



STC 2007 BIO

SCC Team
February 7-10, 2007

HEIDI WHITMAN

I was born in Texas, but grew up in northeastern Oklahoma, second daughter of a chemical engineer. My mother taught kindergarten. We faithfully attended a Presbyterian church, but I truly understood and embraced Christ at a Methodist church camp. I met my husband, Larry, at Oklahoma State University, where we were both involved in a campus ministry. We married in 1987, so our twentieth anniversary is this year, on St. Valentine's Day.

We settled in Fort Worth, Texas, where Larry worked as an industrial engineer for an airplane manufacturer. Our two boys, Joshua and David, were born there. Larry was working on his doctorate as well as working fulltime for six years. In 1998, Larry applied for and was accepted as an assistant professor of industrial engineering at Wichita State University, the third largest university in Kansas. So we moved in January 1999 to the "Land of Oz", just a few hundred miles north on I-35.

We started home schooling partly for religious convictions, partly because we could see that Joshua would not be able to sit still in a classroom, and partly just because it was what almost everyone at our church did. Philosophically, public school was not an option, and private school was not affordable. Now, after nine years of home schooling, I can see that these reasons to home school have amplified as our children grew. In other words, I didn't know what I was getting into, but I'm glad that the Lord led us to home school! It is an enormous challenge, yet very satisfying at times.

We used Five in a Row for three years, but Joshua outgrew it by third grade. I wanted something with more systematic history and less preparation work, but still literature-based. A good friend showed me the Sonlight catalog, and Larry especially, but I as well, really liked their approach. We took the plunge in 2001, and have been "Sonlit" ever since!

I started a Sonlight support group for Wichita families in 2002, out of a desire to relieve isolation. Our TPA convention did not have a Sonlight booth in 2004, and several people asked me what happened. So, I decided to try to do it myself the following year. This will be my third year as an SCC in Wichita, and I have also expanded to the NCEA convention in Nebraska.

When I'm not managing the home, teaching my boys, or consulting for Sonlight, I like to spend my time in artistic pursuits, such as crocheting, sketching, and gardening. I dream of one day writing an historical novel based on my family's history. I'd like to make my backyard a beautiful haven for our family and wildlife. Lastly, when I'm "retired", I hope the Lord will use my experience to help tutor children and mentor young mothers.

