, appointments and therapies, you need to use every available resource the Lord provides! Whether that be from extended family, church or friend/community support, we need to humbly embrace it.

I started working with Jason more last year as I had recently found a great curriculum called *So Happy to Learn* by Mrs. Brown. It is geared to children/adults with Down Syndrome and focuses on sight words, math, reading and art—but doing it "happy," embracing what they can do for today. He loves it, and we are seeing some slow progress! Jason won't be the most academic student,

but the way he responds and loves people, is something that will last his whole life. It has been neat to see what some of his strengths are—he loves doing mazes, and different aspects of school. We also use the apps Starfall and Letter School, which both help make learning more fun, especially after he needs a break from handwork.

I think all parents who teach at home, have seasons where they feel pretty stretched as they go from one child to the next. I can definitely relate as I'm teaching some, while keeping some alive, while making sure the toddler doesn't draw all over the wall! It doesn't even really matter how many children you have. Your emotional, mental and spiritual muscles will ache between caring for your children and feeling like you're not giving enough to each one of them. But God is Sovereign, and He knows how to provide what we/they all need. One of His many ways of provision is in the gift of siblings! Our two boys are much more pushed to do all the typical things, because they're "one of the gang." And what a blessing it has been for the siblings, to have brothers that have taught them to be extra caring, thoughtful, and patient. They have also learned a lot on the medical side, helping with Michael. To them, suctioning and clearing Michael's airway, dealing with syringes and g-tubes, and carrying medical equipment are not strange. They treat the boys normally, but also watch them well. Yes, we have many interruptions in our schooldays (sometimes it feels a bit too crazy for my liking!) but there's a lot of serving and helping each other, that develops their inner strengths, and teaches them to be more like Christ. None of those blessings that come from these challenges would have been possible if we sent them to the traditional system.

Here in Ontario, we are a part of an amazing homeschool co-op. There are many electives, groups, or sport programs you can participate in. And while the bookwork takes priority, our kids love to do sports or activities with their wonderful homeschool friends. It does get a lot harder though, when you can't easily drive your kids to the programs because of the amount of work to get your medically complex child in the van. But the Lord has graciously provided many beautiful friends who joyfully help carpool my older children to different events. I'm so grateful for them! It does mean that I'm not often able to fellowship with other homeschool moms, or to cheer on my kids, and that can be really hard at times. There are a lot of sacrifices for everyone in these situations and it's easy to be lonely or not feel needed—just a mom doing the everyday mundane. In this short-but-seems-so-long season, God is calling us mothers to the ministry of serving our family. But not than you are an island to yourself! Oh no! We must still find ways of connecting and blessing others. So, send a voice to text message while you're drawing up syringes, give someone a call while you're cleaning the medical equipment, or invite someone over for a chat—especially if it's hard to get out. God made us to be in community with others, but we may have to get a bit more creative, as we just can't run out to everything! Fight the urge to stay in isolation,

*Continued on p.8*



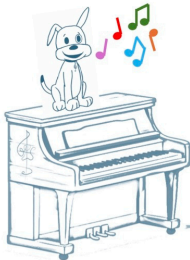
# Home Schooling With Special Needs

(Continued from p. 7)

especially from Chrisitan fellowship. Yes, there are some situations where you literally can't get out because of your child's challenges, but don't use that as an excuse to be consistently removed from the body of Christ. We all need each other! One thing that I found interesting is how other friends with typical children have "thanked me" for sharing our children with special needs with them. They are truly thankful that their kids get to rub shoulders with kids that look, or act different, but have the same worth. I have truly appreciated that!

Homeschooling was a natural choice for us, as both James and I were homeschooled the whole way. My mom, who taught for 28 years, was an organized and disciplined (yet fun!) teacher, and I still want to be like her! Academia is important, and we must be diligent in teaching our children what they need to know, so they can be useful for the kingdom of God. But it's ultimately the example and encouragement of knowing and loving Christ, that will stay in their hearts and minds. And praise the Lord, every soul can sense His love, as we care and teach all of His precious gifts. 🏡

*Elizabeth Heikoop is a homeschool Mom of 10, including two children with special needs. She is married to her best friend James for 17 years, living on a small acreage in Ontario. She is learning to see the faithfulness of God in her everyday mundane. He is faithful to complete that which He began.*



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# Current Events

**A**HEA development - in our last Home Matters it was mentioned that we were looking for your help in reaching our mandate as AHEA. We have thankfully received some response, but are still looking for more and broader interest. So if you hadn't read that, or know of someone who might be looking for a part time paid position to help us serve our members better, please reach out to us and share with us your vision for some aspect of AHEA, or simply contact us with a resume and we'll talk further. Areas we're currently working on are social and web media, member relations, and income generating organizational support roles relating to sponsorship, advertising and possibly publications.

**AGM** - thanks to each and everyone that came out to the recent AGM. Kevin Vanderzyl, Andree Verhoog, Peter Verhoog, and Martin Vervloet were all voted to a new 2 year term on the AHEA board.

**King And His Kingdom** - thanks to those that stopped by the booth and shared hellos, it was great to see you and enjoy the event together.

## Upcoming Events

**AHEA Convention 2026** - be looking for advertisements upcoming for this exciting event on May 29/30 2026 where we'll be celebrating our 40th year as AHEA along with you. See details on the back cover. 🏡



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## Emergency Exit

By Nick Eicher  
WORLD Magazine

I wasn't yet 16, still hoofing it to the corner bus stop, when I made a quiet vow: "My kids will never set foot in public school." The thought was not a swipe at my parents. They had sacrificed to buy a house in the best school district so I could have every possible advantage. But each day delivered an unmistakable audit. The Catholic school buses rolled up on the dot, whisking away uniformed, disciplined teens who were polite if understandably aloof. Our bus lumbered in whenever, through clouds of cigarette smoke, snowball crossfire, and the crude, sometimes cruel, talk that sticks in your ears long after the algebra fades. I wasn't a Christian then, happier *to laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints*, as Billy Joel sang. I just knew which world looked saner.

Many years later, that instinct feels prophetic. In July, the Supreme Court issued *Mahmoud v. Taylor*. In a 6-3 majority opinion, the court granted a preliminary injunction against Montgomery County, Maryland's mandate that its K-5 students sit through an LGBTQ-affirming storybook—one title assigned to each grade level—with no opt-out allowed. Justice Sonia Sotomayor, dissenting, warned the ruling "threatens the very essence of public education" and will echo "for generations."

Right again, Justice Sotomayor. Take away the compulsory power to steer a second grader's moral imagination and today's public school model starts wobbling like a Jenga tower after the wrong block is yanked. The court's decision didn't undermine the "essence of public education." It exposed how fragile that essence already was.

For me, the key exhibit in the case was a six-page teacher handout. Montgomery County Public Schools and MCPS defenders call it routine anti-bullying prep. It isn't. I dropped the PDF into a family group chat with a few of my adult children who have families of their own, and their responses ranged from disgust to horror. One scenario assumes a child objects to a storybook heroine who fancies another girl:

Student: "She can't like a girl like that; she can only like boys because she's a girl."

Teacher: "Disrupt the either/or thinking.. People of any gender can like whoever they like. How would it make

[character's name] feel to hear you say that?"

Add: "My best friend is a woman and she is married to another woman."

That is no mediation of playground taunts. It's catechesis, a ready-made homily meant to rewire a child's moral imagination using fictional characters to provoke a predictable response. The district creates the clash and smokes out any faith-shaped reaction, then turns teachers into bullies, programming them to "disrupt" and rebut.

The ruling, anchored in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* and *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, found the district's policy "substantially interferes" with parental rights and therefore triggers strict scrutiny. By likening MCPS' policy to *Yoder*—where Amish parents won the right to withdraw teens from high school—it effectively told public schools: You'd better have (1) a compelling objective and (2) a narrowly tailored means of achieving it, otherwise known as the two-part "strict scrutiny test." The court found the school district flunked.

Some well-meaning reformers propose a friendly reset: keep anti-bullying rules, move contested lessons to opt-in modules, give families more choice. That might nudge public schools toward a healthier common good, if it worked.

But I've experienced the system, and I don't trust it to pivot. The MCPS script was no isolated mistake. It was the logical outcome of a model that sees children as malleable citizens to be formed in the state's image, trained in the way they should go. Give bureaucrats a new handbook and they'll find a new end-run.

Public schools could've contented themselves with teaching reading, arithmetic, and the Bill of Rights without moral compulsion. They chose a different path. Now many families are choosing different schools: private, charter, co-op, kitchen table. The Supreme Court pried open an exit door. Parents who share my bus-stop epiphany—Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or simply fed-up—should walk through it.

Justice Sotomayor was right: The court's decision strikes at the essence of public schooling. But the tremor comes not from parental liberty; it comes from a system that has forgotten the difference between teaching children how to live in a complicated society and forcing them to confess a state creed. My kids can tell the difference, and after *Mahmoud* so can the Constitution.👥

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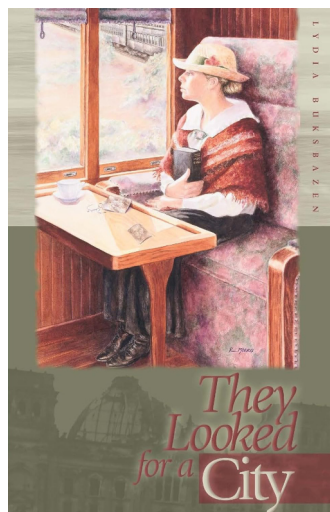


# A Book Review: They Looked for a City

By Lydia Buksbazen



Book Review  
by Timothy Driedger



“She sat in the park and prayed, ‘O Lord if it be Thy will, let this bitter cup pass from me.’ There was no one to whom to turn. *Will there ever be an end to all this misery?* Yente wondered. . . . ‘Lord,’ she cried, ‘help me or take me away’”(144).

*They Looked for a City* is the true story of Lydia’s mother Yente’s struggle to put her faith in the Lord even during trials and suffering. This account of a

mother’s sacrifice; the kindness and strength of a quiet, diligent husband; and the cruelty of a heartless pastor. You will be deeply moved as you empathize with the various characters. Watch through Lydia’s eyes as Yente must leave her young children behind and travel to England. “Lydia felt that strange things were taking place in her small world. Somehow everything seemed to be melting away before her eyes, and her mind was in a turmoil of confusion. They again crossed the station square that led back to the city, but her eyes did not leave the spot from which her mother had disappeared. She felt someone holding her hand, but she dared not turn her head to look, fearing she might lose sight of that spot. And then in a rush, reality broke upon her like the angry billows of a stormy sea. . . . She was blinded by hot tears streaming down her face” (92-93).

A great family read, this thought-provoking book will open the door to many valuable conversations. However, because this is a true story set during wartime some scenes may be too intense for children under ten. The issues raised in this book are especially applicable given the current controversy surrounding Israel and the Jewish people.

The account of Yente’s family presents themes that you will relate to. She beautifully interweaves the story of God’s loving-kindness to the Jewish people with His faithfulness to her own family. You will read with anticipation and suspense as this Jewish family faces head on the inescapable question, “Who is Jesus?” As every Jew does, Yente longed for peace and “a city of rest and refuge, a city of God where He and those who love Him dwell” (160). *They Looked for a City* tells how Yente eventually found that city both on this earth and for eternity. This book will continue to be a favorite as a testimony of a mother’s faith and God’s faithfulness. 📖

*Timothy Driedger enjoys reading, writing, and playing the piano. His family recently moved to Colorado where his father was called as a pastor.*

Jewish family’s reliance on God as they faced fear, separation, desperation, and failure when world war broke out is inspiring and gripping. This book’s accurate description, realistic characters, and powerful emotional events will impact you deeply.

Lydia’s accurate and precise description will engage your imagination and allow you to view the events exactly as they happened. She is accurate to the historical events, settings, and customs of the time period and lands, providing valuable education. Her description of Kassel, Germany is an excellent example of this. “The public places and show windows of elegant stores in Kassel were decorated with colored reproductions of Kaiser Wilhelm II, resplendent in his uniform as field marshal of the army and wearing the sharply pointed, tall helmet of a German military commander. His steely eyes, upward-pointed and well-waxed moustache, and chest covered with decorations and shining medals bespoke confidence and defiance” (84).

Along with accurate description, realistic characters add a layer of depth to Lydia’s narrative that only a true story can have. You can see and feel the love of a selfless

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*Where dreams take flight and hearts find purpose*

The Alberta Home Education Association (AHEA) began as the response to problems that had begun to plague home educators in the province of Alberta. Home educators had, for many years, been the domain of families who had poor access to regular educational facilities due to distance and other factors. In the seventies, a movement began that was to change the face of education in Alberta. More parents were becoming concerned about the secularization of education in the province, and as a result, alternative education methods began to spring up.

Included in the movement was a growing body of parents who decided that educating their children at home was the preferred method. For some, the school authorities were supportive, but for many more, the authorities were hostile. Because of the small numbers in this environment, school authorities found it easy to intimidate parents, and methods of appeal were limited. As a result, a small but knowledgeable group of parents decided to develop a provincial organization, and in 1986, registered the AHEA under the Societies Act of Alberta.

## The Philosophy and Statement of Faith of the Alberta Home Education Association

### Article 1 – Definition

The Alberta Home Education Association (AHEA) is a Christian organization. It shall base all of its policies and actions on Christian principles and takes the Bible as its moral and spiritual guide. Elected Directors, Staff, Convention Team Members, and Nomination Committee Members must be believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

### Article 2 – Philosophy

1. AHEA affirms that God has given parents the primary responsibility for the welfare, socialization and education of their children.
2. AHEA is dedicated to the education and socialization of children in the natural setting of the family.
3. AHEA further holds that the right to home education includes not merely a right over the place in which education occurs, but a right to determine the content, process and timing of this education.
4. AHEA holds to the belief that no academic discipline is neutral and that all education is religious in nature since one's view of the world and life is inevitably involved in teaching.
5. AHEA holds that student assessment is an integral aspect of the education process, and therefore parents have the sole right and responsibility to determine the methods and instruments to be used to ensure the educational welfare of the child.
6. AHEA pursues and recommends — within the framework of its philosophy — a policy of constructive interaction in dealing with those legally charged with the monitoring of home education programs.

### Article 3 – Statement of Faith

**Scripture:** We believe all Scripture is given by inspiration of

God, is without error, is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16).

**God:** We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

**Jesus:** We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ (John 1:1), His virgin birth (Matthew 1:18- 25), sinless life (Hebrews 4:15), and miracles. We believe in His vicarious and atoning death (Hebrews 9:27, 28), resurrection from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:1- 8), ascension to the right hand of the Father (Acts 1:9-11), and in His personal return in power and glory (Hebrews 9:27, 28).

**Man:** We believe that man was created in the image of God. He created them biologically male and female (Genesis 1:26, 27). Man sinned by disobeying God; thus, he was alienated from his Creator (Genesis 3:17-24). That historic fall brought all mankind under divine condemnation. Man's nature is corrupted, and he is thus totally unable to please God (Romans 3:23). Every man is in need of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

**Salvation:** We believe that salvation is a free gift of God and comes through faith in Jesus Christ, whose death on the cross paid the penalty for man's sin (Romans 3:25).

**Marriage and Family:** We believe that the God of the Bible designed marriage as an exclusive lifetime covenant of union between one man and one woman, and that sexual intimacy is reserved for that union (Genesis 2:24). Marriage is His unique gift that echoes the union of Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:23) and is the ideal environment that He has ordained for procreation and for the raising of children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord to the glory of God (Ephesians 6:1-4). We believe that children belong to God who has given the responsibility and authority for their discipleship and education to their parents (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).

**Government:** We believe that civil government has been instituted by God (Romans 13:1). As such, the government exists to serve the people through the preservation of justice and order. (Romans 13:3-4)



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Go to [www.aheaonline.com](http://www.aheaonline.com).



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