



THSC March Leader Letter

March 10, 2011

Leadership and Lifelong Learning

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Nominate Your Fellow Leaders!



The best leaders are those who walk beside you, and encourage you in the direction you should go, in such a way that you take no notice of the difficult journey. These leaders lay strong foundations to grow on, make smooth paths out of obstacles and complaints and do so without thought of recognition or reward. They are always

learning, always growing and always loving those they serve.

To honor these great leaders, who so willingly give of their time and energy to serve the home school community, each year the Texas Home School Coalition awards an outstanding leader or couple with the coveted Homeschool **Leader of the Year** award. The support group leader/couple chosen will be invited to the annual **THSC Awards Gala and Fundraiser**, where they will be recognized and honored.

Nominations for THSC Leader of the Year must be received no later than March 29, 2011, accompanied by at least three letters of recommendation from different members of the leaders' support group. (Hint: More letters of nomination carry more weight.) Letters of recommendation should explain why this individual/couple should be chosen. Only one leader/couple may be nominated per group.

Nominate Your Group Leader Today!

Download the form for submission of your nomination for the next THSC Leader of the Year: [Word document](#) [PDF](#)

Surmounting the Limitations of Vision

John Maxwell



For centuries, astronomers have looked skyward, curiously beholding the stars above them. Over time, scientists steadily improved their vision of outer space by engineering telescopes of ever-increasing sophistication. However, the biggest advance in the ability to peer into the heavens came with the launch of the Hubble Telescope in 1990. No longer bound to the ground, astronomers could now view interstellar space free from atmospheric distortions. For more than 20 years, the Hubble Telescope has orbited the Earth, capturing images of stars, planets, and galaxies in stunning color and detail. Browsing a gallery of Hubble's images offers an awe-inspiring glimpse into the beauty of the vast recesses beyond our solar system.

Leaders, like astronomers, must learn to overcome the limitations to their vision and the distortions of their vision. We all have impartial vision, regardless of our creativity and imagination.

[Read more.](#)

Developing Your Discernment

Fred Smith



The musicians of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra were once asked to name the most effective conductor. Arturo Toscanini won, hands down. When asked why, one of the instrumentalists said, "He could anticipate when you were about to make a mistake and keep you from making it."

He had discernment.

Discernment, like musical talent, is innate, but it's not like the gift of perfect pitch. The gift of discernment can be taught, practiced, and developed.

["The rest of the story"](#)

Get Connected in YOUR Region



Christian Home Education Association of Central Texas (**CHEACT**) Austin, Central Texas Region

Family Educators Alliance of South Texas (**FEAST**) San Antonio, South Central Texas Region

Home Educators Alliance for Resources and Training (**HEART**) of Texas Greater Dallas/Fort Worth Region

Southeast Texas Home School Association (**SETHSA**) Houston Region

Other Sites of Interest



Need a new website? Try [Homeschool-Life.com](#), THSC 2010 LTC Lone Star Sponsor!

Keep your group informed on current issues at [Right in Texas](#).

Join the [Yahoo! group](#) for Texas support group leaders.

[We want to hear from you!](#)

Find archived issues of THSC's [Leader Letter](#).

Wise Words

Continuity give us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.

~ Pauline R. Kezer

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[:: thsc.org](#)
[:: 806-744-4441](#)

Home School Leader Appreciation Week

April 10-16

Request certificates of appreciation for your support group leaders, and let them know they are appreciated!

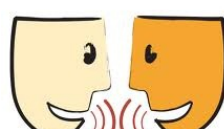


We understand the vital role support group leaders play in promoting home education and supporting home school families, so to encourage those who give so much, THSC will print beautiful certificates on behalf of your group and THSC, FREE upon request.

Some groups have presented these certificates to their leaders at their support group meetings, and others have held special meetings to recognize the people who sacrifice time and energy for their group.

Let your fellow leaders know how much they are appreciated. Order [Certificates of Appreciation](#) for your group leaders today!

How Do You Communicate?



Support group communications have come a long way since those early days of phone trees. Today there are many ways that group leaders can disseminate information quickly and effectively.

Take our short survey, and help us keep up with current trends and gain insight on ways we can serve you better.

To thank you for your time, THSC will send each person who completes the survey a complimentary CD of our leadership webinar!

[Complete the survey.](#)

Improve Your Leadership Skills

This is your opportunity to take your ministry to the next level in 2011. This practical ministry skill development seminar could literally transform the work you are doing this year. Learn from Dr. Dean Radtke, founder and CEO of The Institute of Ministry Management and Leadership.



Dates:

March 17, 18 & 19, 2011

Hosted by:

Pastor Doug Bartsch (2010 THSC LTC Keynote Speaker)

Pastor Hank Marion

Location:

New Haven Fellowship

6262 Creekside Green

Spring/ The Woodlands, TX 77389 [\[MAP\]](#)

The Ministry Institute system is changing the way spiritual leaders lead and creating a new generation of leaders. Dr. Radtke has more than 40 years of leadership experience as a U. S. Navy officer and as a senior executive with a Fortune Billion Dollar Corporation. After surrendering to Jesus later in life, he served as a key executive with a growing church where they achieved a five-fold increase in six years. The emphasis on practical application in this training gives you the ability to apply the methods, systems and processes used by the most successful ministry leaders.

It's not an oxymoron to have a good quality of life *and* build a powerful ministry.

Tuition is free for pastors, other ministry leaders, corporate CEOs and an unlimited number of guests and leaders.

[To register, or for more information...](#)

Mark Your Calendars!

Here are some great events you won't want to miss, so mark your calendars today!



THSC Capitol Days

April 6 and May 3, 2011 ~ Austin

THSC Annual Awards Gala and Fundraiser

April 15, 2011 ~ Austin - Don't forget to nominate your group leader for the coveted **Leader of the Year** award.

THSC Leader Appreciation Week

April 10-16, 2011 ~ Wherever you live in Texas, honor your leaders with a **Certificate of Appreciation**!

Hearth and Home Ministries Annual Book Fair

May 6-7, 2011 ~ Arlington

FEAST Convention and Curriculum Fair

May 20-21, 2011 ~ San Antonio

Concho Valley Homeschool Conference

May 20-21, 2011 ~ San Angelo

Gulf Coast Home Education Conference

June 3-4, 2011 ~ Houston

CHEACT Conference and Book Fair

June 24-25, 2011 ~ Austin

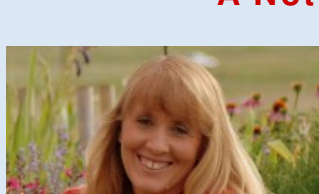
THSC State Convention and Family Conference

July 28-30, 2011 ~ The Woodlands

Leadership Training Conference

November 11-13, 2011 ~ Waxahachie

A Note from THSC



It seems many equate good leadership with programs and projects; they seem to think that good leaders are people who get things done--and to some extent they're right. But good leaders are much more than task finishers; they are people refiners. Good leaders are those who are continually striving to refine their own character, and by example they refine

the character of those around them. They love people, they love learning and they love learning how to love people. I think that is the reason there are so many good leaders within the home school community--good leaders are lifelong learners, and a love of learning is one of the defining characteristics of both home school parents and home school students. Good leaders are also relational people (either by nature or by choice), another defining characteristic of home schoolers.

Whether they are seeking to expand their vision by gaining knowledge and desiring both to mentor and be mentored, or developing their discernment so they can truly hear what their members are saying, good leaders recognize that people are more important than projects. They understand that projects and programs are meant to serve people, and not the other way around.

I have discovered there is a lot of information available for leaders and many good websites with helpful and encouraging articles. Like most leaders I often find myself stretched very thin, and my time is very limited, but I have learned that it is important to continue to build my leadership skills. In the process I hope I have also allowed the Lord to use the things I have learned to build my character as I strive to love deeper, listen attentively, serve diligently and lead with integrity and grace.

May the Lord's blessings be upon you and your groups as you seek to lead and to serve the home school community of Texas.

Sheila Campbell
THSC Leader Liaison

Send your newsletters and comments to leaders@thsc.org.