

Afterword

One year ago, I was invited to join Line-It-Up Writers with published authors Patricia Hetticher, *The Forty Weeks Series* ([lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com)), and Kay Page, *Doing Time with Charlie*. These ladies have been meeting regularly for decades, sharing pieces of writing with each other, praying together, and encouraging one another. When I started meeting with them, it was during the whole pandemic panic season of 2021 and we were not allowed to meet inside the bakery where they had been meeting. We scrunched into Patti's car, all wrapped up in winter coats and scarves, eating muffins and drinking hot coffee to keep warm. Seeing that wasn't going to work for a weekly meeting place, I asked our good friend Sara Lapointe, whom I have known for more than thirty years, if we could meet at her house. She enthusiastically agreed. The format of our weekly meetings is to bring some printed writing we created and read it to the group while the others listen and take notes, and then we give each author a review. Sara makes the grammatical corrections on her printed copy.

It is with my best friend and husband, Craig, and these dedicated ladies that I have had the ability to write this book. Catherine, a homeschool graduate, helped me rearrange all the topics and taught me how to use the writing software. From her perspective as a homeschool graduate, her college education, and her training as a content writer, Catherine had valuable understanding and insight. Our children have also contributed to this endeavor in many ways. They are the subjects for many of the stories, and with their support, they helped me overcome the technical challenges I faced. *I think computers are allergic to me!*

For years, my husband and I have been talking about writing a book together. Over the years, we have learned so many things about life that we want to share with others. We wish we knew these principles when we got married, bought our own house, became parents, started homeschooling, and started our own businesses.

After seeing all that was going on in our society, media, and culture and observing the politics being injected into education, we said, "Homeschooling is going to explode. We should write a quick start guide for parents so they can hit the ground running." After several weeks of brain dumping ideas and experiences, we were able to rearrange, categorize, and associate our writings topically and structurally, distilling them into three guidelines for the processes of decision-making and action-taking. Since most people can fairly easily commit three things to memory, this was good. If you are going to remember anything from this book, remember these three concepts:

1. Know your options.

2. Consider the cost.
3. Get what you want. (Don't settle!)

These are not consecutive steps to take; rather, they frame the questions you will ask yourself as *you* gather information, develop *your* plan, and launch *your* adventure. As we look back, we have discovered that we have been using these guidelines for the last thirty-four years of doing life together.

Still, we find ourselves with more thought-provoking questions to ask readers. When you choose your curricula, co-op classes, field trips, or social gatherings, you will find yourself defining and refining your educational philosophy to guide these decisions. What values do you want to impart to your children? What are you building into your kids' lives? What do you want their focus to be? Athletics? Recreation? Academics? Theater? Popularity? Integrity? How do you set them up for success in life?

"Why can't we all just get along?" It takes dedication, sacrifice, and collaboration to manage, operate, and run a homeschooling household. You will find a home dynamic evolve from the sharing of time, space, and commotion. You will spend a lot of time together. There is a different dimension in which homeschool families exist. How do you share spaces? Have private spaces? Set boundaries? Respect those boundaries? Get everything done? And have fun doing it?

As a child, you didn't have to make money, and now maybe you do. If your primary education has taught you to stand in line, raise your hand, and wait to be called on, then you are ready for the antiquated manner of work and obsolete method of conducting business. Or you will find that if you have developed a lifestyle of learning, then you have the foundation for success in the multifaceted, interdisciplinary, connected, kinetic, current state of getting things done and making things happen.

I truly hope this book has helped you evaluate your goals for your family and that I have encouraged you to rely on Christ, our Redeemer, in all the decisions you make. Be humble, go forth, and don't settle for less than the best you have to offer in Jesus's name.