

Bjorkman Family News January 2007

Thank you for allowing us to introduce ourselves and share a bit of our heart with you. We are Brad and Nancy Bjorkman along with our four children. We have lived in Elk River, Minnesota, since 1998, and before that considered Washington State our home. We have homeschooled for 15 years and tend to have a home where there is seldom a dull moment and you can typically find several non-Bjorkmans around the kitchen table at any given meal. Games, music, laughter, friends, and our faith are what delight us together as a family.

We are so excited about this new season that God has for us as our children grow toward independence. While our two oldest have now graduated and moved on to college, we still are educating our two high school children at home. Every step of becoming a part of this wonderful business has been another door opened before us. We can look back and see God establishing a foundation even before we had children. Brad's strengths are in detail work, and he spent the last 17+ years in medical marketing. Nancy was born with a passion and gift for teaching and has her teaching credentials for K-12. Her experience in public, private, and homeschool environments has given her a wide range of knowledge which she loves sharing with others. She is a popular speaker at homeschool conventions and also regularly teaches workshops in the Twin Cities area.

So how did we come to work with the Heppners? The short answer is that God brought us here! After He moved us to Minnesota from Washington state in 1998 (This would be a much longer story if we told you all God did to bring us to MN), Brad ended his career in medical marketing in January, 2006. He had received an ultimatum from his employer which in essence said, "Move to the Los Angeles, CA or else." While none of us was attracted to that prospect, Brad said that if God wanted us in L.A., then we were going. We all prayed earnestly for a month, seeking God's direction. At the end of that time we unanimously felt led to stay where we were. Although we didn't know where our income would come from, we had experienced God's incredible provision in the past and knew He would again be faithful to us. After He dramatically closed several doors which would have kept Brad in his prior career, God led us to consider opening a homeschool curriculum store.

The Heppners were meanwhile being led to change their ministry focus and were looking for help. The world would say that one thing led to another (as if by chance), but we can now see that God was working to bring us together. We first sat down together last summer and quickly hit it off. We found that we share a common Christian faith, educational philosophy, passion for educating children at home, and for helping others do the same. It was as if God had been preparing us all along for this, which of course He was. Nancy has the experience and heart to help other homeschoolers and potential homeschoolers succeed (We have received many calls over the years which begin with, "You don't know me but someone told me I should talk to Nancy about homeschooling..."), while Brad has a lot of the business experience necessary for this undertaking.

This is a big step for us. However, we're confident God has called us to join with DuWayne and Miriam to continue this ministry which they initiated more than 20 years ago. We're excited that we've been given the opportunity to work with such great people while running the race God has set before us.

We hope that we can get to know each of you in some way as we work with you to fill your child(ren)'s educational needs.