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The Kincell Family

The everyday pleasures of family life in the Kincell home

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

HSLDA Leadership Conference 2010

To clear up confusion on the fact that we attended two conferences in one trip: The Alliance conference starts Sunday evening and ends Wednesday after lunch. The HSLDA (**Home School Legal Defense Association**) Leadership Conference starts Wednesday evening. Usually the two conferences are held in the same area so the state leaders traveling from all across the country (and sometimes internationally) are able to attend both if they wish. This year the conferences were about an hour apart. So Wednesday we packed up and moved out of the campground and into the warm and delightful home of some sweet friends.



But back to the conference (more on our wonderful hosts and the places they took us later...), for the most part the attendees at the two conferences are the same. However, there are some who only attend one conference, so midweek we lost some friends and gained others. More international leaders go to the HSLDA conference, and Daddy really enjoyed meeting this gentleman from Sweden. I'm afraid I don't remember his name, nor would I be willing to try and spell it if I did!, but he was a very interesting man, and we enjoyed gleaning international perspective on homeschooling and socialism from him. Many of the things he shared reminded me of the information to be gleaned on parentalrights.org's website and the stats shared in the films *Demographic Winter* and *Demographic Bomb*.



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Our Heart and Vision

We were so excited when we found Dr. Bauchum's message "The Centrality of the Home!" It exactly expresses where God has lead our hearts and our family vision! We highly recommend it! To listen, [click here](#).

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The HSLDA conference has a completely different flavor from the Alliance. The sessions at HSLDA are geared toward informing state leaders of important national issues and needs rather than open sharing between the leaders. Both conferences are very strong, and we really enjoy them. They complement one another so well! For the last few years, however, my favorite session has been at HSLDA. I love hearing Michael Farris speak on the issue of **parental rights** and international law. He is so passionate, and I believe God is truly using him to protect the freedoms of parents and Christians in the United States.

The lobby was the unofficial meeting area, and it was *always* busy. People milled around to fellowship, and nearly every electrical outlet available had a computer plugged in it. For the first time during the week, we had reliable and free internet service!



We enjoyed the Starbucks around the corner, and I got my first crash course into the wonderful world of coffee from Courtney - something this tea drinker didn't realize she needed until she was staring blankly at the Starbucks menu unable to make heads nor tails of it. :)



There were more Frisbee games, and Keely, Kelsie, and Katelynn caught a ride with Israel one afternoon while our parents were in afternoon session. I think they won every game, and only one broken bone resulted. Thankfully, just a cracked toe and only a minor one at that.



Most days the conference ended after lunch (with a few optional afternoon sessions), so one evening our hosts took us to enjoy some of the city's famous deep dish pizza and we took an evening walk downtown along the river...



Another evening Mom and Dad went out with our HSLDA lawyer, his wife, and **Rick and Marilyn Boyer**, so we stayed back at the hotel with the kids. We ordered deep dish pizza (have I mention how GOOD it was?) and had a game night. I lost every single game of chess to Matthew... I knew I wasn't very good, but I can usually hold my own. But not with Matthew. Peter made me feel slightly better when he told me Matthew reads chess strategy books for fun. But only a little better... Yes, I have a healthy dose of competitiveness... (But it's balanced by years of instruction in good sportsmanship. I have good and patient parents.)



A new game from LegoLand and Battleship were also brought out. And the smaller kids enjoyed coloring, making bracelets, and read aloud before bed. The little girls were only 2 and 4, but they already had a solid foundation of Biblical knowledge. Not only were they familiar with Christ and His miracles, they also spouted off facts about the kings of Judah and the minor prophets. I was very impressed. I pray that if I am ever blessed with a family and small children, my little ones will know and love God's Word like those little girls.



Friday afternoon brought the Ladies Tea and Men's Huddle. I don't know what the men did during this time, but we ladies enjoyed a delightful tea, bright candles, fresh roses, and the testimony of Jessica Hulcy, the creative genius behind Konos.



HSLDA is a formal conference, as evidenced by this spiffy little strawberry. :) Isn't it adorable? He was one of the many goodies served at the ladies' tea.



It was so much fun to catch up with Courtney, Carrie (pictured), and Christa... They're so sweet, and I love how the three sisters have similar sounding names. Like us! Only we're missing the brothers they have to round out their family...



"Armando" (otherwise known as Jesse's index finger) here poses with Candace and Kelsie at the closing banquet Saturday night. During the evening, the Greg Harris award (named after it's first recipient) was awarded to Bill Gothard for his huge contributions to the early homeschooling movement. The Chris Klicka award went to Jessica Huley.



The last evening of the conference, several of the young people went for a walk and met with this charming little guy. He threatened to spray when cameras got too close for comfort, but eventually decided against it - much to the relief of the walkers and their parents who heard about the ordeal afterward...



And thus ended the conference part of our wonderful trip. :)

Posted by Kiri at 19:49

Labels: homeschooling, parental rights, travel

1 comment:



Laura said...

Looks like y'all had tons of fun! Thanks for sharing all the photos.

October 13, 2010 at 9:35 AM

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