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MINISTRY NEEDS GUIDE • PAGE 17

And the winner is...

Readers shared with us why they have a great pastor. One pastor won a getaway!

by Anita Widaman

Pastors are often under appreciated these days. That’s why, during Pastor Appreciation Month in October, Metro Voice invited readers to let us know why they have a great pastor. We’ve read the many entries and have chosen one pastor to receive a Branson vacation. Pastor Carroll C. McCarroll of Heart of America Christian Fellowship, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, will receive two nights lodging at a property owned by the award-winning Myer Hotel chain, show tickets (including the Great Passion Play in Eureka Springs, Ark.), gift and shopping cards to area restaurants and shops plus a gas card. We want to thank Midwest Minister’s Fellowship and Howard Cordell for providing funds for the gift cards.

We had so many great entries

■ See PASTOR page 2

HOMELESS

Thanksgiving

by Dwight Widaman

There’s no missing it when you look around: record numbers of Americans on food stamps, the lowest number of Americans employed in decades even as the “official” unemployment numbers continue to drop, the highest number ever of individuals applying for disability. All this while the headlines say the unemployment rate is “dropping”.

■ See HOMELESS page 23



“ONE HOMELESS NIGHT”

Help raise awareness and funds for Kansas City’s homeless youth

by Alan Goforth

On Friday, Nov. 7, over 20 area groups metro wide, including several churches, will participate in “sleep-outs” to help raise awareness about youth homelessness, as well as funds to provide shelter, counseling and support services to vulnerable and homeless youth in Kansas City.

Organized by Synergy Services, the group has been addressing youth homelessness since 1971 with crisis care, shelter, counseling, prevention programs, outreach and other supportive services.

More than 2,000 KC area youth are homeless every night. One Homeless Night will give area students a chance to step into their shoes for one night, while at the same time providing critical help and education around youth homelessness.

Youth will spend the night simulating homelessness in a safe setting. Groups will participate in service learning activities to gain a better understanding of what a homeless youth in our city experiences.

2014 participating churches include Pineridge Church, Heritage United Methodist, Unity Church of North Kansas City



During One Homeless Night, teens brave the weather that the homeless regularly experience.

and Unity Church of Overland Park, Gloria dei Lutheran Church and Saint Andrew Christian Church.

Each youth participant is encouraged to raise \$100 to support Synergy House, the homeless youth shelter operated by Synergy, that provides one of the few youth-focused shelters in the area—offering 60 percent of the beds that are available to the community’s homeless young people.

One Homeless Night supports programs at the agency’s Youth Resiliency Center, which provides comprehensive services including medical and dental care, mental health counseling, life-skills training, a computer lab, showers, lockers, an interactive learning center and the opportunity for leadership development and community service. For more information, visit www.synergyservices.org.

To participate visit www.onehomelessnight.kintera.org.

Think Branson for holidays

by Dwight Widaman

Like many families, memories of trips to Branson frame some of our most fun weekend get-a-ways. While we love the beach and trips to the big cities like New York and Chicago, the Missouri Ozarks with Branson serving as the heart, offers something those other destinations rarely can—changing seasons.

One of our favorite seasons to visit Branson is the transition from fall to winter and November and December are the



■ See BRANSON page 19

PASTOR

■ From page 1

(winning entry below) it was difficult to pick just one. So many pastors work tirelessly serving the community across Kansas City. From Metro Voice and our readers—THANK YOU!

Winning Entry

Dear Metro Voice,

When I first considered writing 300 words seemed like writing a novel but as I reflected on my pastor, his life and works 300 words seem a fleeting thought.

My pastor, Dr. Carroll C. McCarroll is a well-respected, revered man of God. From a personal point of view one of the things I respect the most is his standing firm on the word of God.

In reading the statistics listed in the Metro Voice the only one I feel Pastor McCarroll succumbs to would be the hours. He is active in the Heart of America Christian Academy, Heart of American Christian College and Theological Seminary, Heart of America Ministries, and Kingsway Fellowship International.

Pastors Carroll and Bonnie Sue McCarroll have a ministry spanning several decades while still raising a wonderful family of five. Two of their sons serve as Assistant Pastors.

Pastor is always available for any opportunity that comes his way from maintaining church grounds to helping with the recent church parking lot sale to teaching the new members Sunday School class to teaching and preaching



Pastor McCarroll and Bonnie Sue McCarroll

from the pulpit.

Pastor is currently fighting health issues but is more concerned with the health and well-being of his flock. He is always there for prayer; healing and laying on of hands for those in need.

Pastor has a unique way of reaching all with his sermons. Young and old, saved and unsaved are touched by his messages and he is always there to answer questions.

My grand-daughter is enrolled in the Heart of America Christian Academy. The scriptural and textbook training she is receiving is astronomical. Her math grades are exceptional and she can say the books of the Bible in order.

Again kudos to Pastor McCarroll. I pray to be under his teaching and guidance for many years to come.

Love in Christ,
Cynthia Prince

Churches talk about race relations

by World News Service

The shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., on Aug. 9 brought race relations to the forefront of the news. A survey of evangelical leaders conducted three days before the shooting indicates that racial reconciliation was already an ongoing topic among evangelical churches in the United States.

Seventy-one percent of the evangelical leaders surveyed said their churches have discussed the need for racial reconciliation from the pulpit, in seminars or in courses, according to the August Evangelical Leaders Survey.

"The survey shows that evangelicals care about racial reconciliation," said Leith Anderson, President of the National Association of Evangelicals. "Most have addressed the issue publicly. Some have placed special emphasis on it. Others haven't but know they should. A few



have not, even though many of their members are minorities."

Paul de Vries, president of New York Divinity School and senior pastor of Immanuel Community Church in Manhattan, said, "Even in our racially diverse congregation, racial reconciliation is an important theme going forward toward more complete healing."

While the survey asked about the churches that leaders attend, denominational, educational and organizational leaders indicated that the topic has been important in their contexts as well.

For example, Doug Beacham, General Superintendent of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church (IPHC),

■ See RACE page 22

Annual Purity Conference moved to November

Thousands of people have been challenged to live lives of purity over the past decade at Men of Valor and the related conferences that it inspired. The conferences, which had been held in January, have been moved to November, with a dynamic lineup of speakers and topics.

The events will be held at several area churches. Youth4Truth begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 14, at the Church of the Ascension in Overland Park. The speakers will be Wayne Simien of Called to Greatness and a former professional basketball player; and youth minister Kelly Colangelo. The local Mikey Needleman Band also will perform.

For the 10th straight year, Character That Counts will co-host the event. Many Kansas Citians are familiar with the impact the conference has had thousands of men, women and teens throughout the years.

Rod Handley, founder of Character That Counts and one of the organizers of Men of Valor, thinks every family should attend.

"Sexual purity is a challenge in today's society especially with the easy accessibility of the internet," stated Handley. "Come to this conference and bring your family and friends too. You will get tools, resources and encouragement in fighting this important battle."

Handley says he and his sons have attended in the past and he highly recommends it for other fathers and sons.

Singles and couples are invited to attend a special session at the same time and location. Dr. Ken Canfield of the National Center for Fathering, and Ron and Kathy Feher of Living in Love will be the featured speakers.

Debi Stack and Fawn Brents will headline Women of Virtue at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15, at Christ the King Church in Kansas City. In addition, Dr.

Laurie Heap will discuss health and happiness issues that are specific to women.

Finally, Men of Valor will begin at 8 a.m. on Nov. 15 at Colonial Presbyterian Church in Kansas City. The speaking lineup includes Bill Corum of Prison Power Ministries; Dr. Peter Kleponis of Integrity Restored; and former pornography producer Donny Pauling.

"Our speaking lineup includes some of the top Protestant and Catholic communicators in the nation. Personally, I can't wait to hear Wayne Siemen, Bill Corum and Donny Pauling. These men will stir you as they speak Word of God," says Handley.

In addition to the featured speakers, each conference will offer a number of breakout sessions on a variety of topics. The conferences are affordably priced, with varying costs for students, singles and couples. Registration for daytime events includes lunch.

To learn more or to register, please visit www.kcvalor.com, www.kcvalor.com or www.kctruth.org.

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Overcoming secularization in American churches

Churches urged to learn new missiology to reach young people

By **Vicki Brown**

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — What is happening to Christianity in the United Kingdom is heading to the United States, one British theologian believes. And U.S. Christians can benefit from the lessons the English have learned as they continue to struggle with changes in a post-Christian world.

Malcolm Duncan, pastor of Gold Hill Baptist Church in Chalfont St. Peter, England, spoke to mid-Missouri pastors and church leaders through video tech-

nology as part of the “Reveal: identify, engage, reproduce” conference. The conference drew from the Acts 17 story of Paul’s using the culture of Athens to share the gospel.

Indicators, both outside and inside the church, are revealing the creep of secularization across the British nation. Duncan gave seven signs of secularization he sees outside the church and seven within it.

The theologian cites the rise of a new atheism, changes in accepted morality and a shift away from including religious understanding in education. He pointed out that British society is becoming more multicultural. While he sees the change as “good,” it has led to a struggle among belief systems. While it is unacceptable to make statements

Malcolm Duncan (on screen), pastor of Gold Hill Baptist Church in Chalfont St. Peter, England, and Joshua Hedger, director of the Center for Church Planting at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, share at the Reveal Conference in Jefferson City, Mo.

about other religious groups, society is now free to marginalize Christianity.

Terms, such as education and family, are being redefined, and people are more suspicious of authority, he added.

Duncan sees growing biblical illiteracy — including among congregational leaders — as the greatest challenge and a key sign of secularization within the church.



The director of Catalyst Mission, an open mission movement across the U.K., told the Missourians another sign of internal secularization is a redefinition of “faithful” and “committed.” Other signs include crises of leadership and of confidence in the church, aggres-

sion and attack — the church is known for what it stands against — the splintering of evangelicalism and the confusing of primary and secondary theological issues.

The organized church in the U.K.

■ See **SECULARIZATION** page 21

A Christmas “Mystery”

by **Staff**

The holidays are filled with a variety of productions hoping to win your interest and financial investment. But if you are interested in taking your family to a hi-tech production with inspirational music and message then The Mystery of Christmas is a must see. This new version of the Christmas classic The Nutcracker has inspired audiences for 16 years. With a discounted morning student performance as well as a family dinner show, Mystery will take place Dec. 5 and 7 at the Liberty Performing Arts Theater, 1600 S. Withers Road, Liberty, Mo., just north of Worlds of Fun.

As television and cinema continue to push traditional family boundaries, it’s more difficult to find productions/events that will be appropriate and enjoyable for



parents and children. The Mystery of Christmas appeals to families looking for spiritually significant events during the holidays.

As in The Nutcracker, the MOC production includes the classical music of Tsychofsky and central figure Clara has a magical dream. However she doesn’t dream about Sugarplum Fairies or snowflakes, but rather she travels back in time to Bethlehem. She witnesses angels, shepherds, and kings converging on a humble stable where she discovers why we celebrate this miraculous birth.

Two of the performers this year have relocated to study with the artistic director of the production, Liz Dimmel. Chisako Suzuki, from Japan states, “I wanted to be a member of a ballet company where universal truths are expressed in dance.” Suzuki continues, “My first production is The Mystery of Christmas and I’m excited to express not only my love for dance but my love for God as well.”

Monica Berghaut has migrated to KC from England. “I heard about Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre and School of the Arts from fellow students in England,” says Monica. “I was interested in the spiritual atmosphere that Mrs. Dimmel had created and wanted to be a part of it. My decision to move here was a good one.”

■ See **MYSTERY** page 16



DRAMATIC TRUTH

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CHRISTIANS, JEWS TEAM UP TO FIGHT ISLAMIC PERSECUTION

Now Jews and Christians are banding together to fight growing persecution of Christians in Islamic countries.

"When hundreds of thousands of Christians - men, women and children - are killed, this isn't a war, this is genocide.

And Jews know what happens when the world is silent to genocide," World Jewish Congress President Ron Lauder told participants at the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem's annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem.

Lauder advocates for Jewish people around the world. Now he's teaming up with the ICEJ and Empowered21 to fight Christian persecution.

"What's happened to the Christians (is) they're being massacred and killed," Lauder told CBN News in an interview. "Some 120,000 were killed



last year and no one says anything. Everyone's focusing on Gaza now and the fact is the world is coming apart."

The WJC, Empowered21 and the ICEJ sent a let-

ter recently to more than 100 world leaders calling on them to take up the cause of persecuted Christians in Muslim countries.

Together, the three groups represent millions around the world.

ICEJ Executive Director Jurgen Buhler told journalists, "For the first time to my knowledge in modern history, probably even in the history of Jewish-Christian relations, a Jewish organization and a Christian organization are joining in a letter to protect Christians in the Middle East."

"There has simply been a horrendous thing that has been going on. Christianity is dwindling in the Middle East. We believe it should be growing," Oral Roberts University President Billy Wilson, co-chairman of Empowered21 Global Council, told CBN News.

Canon Andrew White, known as the Vicar of Baghdad, said ISIS beheaded 30 more children in October who refused to convert to Islam.

"The children said, 'We have always followed Yesua [Arabic]. We will never leave Yesua.' They all had their heads chopped off. This is the kind of terror that we are facing," White told journalists.

Lauder encouraged more than 4,000 Christians from 80 nations at the Feast of Tabernacles celebration to fight together.

In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he wrote that God did not give us a spirit of fear but the spirit of power," Lauder told Christian pilgrims at the feast.

"Do not fear," He said.

"Have courage. Have strength and as one, Christians and Jews, we will be strengthened together and we will, we will not fail."

newsbriefs

ARE THE UNCHURCHED MORE RESISTANT THAN EVER?

A new study from Christian Research company Barna Group reveals that unchurched Americans are the most resistant to outreach efforts by the church and friends that they've been in 20 years.

Data collected from 42,855 interviews show that 47 percent of U.S. adults who do not attend church said they were open to being invited to church by a friend - down from 65 percent in 1993.

However study results indicate that personal invitations from friends are the most effective way to draw church visitors compared to other outreaches.

The data showed what Barna called "mod-



erate openness" to "high-touch" efforts such as home visits and phone calls. Twenty-seven percent of unchurched

adults said they would be open to visiting a church if invited through a pastoral visit compared to 34 percent 20 years ago. Twenty-four percent said they would consider visiting if they received a phone call from a church.

MISSOURI LEGISLATURE ASKED TO PROTECT COURAGEOUS CHILDREN

The legislature has been asked to protect



courageous children who describe how they've been abused. Missouri Child Advocacy Centers perform forensic interviews with those children who are strong enough to describe what has happened to them. The interviews are used by the state Children's Division and law enforcement in their investigations.

But Deputy Director Emily vanSchenk of Missouri Kids First says centers are in-

creasingly facing subpoenas for those recordings from lawyers who want to use them in custody cases. She says one lawyer recently wanted to play the child's interview in a courtroom full of people.

VanShenkoff says it takes tremendous courage for a child to describe abuse. She says the state has no way now to protect children from having the interviews used in ways that will come back to hurt them. She says the organization doesn't want to keep people who need to make good decisions from seeing the recordings. But, she tells a legislative committee that the confidentiality of those children must be protected but Missouri has nothing that will do that.

She's afraid those recordings could someday show up on Youtube unless the legislature limits access to them.

Homeless Vets in Kan. & Mo. to get more help from reStart

reStart, Inc. has been awarded a \$3 million Department of Veteran's Affairs, Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant to provide services for veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Grant funds will be allocated at \$1 million each year over a three-year period and serve both Missouri and Kansas veterans.



reStart, Inc. works with all homeless populations - youth, families with children, and single adults - providing the resources and supports critical to "restart" their lives. In 2013 alone, reStart served 28,406 people and of those served, 40% were children.

Funding enables reStart to target resources to very low-income veteran families (those making less than 50 percent of the area median income) living in - or transitioning to - permanent housing. "Funds will allow reStart to provide a range of critically needed housing and support services that assist Veteran families in obtaining and maintaining housing," said Evelyn Craig, President and CEO of reStart, Inc.

reStart partners with the VA to offer veterans and their family members outreach, case management, assistance in obtaining VA benefits and assistance in receiving other public benefits. Veterans and their families may also receive temporary financial assistance for rent payments, utility payments, security deposits and moving costs. "With the addition of these crucial resources, communities across the country continue a historic drive to prevent and end homelessness among veterans," said Laura Green Zeilinger, executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

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Demonstrators fill the streets of Hong Kong, protesting the increasing loss of freedoms in the former British colony.

Hong Kong Christians rally behind protestors for reform

Hong Kong's leader has agreed to meet with pro-democracy advocates after a weeks of public protests.

Tens of thousand of demonstrators have been blocking the streets of Hong Kong since early Oct.

They want more input and less meddling from China in selecting the territory's leader.

“They're fearful the same persecution Chinese believers are suffering at the hands of communist Beijing could easily happen to them.”

China is poised to intervene should the protests get out of control. Hong Kong's Christian community, however, strongly supports the demonstrations. They're fearful the same persecution Chinese believers are suffering at the hands of communist Beijing could easily happen to them. CBN News's George Thomas talked more about the

situation below:

Earlier, Hong Kong police dispersed crowds with tear gas.

Meanwhile, U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice is watching the developments in Hong Kong and spoke with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

She expressed the hope that differences between authorities and protesters in China will be addressed peacefully.

“The United States has consistently supported the open system that is essential to Hong Kong's stability and prosperity,” the White House said in statement about the meeting.

newsbriefs



THIS IS YOUR TEENAGER'S BRAIN ON SUGAR

Too much sugar could be bad for your brain and your memory, especially for teenagers.

A new study from the University of Southern California found sugar led to problems with memory and inflammation of the brain in juvenile rats.

“The brain is especially vulnerable to dietary influences during critical periods of development, like adolescence,” said Scott Kanoski, corresponding author of the study and an assistant professor at the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. He added a diet high in sugar could not only mean gaining weight, but could hurt your brain as well.

The study is published in the journal Hippocampus.

Climbing Higher conference explores God's influence in marketplace

The IMPACT Marketplace Conference “Climbing Higher”, scheduled for Nov. 6-7, hopes to teach individuals in the business community how God can impact their operations and customers.

The Joseph Company will sponsor an international line-up of speakers who will share what God is doing in the earth in this hour. Special times of worship, stories, teaching and ministry are designed to inspire and refresh men and women in the workplace to impact their spheres of influence in great measure.

“Great change is occurring in the nations. We see the early shakings of the Lord, yet at the same time He is



FIELDS

speaking with clarity, pouring out His power and transforming cities and nations,” says Linda Fields, director of the Joseph Company. “Gone are the days of the marketplace being viewed as secular and devoid of God's presence or purposes. It is the great mission field for which God is raising up His servants to express the kingdom in all realms of society, including business, government, education, family, arts, and media.”

Fields says the Holy Spirit is raising up individuals in the marketplace who are cultivating a life of prayer, intimacy with Jesus, and insight into God's strategies, much like the sons of Issachar “who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do” (1 Chr.

i moreinformation

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JOHN DORSEY
General Manager
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Magician creates Magic and Memories Foundation

KC area duo seeks to team elderly, youth for mutual benefit

by **Lee Hartman**

Imagine a top hat worn by the greats of magic throughout the centuries and then into modern times by one celebrity magician. Now take that top hat, add one Celebrity Master Magician and one social services worker, speak the ancient magic word “abracadabra,” and – poof! – a rise of smoke, and through the smoke begins to appear the notion for a foundation. Just as T.A. Hamilton, Master Magician, can silently and seamlessly link one ring into another as if they were rings of smoke, ‘Magic and Memories’ is designed to be an innovative approach that will link seniors and youth together through the catalyst of magic.

The goals of this program are to instill in the youth who participate a sense of self, emotional perception, intuition, self confidence, public speaking, coordination, performance skills, analytical skills and creativity in a fun, highly charged and energetic environment. “Magic and Memories” will be presented at schools, libraries, churches, senior centers and at the foundation’s own location, along with special events.

Youth and elderly will come together for an educational, meaningful, fun and entertaining visit. “Magic and Memories” allows for supportive and compassionate visits for both youth and elderly to connect within retirement homes, daytime elder-care centers and other settings.

T.A. Hamilton, Celebrity Master Magician, and Susan Whitaker, co-founders, saw magic when they reviewed both their diverse backgrounds and determined how they could make an impact in their community together. Together they both bring an abundance of enthusiasm along with a desire and a commitment to bring about a better quality of life for seniors and youth in Northeast Kansas and the Greater Kansas City area.

Hamilton is a multi-award-winning magician, comedian and nationally recognized inspirational illusionist with over 20 years professional experience. Hamilton specializes in using magic to deliver a high-impact and theatrically dramatic performance. Fortune 500 companies, schools, churches and theaters coast-to-coast have sought out this professional entertainer. His credits include appearing on CBS, NBC, Fox, hundreds of television commercials, along with two motion pic-



tures.

Susan Whitaker brings to the foundation over 20 years of experience working in the social services field. She holds a bachelors degree and is a certified counseling professional. Whitaker has personally implemented and achieved award winning programming for seniors in multiple long-term care settings, including a well-received and highly successful “Bucket List Club” in the Kansas City area. Whitaker’s long time passion has been in serving the elderly community, and she knows the joy of seeing youth and seniors interacting together.

Hamilton and Whitaker are currently booking shows with a commitment to utilize proceeds to plant the seeds from which their foundation can bloom into fruition and grow ever larger. Hamilton currently owns and tours with the largest illusion show in the Midwest. Whether you are calling to book his comedy stand-up magic act, a magic-gram or his large illusion show remember you are sharing the joy of magic that will continue to shine as it transforms the lives of the youth and seniors served through the ‘Magic and Memories Foundation.’ Hamilton’s website is www.tahamilton.com.

The ‘Magic and Memories’ foundation’s mascot is “Karrot the Karing Bunny.” You may purchase Karrot the Karing Bunny jewelry from Etsy with the proceeds of your purchase going toward the foundation. Whitaker who is the artist behind this jewelry has long found arts and crafts to be therapeutic recreation for children and adults, especially seniors.

more information

More information can be found at the Etsy website:
www.etsy.com/listing/190697758/karrot-the-karing-bunny-necklace.



12 Fascinating Aging Facts for Older Americans Month

Aging is an inevitable part of living, and can be fascinating for people of any age. Lives change, minds and bodies change, and time goes on. Here we will take a look at 12 interesting facts about aging in honor of Older Americans Month.

Population

Aging Americans are an important part of the population—learn about their impact here.

1. The over 65 population should reach 86.7 million: Estimates put the 65+ population at 86.7 by 2050.
2. Life expectancy is increasing at a faster rate: Between 1900 and 1960, life expectancy increased by 2.4 years, but since 1960, it has increased by 3.5 years.
3. The older population is nearly 40 million strong: In 2012, there were 46 million people aged 65 and older.
4. Minorities make up almost half of the older population: 42% of people 65 and older in the US are part of minority groups.
5. There are more people over age 60 than under 15: Those over age 60 outnumber those under 15.
6. The elderly are the fastest growing age group: The US Census Bureau indicates that individuals 85 and up are the fastest growing age group by percentage.

Societal Contributions

Growing older doesn’t have to mean shrinking away from society, as evidenced by these facts.

7. Poets, philosophers, and writers can create at a late age: Emmanuel Kant published his greatest works between 60 and 80.
8. About half of the employed elderly work full time: Of those who are working past 65, 55% work full time.
9. The number of 65+ veterans is estimated to be about 9 million.
10. 15 million older persons volunteer: Nearly half of all adults 65 and older volunteer in some form.
11. The elderly vote more than any other age group: 70% of citizens 65 and older voted in 2008, with the highest turnout rate of any age group.
12. There are millions of elderly in the labor force: That number should reach 11.1 million by 2018.

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How's your track record?

Have you ever felt like you're in a relay race, but just can't effectively get the handoff? If you think about how a relay race is run, there are some key things that have to occur for a race to be run well.

First, the course must be mapped out with a definite route and destination. Whether working on a project, planning a family vacation, or working on a community event, I like to start with a clear goal in mind of what success looks like.

Secondly, each runner has to be positioned at his/her station. Each person involved needs to know their responsibility; an intentional effort is needed on the part of each runner as well as the coach to communicate clear expectations.

Thirdly, the baton has to be safely transmitted from the hand of one runner to the next without breaking the momentum. So many times, this is where things fall apart with poor communication or sloppy goals. Recovery is so much harder than just doing things right the first time.

The beauty of each runner, trained, ready, watching, with hand extended, firmly transferring the baton from one to the next is a wonderful thing to experience. I



LINDA FIELDS

Director of The Joseph Company

faithworks!

just love that— watching people shine out in their own part of the race, as runners fulfill their desires, accomplishing the goals they've trained for, and completing the race well.

This is to run with excellence.

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:1-3 NKJV

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2014 Adoption & Foster Guide

Many reasons why Christians should embrace adoption

Despite efforts at awareness of such a miracle of life, sometimes people still don't embrace adoption. Sadly, many of those ideas emanate from Christians who are pro-life.

Recently another sad story of a "returned" child made news, leading others to question whether adoption is the best thing—at least for the parents—especially when children are difficult and need more support, whether emotionally or physically. "You don't know what you're getting," they say, often adding that an adopted child could be "damaged." He or she could make your life uncomfortable, ruin the family dynamic.

To the Christian, the answer to all of that should be, "so what?"

First, the reality for Christians is that the Bible talks of God adopting believers into his family through the sacrifice of His son Jesus Christ. This is the foundation of Christianity. To reject adoption as a special calling for "other" people, or only adequate for extreme circumstances such as for infertility, is to reject the principle that God himself modeled. The actual ques-



tion should be "is there any good reason not to adopt?"

There are good reasons not to. It would be irresponsible to suggest everyone

should run out and sign up for home studies and adoption lists solely because it's the model of Christianity, but the question must be an honest inventory of why

nots?

Second, the Bible abounds with scriptures about orphans, and it is clear that the job of the Christian is to take care of the orphan; James 1:27 describes this as "pure religion" that God accepts. One of the most oft-cited verses is Psalm 68:6 "God sets the lonely (some versions say solitary) in families." It brings a sort of comfort into pro-life circles to know this: "God will take care of the orphan; he loves the orphan and will give him a family." But it can also become a cliché, a cloud without water, if the next question is not "Do some of those lonely belong in my family?"

God does set the lonely in families, but God is a supernatural being who uses human beings to execute his work on earth. God gives resources and love and families to people, so they may share those things with others. To say "God sets the lonely in families" then shut the door to the lonely outside of our homes is missing a key point of the gospel.

...to a Christian, adoption is the most natural thing that can be.

As pro-lifers, we rightly demand abortion stop. We decry the killing and pray for hours at abortion clinics, weeping over the loss of life. We post pictures and sayings on social media and proudly announce we only vote for pro-life candidates. But beyond that, the solution for abortion remains solely in our hands. It's negligent of us to expect everyone else to do the adopting. Not all pro-lifers are Christians, but the majority of those on the forefront are vocal about their faith. That voice must translate to adoption—in one way or another.

True family can be any lifelong bond God has knit together, and blood isn't a requirement for it to be real or somehow better because some DNA connects in a special way. Birth children can end up with severe problems just as adopted children can. Love doesn't get to choose which goods are damaged, just as God didn't dictate who was too damaged to be in his family.

Family is a committed, loving relationship that is in our power to offer and support—whether by doing the adopting or by actively, financially and emotionally, supporting those who do.

Recently a comment appeared on a public site saying that adoption wasn't a "natural" thing, but to a Christian, it's the most natural thing that can be.

God didn't have to send Jesus, and Jesus didn't have to go to the cross to allow us a way to the Father. The goal of this was to expand God's family through adoption. That statement sometimes gets so over-used in Christian culture that it loses personal meaning, and yet it's the reality of the gospel.

Janette Pettey and her husband Tim, who adopted both of their daughters, tells the story of how her daughter Hannah used to explain her adoption: "She used to say she was 'double adopted,' referring to her adoption into her natural family and also into her eternal family as a Christian," Janette says.

And that's the most natural thing of all.



Brianna's Story of Hope

Brianna was a "good girl" from a stable, two-parent home.

And yet the three men watching her saw her as an ideal candidate. She had a dream to get out of her small town ... needed to make money for college tuition. She was vulnerable and innocent.

And they took advantage of her in the worst possible way.

Naively, she was lured away from family and friends ... and into a strip

club. She quickly realized she was required to do more than just dance.

Thankfully, Brianna's family did not give up on her. They enlisted the help of a local police officer who understood sex trafficking, and who, in turn, enlisted Shared Hope's help to extract her from the situation.

Brianna was rescued!

Today, Brianna still has nightmares that "they" have found her again ... but she has become an outspoken activist, sharing her personal experience to save others. She recently

even allowed her story to be told on a billboard in Times Square, desperately hoping her warnings will be heeded.

Shared Hope International strives to prevent the conditions that foster sex trafficking, restore victims of sex slavery, and bring justice to vulnerable women and children. We envision a world passionately opposed to sex trafficking and a committed community restoring survivors to lives of purpose, value and choice — one life at a time.

Call Mike Parris, KC Area Ambassador of Hope, for Speaking Opportunities: 816-982-1042

WWW.SHAREDHOP.ORG

Mom says “Don’t fear a special needs adoption”

Susanna | theblessingofverity.com

If fear is keeping you from special needs adoption...

What are you afraid of?

Losing your freedom and leisure time?

Losing control of your ability to choose the life you want?

Being stretched too thin financially, or even going under?

Being unable to adequately care for a child’s special needs?

Not loving an adopted child like he or she needs to be loved?

Losing some of your preferred image or social standing?

The hard work?

The future for your child with special needs when you are old or have passed away?

Or something else?

Did you know that God hasn’t said, “All My people must adopt?”

But He does command us, over and over and over again,

“Do not be afraid.”

Don’t be afraid?

Isn’t some fear good?? Can’t fear play a role in helping us make wise decisions?

God’s command not to fear does not mean, “Do not feel afraid.” It means that we as His people can not walk in obedience to Him while we make decisions based on the wrong kind of fear.

“Born thy people to deliver...born to set thy people free; From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee..”

The right kind of fear keeps us from doing what is wrong, but the wrong kind of fear keeps us from doing what is right.

What stops many qualified families from taking the next step toward special needs adoption is not the obstacles themselves. What’s stopping them is simply their fear of the obstacles.

And then sometimes they fear that they aren’t qualified simply because they feel afraid. Or they think that their fears are a message from God telling them not to adopt. Not true!

Did we have fears throughout our adoption of Katie?

Yes, at times I struggled with terrible fear. I was afraid of the power of mere human beings to

stop the adoption process. After God opened my eyes to the truth that this fear was based on unbelief in His limitless power, I still had to battle fear. We have



The author’s daughter, Katie.

first-hand experience with the fact that He is not a tame lion. What if He stopped the process before Katie was our daughter? I had to have the truth ready for the fight when it came, and at times it felt like a fight to the death! Besides the truth that nothing is too hard for God, it is also true that He is good and cannot make mistakes. He gave us a fervent, over-arching desire for Him to show Himself as the God He really is, and for Him to write Katie’s story and our story in the way He knew would best make that happen. No matter what.

And now? Our family has lost a lot of our former fears. But no matter how much trust we eventually learn to have in our trustworthy God, it will never come close to the enormity of His trustworthiness. In other words, His power, His grace, His faithfulness will always far exceed our faith in Him, no matter how great our faith grows.

Do you know what fear I most commonly hear about from potential adoptive parents?

It’s the fear that they might miss God’s will and mistakenly adopt when He didn’t want them to. As a result, they fear, their family will be miserable, or their household will be turned upside down and given to irreversible chaos, or their other children will suffer (or at least lose necessary opportunities), or the adoption will fail, or they will go bankrupt, or perhaps they will sink into deep depression. Or maybe all these things will happen and more. And the hardships will mean that they had missed God’s will.

We as God’s people can be confident that He will not throw us off the deep end and walk away as we drown in agony. This is the crux of the matter, really.

In order to lose all fear of accidentally adopting outside of God’s will, you first need to understand that adoption is not an automatic or guaranteed process. You will not succeed in adopting if it’s not God’s will. He has a myriad of ways to say, “No,” or “Not right now.” A friend described their family’s experience as jumping off a cliff, only to hit a ledge a few inches down.

If your situation is in such a desperate state that you would clearly go under if you adopted a child with special needs, any home study social worker worth his or her salt would discover that early on. And that is just a human being judging on a human level. We and countless other adoptive families have seen supernatural provision of the Lord that fills in our gaps and goes far beyond what a home study social worker could have quantified.

■ See SPECIAL NEEDS page 11

Every child deserves a loving, caring home. A family they can call their own. A place where they belong. With people who will be there for them always.

Adopt Kansas Kids

www.adoptKSkids.org • 877-457-5430

Adopt Kansas Kids works to connect foster and sponsored adoptive families with children throughout Kansas who need adoption. This service is provided by the Kansas Children’s Service League through a contract with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

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To adopt a child also requires much consideration. Fears are normal but with education and support and reminders that God is ultimately the designer of their family, adoptive parents can safely navigate their journey to parenthood as well.

CFS received Hague accreditation in 2012 and this allows us to provide home studies and post-placement supervision for international adoptions as well. Many families have listened to the call to care for the orphan. Just in the last year this has included a family who traveled to China to bring home their wheelchair-bound son with spina bifida, a family making their home ready for a sibling group of four from Haiti, and many others.

What is God calling your heart to do? We strive to keep our fees low and rely on the generosity of Christians to keep our ministry funded. We offer tax credits to Missouri taxpayers and all donations are tax deductible.

i moreinformation

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Parkville Women's Clinic has vision for families

Lauren holds her baby's picture close as she tells of how her daughter has been added to "God's family." The eight month old has round cheeks, new teeth and eyes that like the rest of her are irresistible. Lauren gave her baby up for adoption, a process that wasn't complete until the newborn was three months old.

"Holding her is like holding your own heart in your hands," Lauren says. "I wouldn't trade that time with her, but I know she is exactly where she needs to be."

Lauren is like the hundreds of clients seen each year by Parkville Women's Clinic who come for the free services to help them with their pregnancies. The women are faced with the options of abortion, parenting or adoption.

"Most of our clients are at risk for



considering abortion when they first come to us. They feel they don't have any options," says Sonya Rice, executive director of the clinic. "We are thankful to report that more than 95% of our clients choose life for their babies."

Parkville Women's Clinic is a nonprofit ministry located in Parkville, Mo. with the mission to empower and equip individuals to make healthy life choices.

The clinic's leaders have a vision of building families and impacting communities for good. "We dare to ask, 'what if we lived in a world where every child is valued, and mothers and fathers are equipped to build strong families that positively impact our community,'" Rice says.

To fulfill that big dream, the clinic is looking to add to existing services by

starting STI testing, a fatherhood program, educational outreach and post-abortive counseling. Current services include pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, parenting classes, basic baby clothing, support services and community referrals.

Funding for PWC is provided by individuals, businesses and churches, and the ministry receives no government support. At a recent funding event, guests represented more than 25 area congregations.

"We would not exist without the generosity of donors and the support of dedicated volunteers," Rice says.

i moreinformation

To learn more about
Parkville Women's Clinic,
go to www.PWC4Life.us or
call 816-746-4855.

Everyday hope everyday impact

At The Women's Clinic of Kansas City, we get to see what hope looks like. Because we care, listen and lovingly speak the truth to those we serve, new opportunities ... and new lives ... await countless women, babies and teens.



Come visit our clinic and ask anyone serving about the changed lives they see because TWC, a community supported non-profit 401(c)3, provides free services to women facing the

**"Ellen and I
consoled a
sobbing
young mom
considering
abortion...
and she
chose Life for
her tiny new
daughter."**

crisis of an unplanned pregnancy and educates teens about sexual risk avoidance. You'll hear things like:

■ "My client walked in with tears today but left with a smile"

■ "Ellen and I consoled a sobbing young mom considering

abortion...and she chose Life for her tiny new daughter"

■ "An inner city teen cried at our latest workshop when offered a candy bar her family can't afford to buy"

■ "Several young moms got new jobs this month because Mimi helped them with their resume"

Every day we see God's handiwork through our ministry as counselors and nurses offer hope and help to

■ See TWC page 10

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**Parkville Women's Clinic**

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TWC

continued from page 9

women feeling unable to care for a child and considering abortion. On average, four babies are saved from abortion each day at our clinics.

TWC is also unique in its presence in KC's public schools with its prevention education program, Life-Guard. TWC offers classroom instruction on sexual risk avoidance to over 3200 students annually at an average of nearly 15 hours per student.

We impact lots of lives, but we could still do more. What is your next step to "reach more"?

To learn more about how you might partner or get involved, contact Sue Mahurin at (816) 836-9000 or visit www.thewomensclinic.net. Working together with you and with God, all things are possible to bring new life to those in need. We look forward with anticipation of what He will do next.



FYI

In 2012, 23,396 youth aged out of the U.S. foster care system without the emotional and financial support necessary to succeed. Nearly 40% had been homeless or couch surfed, nearly 60% of young men had been convicted of a crime, and only 48% were employed. 75% of women and 33% of men receive government benefits to meet basic needs. 50% of all youth who aged out were involved in substance use and 17% of the females were pregnant.

Source: AFCARS Report, No. 20, Jim Casey Youth

As of 2012, more than 58,000 children in the U.S. foster care system were placed in institutions or group homes, not in traditional foster homes.

Source: AFCARS Report, No. 20

Kansas foster, adoptive families get support from Project Belong

Currently in Kansas there are approximately 1,000 children waiting to be adopted and over 6,000 children in foster care.

"There are far more churches in Kansas than there are waiting children," stated Brandon Hoffman, co-founder of Project Belong. "If the Church will stand up and get involved, answering the call of James 1:27, we could provide homes for every waiting child. It would make it possible to have a waiting list of families rather than waiting children."

Project Belong reaches out to churches throughout Kansas to promote awareness about the need for foster and adoptive parents for children in foster care. Through church presentations and clergy meetings, Project Belong's experienced staff strives to inform and educate the Church about the need to provide loving, safe and stable families to care for children in foster care and those awaiting adoption. Project Belong's Family Partner process allows families of faith to navigate the beginning stages of the foster care and adoption process in Kansas with highly informed support, prayer, and encouragement for every step of the way.

Brandon Hoffman and his wife Missy are the parents of 12 adopted children, ages 9 to 33. "Throughout our journey, God has proven Himself more than faithful, and it is by His grace that we are able to share this message of love and the blessing of adoption with others," says Hoffman.

Project Belong's Northeast Kansas Ministry Liaisons, Kat Peoples and Allison Schumm, serve the Kansas City, Lawrence, Topeka and surrounding areas. Both are available for meetings, presentations, trainings and more. The ministry has seven additional regional Ministry Liaisons across the state of Kansas. Peoples can be reached at 785-207-9760 or kat@projectbelong.org. Schumm can be reached at 785-410-4810 or allison@projectbelong.org.

To learn more visit www.projectbelong.org or visit Project Belong on Facebook at www.facebook.com/projectbelong.



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MBCH Children and Family Ministries and its affiliate The LIGHT House offer a variety of Christian foster care and adoption services.

THE LIGHT HOUSE

MBCH CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

For information call 800.264.6224 or visit us at www.mbchcfm.org

SPECIAL NEEDS

continued from page 8

It is vital that we examine the foundational thinking under each fear, and hold it up to the light of Scripture.

Do you really believe that by taking steps to move forward with special needs adoption, you might displease your Father in heaven, who is also the Father of the fatherless, with the result that He'll take vengeance on you by withholding the resources you need to care for your adopted child? When it's stated that way, you can see that it doesn't fit with the character of our God as He has revealed Himself to us

in His word. He doesn't play manipulative games to hide His will from us and then ZAP us and say, "Ha! You missed it! Too bad for you! Now you'll have to bear the consequences forever!" No, no, no! He wants His children to know His will!

Most of the time we won't know for sure what He wants us to do next unless we are moving. He is more than able to direct our steps as we are walking.

We aren't urging you to walk in paths of rebellion and evil! That kind of walking is the only walking that should cause us to fear!

His people simply don't need to be paralyzed by the fear that if we start out to do

something He says is a good thing, that He will punish us for that! Imagine people with the living God inside them curled up inside coffins of stifling fear, waiting out their lives until they can die and be buried. Does that picture look tragic to you?

I want to encourage you that if you have an open heart toward God, He will make His path clear to you as you walk, and if He wants you to adopt, He will make it possible. If He does not have adoption for your family, He will close the door on it either temporarily or permanently, and that would be His perfect will for you.

So if you have God's heart for adoption,

and you think you qualify, you can take the next step without fear, knowing with confidence that He will be guiding your steps 100%. And that will continue to be true after the adoption is final, if He allows the process to get that far.

Don't be afraid, God says. No fear. Not with Me in charge. Don't allow fear to rule your decisions. Eyes wide open? Yes. Expecting difficulty? Yes. Paralyzing fear? No.

Ask yourself what you would choose if you had total trust in your heavenly Father and no fears. If you took the wrong kind of fear out of the equation, what would you choose? That decision will be made

out of pure love and faith, and your Father will not fail to direct you exactly where He wants you to go.

What decision would you make if you took out the fear?

"Does God have a secret will of direction that He expects us to figure out before we do anything? And the answer is no." ~Kevin DeYoung, in his book, Just Do Something

"Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread."

This is not intended to be a comprehensive treatise on fear, nor even a complete treatment of the fears commonly related to special needs adoption. Maybe someday when I've grown all the way up...oh, and've grown back a few of the brain cells I donated to my children, heh heh.

If you have thought about adopting a child with special needs, but your fears have stopped you from taking the next step, this is from me to you, with love and understanding. What decision would you make if you took out the fear? That's the decision our family is praying you'll make.



Project Belong

Every Child Deserves A Place To Belong

A Christ-Centered Approach to Foster Care and Adoption for Kansas Families of Faith

www.projectbelong.org

In Northeast Kansas, contact:

Allison Schumm 785-410-4810 allison@projectbelong.org

Kathryn Peoples 785-207-9760 kat@projectbelong.org

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Statewide the number of children awaiting adoption on 7/31/14 was **977**
Statewide, of the adoptions finalized, **66%** were by foster parents.

Help with finding a child their home.



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FYI

In the U.S. 397,122 children are living without permanent families in the foster care system.

101,666 of these children are eligible for adoption, but nearly 32% of these children will wait over three years in foster care before being adopted.

Source: AFCARS Report, No. 20

Around the world, there are an estimated 153 million orphans who have lost one parent. There are 17,900,000 orphans who have lost both parents and are living in orphanages or on the streets and lack the care and attention required for healthy development. These children are at risk for disease, malnutrition, and death.

Source: Childinfo (UNICEF, 2011)

opinion

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WHEN THANKSGIVING DOESN'T COME



SYLVIA SCHROEDER

Women's Care Coordinator at Avant Ministries and award-winning writer

myopinion

Is there still blessing in life's sorrows?

Thanksgiving tangled with unanswered prayers.

I slumped against the antiseptic tiled hallway.

My stalwart, "Hang on, and hold it in," gave way to unrestrained tears like prisoners let free. Crystal rivulets dropped to the floor at my feet.

Each time I exited my daughter's hospital room at Mayo Clinic, my stiff control burst like a rubber band wound too tight. It was part of my routine, the dessert at the end of an inward tunnel of darkness.

My 19-year-old son, tall and lanky found me there. He pulled me into his embrace and wrapped his arms around me. He was twice my size and twice my strength. With man-child concern he asked what he already knew.

"Oh, Mommy, Mommy," he fussed over me as I had so often over him. "What's wrong, Mommy?"

I couldn't play his sweet role reversal game. I couldn't smile through my tears, nod my head, pat his back and say, "It will all be OK."

Because it wasn't OK, and it never would be.

Two months had gone by since our



daughter Charity awoke feeling numb on one side. After a rapid spiral into complete paralysis, an army of doctors puzzled at what was assuredly sucking life out of the 26-year-old wife and mother.

"Oh, Justin." I managed a pathetic waver, weak but final. "I will never be happy again."

Irretrievable days slid into months. Charity's six-month-old baby had gone from mommy milk to solids, from sitting

to crawling. Beyond her grasp Charity's two-year-olds' verbal pirouettes vanished in a vacuum of passing time, unbeknownst to her.

"Could I really say 'Thank you God,' for the theft of her voice devoid of expression and thought? I was losing her, and I was not thankful to let her go."

Like the story of Korah in the Bible, swallowed into the earth, I felt as if my heart had suffocated in the bottom of a sealed pit. Plastic smiles and pat answers did little to touch the deep questions of soul and spirit.

"If Charity got up, swung her legs off the bed and walked away today," I thought,

"healthy and healed, would she be whole? Would life be normal again? Could anything ever be the same?"

Giving thanks to God had become a jumbled confusion of faith and reality; it eked out somewhere between what was and what should be. It tangled in unanswered pleas and surrenders; twisted with the pain in my gut and the fog in my brain.

"How should I thank Him for the pieces of Charity?" I wondered as her abilities dropped away like fall leaves that fell. Could I really say "Thank you God," for the theft of her voice devoid of expression and thought? I was losing her, and I was not thankful to let her go.

■ See THANKSGIVING page 22

God & Ebola



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

Clay Center, Kan. — Human history has been subjected to constant bouts of infectious diseases. Sometimes these have grown to pandemic proportions, leaving death tolls in the millions worldwide. The Black Death (the bubonic plague) dramatically affected European populations wiping out up to 50 million people in the mid-14th century. During the early 20th century, governments battled against the influenza pandemic which took up to 50 million lives including 675,000 in the United States. Then small pox killed upwards of 300 million people across the



globe throughout much of the 20th century.

Our modern world still battles infectious diseases and one getting the most headlines is the Ebola virus which was first identified in the 1970s. As I write, the virus has fortunately not reached pandemic levels yet.

When we are faced with a potential pandemic disease outbreak how should we respond? Our generation has access to pictures, videos and read real-time re-

ports like never before. As a result it can lead to feelings of anxiousness or fear. Let me pass along a few things we can do.

Do research. Let us educate ourselves making use of the Internet, our local library and our personal physician.

Do commonsense thinking. Exercising old-fashioned common sense goes a long way towards getting and staying healthy.

Do some filtering. Use discernment in following news reports on Ebola. Some-

times information conflicts, is not accurate or is taken out of context.

Do pray. We should do all we can in the areas of science, medicine and technology to tackle disease. However, is that enough? What about God?

God speaks of Himself saying, "For I am the LORD, your healer" (Exodus 15:26). He wants the world to know who He is. He is the Healer. Then He invites the world to seek Him by saying, "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me" (Psalm 50:15).

God cannot be any clearer. In the face of stopping a spreading disease our first action, not last, should be to seek God for His healing. And though people of different religions and of no religion may be affected, there is only one God we must pray to and only one Who can heal. He is the God who made the heavens and the earth and gave the world Jesus. May He be your hope for today and peace in the face of uncertain times.

Clint Decker is President & Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

Kansas City's most complete guide to the events and concerts you want to see!

the events calendar

Compiled by Anita Widaman | E-MAIL: metrovoicecalendar@gmail.com

FREE LISTINGS in the Metro Voice Calendar!

Metro Voice, PO Box 1114
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
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PLEASE NOTE: Your item must be in by the 3rd Wednesday of each month for following month's issue.

Family Events, Christian Concerts, Theatre, Youth Events, Meetings, Clubs, Bible Studies, Family Fun, Speakers and More!

CONCERTS

JASON GRAY, WITH EVERY ACT OF LOVE TOUR. November 2, 7:30 pm. Bueker Middle School, 565 S. Odell Ave, Marshall, MO. Free Concert. 660-831-5219.

CHARLES DAVID SMART. November 7, 7:30-9:30 pm. Homer's Coffee House, 7126 W 80th St., Overland Park, KS.

THE HYMNUTS. November 8, 7:30-9:30 pm. Coffee House, 7126 W 80th St., Overland Park, KS.

BEAUTIFUL OFFERINGS TOUR. November 16, 6:00 pm. New Life Assembly, 801 SW 1st St., Oak Grove, MO 64075. \$15-\$20. Featuring Big Daddy Weave, Chris August, Group 1 Crew, and Dara Maclean. tickets.com 816-690-3514.

SACRED MUSIC. November 16, 4:00 pm. First Presbyterian Church, 407 Walnut St., Leavenworth, KS. Free will offering. Guest musicians, Bountiful String Quartet, will accompany the Chorale for Schubert's Mass in G.

THE KANSAS CITY METRO MEN'S CHORUS. November 16, 2:00 pm. Independence First United Methodist Church, Home of Mana mei Lagi Islander Fellowship, 400 W. Maple Ave., Independence, MO 64050. Free concert - donations asked, benefit Independence Meals on Wheels.

CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING WITH THE AFTERS. November 22, 3:30 pm. Crosspoint Church, 6824 Lackman Road, Shawnee, KS. Free. Sponsored by Shawnee Kansas Medical Center. 913-631-1100.

GOLD CITY. November 22, 6:30 pm. Wanamaker Woods Nazarene Church, 3501 SW Wanamaker Road, Topeka, KS 66614. \$10 general admission. 785-273-2248.

KING'S HERALDS QUARTET. November 24, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church, 2151 S. Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-6653.

MORGAN FAMILY CHRISTMAS. December 12, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Church, 2 NE Douglas, Lee's Summit, MO. 816-525-0700.

ROCK THE HALLS CHRISTMAS SHOW. December 13, 6:30 pm. First Baptist Church, NKC, 2205 Iron Street, North Kansas City, MO 64116. Featuring John Elefante (former lead singer of Kansas), John Schlitt (lead singer of Petra & formerly Head East), Dust & Daisies, Monserrat & Minor Rewind. 816-842-1175.

LEELAND. December 14, 6:00 pm. Blue Spring Assembly, 2501 NE Duncan Rd, Blue Springs, MO. 816-847-0200.

MIKESCHAIR IT'S CHRISTMAS TOUR. December 15, 7:30 pm. MHS Little Theatre, 805 S. Miami St., Marshall, MO. Free concert. Sponsored by Soul Team, featuring City Harbor and OBB.

LESTER ESTELLE. December 19, 7:30-9:30 pm. Coffee House, 7126 W 80th St., Overland Park, KS.

SOUTHERN GOSPEL (CALL FOR GROUPS)

ALPHA OMEGA CHRISTIAN MUSIC ASSOC. MONTHLY MTG, PRAYER, DEVOTION, POTLUCK AND JAM. FIRST FRIDAY, 7pm. 10035 E. Westport Rd., Indep., MO 64052.

MO-KAN GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION POTLUCK AND JAM. FOURTH FRIDAY (except for Nov. & Dec. when we meet on the 3rd Fri.). Northland Christian Church, 6120 NE 48th St., KC, MO. 913-432-0359.

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE CHURCH. SECOND SAT., 6pm. 341 S. 72nd St., Kansas City, KS 66111. Praise and Worship songs of Zion. 913-334-1009.

CGMA NW MO CHAPTER MEETING, GOSPEL MUSIC AND POTLUCK. SECOND SAT. Faith Assembly of God Church, South 13 Hwy, Polo, MO. Travel North on I-35 North, go North of Liberty to the Polo/Lathrop Exit. Turn right onto 116 Hwy. Go 12 miles to 13 Hwy. Turn left and go ¼ mile. pegcia@msn.com.

MOMENT OF TRUTH BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH.



MIKESCHAIR "IT'S CHRISTMAS" TOUR. 7:30 PM. MHS LITTLE THEATRE, 805 S. MIAMI ST., MARSHALL, MO. FREE CONCERT

THIRD SAT. in January, May, September & October, 7pm. 310 Randolph Rd, Claycomo, MO. Gospel music sing. 816-452-4426.

RADIANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD. LAST SUN., 6:30 p.m. Hwy. 33, Kearney, MO. Open mike. Gospel sing.

GOSPEL JAMBOREE. Second Thursday, 7 p.m. Life Christian Center, 1650 E Langsford Road, Lee's Summit, MO. 816-878-4694.

PARADISE BAPTIST CHURCH. 2nd Sunday, 6 p.m. Pot luck dinner 5 p.m. Paradise, MO. 816-591-1020.

CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

CELEBRATE RECOVERY MEETINGS, 12 STEPS

PROGRAM FOR ALL LIFE'S HURTS, HANG-UPS AND HABITS. Every Friday night, 7:00 pm. New Hope Church of the Nazarene, 4330 N. Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64116

PATHWAY TO HOPE. Wednesday evenings, 6:30 pm. KC First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. This fall, KC First Church of the Nazarene will be hosting sessions of Pathway to Hope's E3 curriculum—a tool to assist families by encouraging, educating, and empowering families as they cope with a loved one's mental health struggles. Topics include: mood disorders, though disorders, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, co-occurring disorders, dealing with psychiatric emergencies, and the world of mental illness. ahardy@kcfc.org 816-942-9022.

ENCOUNTER. Every Thursday evening at 7:30 pm. KC First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd, Kansas City, MO. College students and young adults meet at KC First Church of Nazarene for prayer, reflection, Bible study, and fellowship. Contact Pastor Audrey Landers for more information at alanders@kcfc.org. 816-942-9022.

PASSAGES. Through January 3, 2015. 3534 E. Sunshine St., Springfield, MO 65809. 1-888-297-8011.

FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP. 1st Saturday, 10:30-11:30 am. Woods Chapel Methodist Church, 4725 NE Lakewood Way 3rd floor, Lee's Summit, MO. 816-220-7356; 2nd Thursday, 7:30-8:30 pm. Countryside Christian Church, 6101 Nall Ave., Mission, KS. 913-384-4673; 2nd Friday, 11:30 am-1:00 pm. HyVee, 3504 Clinton Pkwy, Lawrence, KS. 785-979-5393; 4th Saturday, 10:30-11:30 am. Green Acres Market, 4175 Mulberry Drive, Kansas City Northland, MO. 816-888-1460. Sponsored by Fibromyalgia Coalition International.

MESSIANIC JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES. Adat Yeshua Messianic Congregation, 8512 Stearns, Overland Park, KS 66214. Schedule for Rosh Hashanah (New Year-Trumpets), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), and Sukkot (Tabernacles) www.adatyeshuakc.com 913-888-7272

RECONCILIATION WEEKEND. Through November 2. If Not For Grace Ministries. jedlund@inf.org. 816-847-2911

WAIT NO MORE. November 1, 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd.,

Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by Focus on the Family. Register online at iCareAboutOrphans.org.

LENEXA BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE CONFERENCE. November 2-3. Lenexa Baptist Church, 15320 W 87th St. Pkwy, Lenexa, KS 66219. Speakers: Dave Stone, Dr. Al Mohler, Dr. Jason Allen and Jonathan Falwell. 913-599-6447.

WILLIE MAYS AIKENS. November 2, 6 pm. Gashland United Methodist Church, 7715 N. Oak Trafficway. Safe at Home, Rise Fall and Redemption. Former Kansas City Royals star first baseman. Aikens will share his story from baseball stardom to 14 years in a prison cell, to redemption and a return to the Royals as a Minor League Coach. The public is invited to attend this free presentation. A desert bar will follow, with book signing. There will be no child care. 816-436-1616.

AVOID PROBATE SEMINARS. November 6, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 M.E. Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. Free. 816-524-3200.

HACWN ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE. November 6-8. Colonial Presbyterian Church (Quivira Campus) Overland Park, KS. Speakers: Susan King-Upper Room, James Watkins-Wesleyan Publishing House (Vista), Joanna Echols-Focus on the Family (kids), Tamara Clymer-CrossRiver Media, Rowena Kuo-Lighthouse of the Carolinas, Paul Levine-Paul S. Levine Literary Agency, Les Stobbe-Agent. 816-503-6841.

JOSEPH COMPANY MARKETPLACE CONFERENCE. November 6-8. IHOPU, 12901 S. US

Highway 71, Grandview, MO 64030. \$99 early registration. Speakers, Mike Bickle, Linda Fields, Daniel Lim, Randy Bohlender, Paul Coffman, Diane Bickle.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF BIBLICAL COUNSELORS 2014 REGIONAL CONFERENCE. November 6-8. Calvary Bible College, 15800 Calvary Rd, Kansas City, MO. 64114. Seminar information and ideas to minimize the pain and distress for those grieving during the holiday session. 816-942-9022.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS. November 8, 9:45 am. KC First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd. Kansas City, MO. 64114. Seminar information and ideas to minimize the pain and distress for those grieving during the holiday session. 816-942-9022.

MEDICARE & YOU: MAKING SENSE OF NEW CHANGES. November 9, 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Heritage Center Jewish Community Campus, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS. Speaker: Larry Green, Insurance industry veteran. Sponsored by Jewish Family Services. 913-327-8259.

ADVICE And AID. November 10, 7:00-9:00 pm. Fenton Professional Plaza, 11644 W. 75th St., Suite 4D, Shawnee, KS 66214. New Volunteer Informational Meeting Advice & Aid Pregnancy Center. ljensen@adviceandaaid.com.

ADOPTION INFO MEETING. November 12, 7:00 pm. Law Office, 5330 College Blvd, Leawood, KS 66211. Sponsored by Holt International Children's Services. Holt invites you to attend and adoption information meeting to learn more about your options for international adoption. 816-822-2169.

■ calendar continued on next page

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NOV 29 PRAISE WORSHIP SEMINAR WITH ANDREW IRONSIDE

COFFEE CONNECT. November 12, 6:30 pm. IHOPU, 12901 S. US Highway 71, Grandview, MO 64030. For more information on Coffee Connect, www.ihopkc.com November 13-16. Christ Triumphant, 401 NE Chipman, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. Kevin & Kathy Basconi, David & Stephanie Hertzog, Alan & Carol Koch. Register online at KingofGloryMinistries.org. 816-524-6120.

14TH ANNUAL FIBROMYALGIA CONFERENCE & RETREAT. November 14 & 15. Elms Hotel & Spa, Excelsior Springs, MO. New healing strategies for pain, fatigue, memory, sleep, and other fibromyalgia symptoms. www.fibrocoalition.org 913-384-4673.

MEN OF VALOR/WOMEN OF VIRTUE COUPLE'S EVENT, November 14, 7:00 pm-10:00 pm. Church of the Ascension, 9510 W 127th St, Overland Park, KS. Fee. This evening will be an event joining Men of Valor and Women of Virtue. Speakers: Dr.

Ken Canfield and Ron & Kathy Feher, followed by a meet and greet reception. kcvalor.com.

YOUTH FOR TRUTH-TEEN EVENT. November 14, 7:00 pm-10:00 pm. Church of Ascension, 9510 W 127th St, Overland Park, KS. Fee. High energy evening featuring real stories from Wayne Simien and Kelly Colangelo, with music from Mikey Needleman Band. kcvalor.com.

UNWIND. November 14, 7:00 pm. Calvary Bible College (Liberty Chapel), 15800 Calvary Rd., Kansas City, MO. The CBC praise band will lead in a time of worship, and a guest speaker will share a devotion from God's Word. Youth groups and students are also welcome to attend. 816-322-3960.

WOMENS FALL RETREAT "LAUGHTER FOR THE SOUL". November 15, 8:00 am-2:30 pm. Faith UMC, 1950 SW Eagles Parkway, Grain Valley, MO 64029. Fee is \$15. Guest speaker, Martha Bolton, staff writer for Bob Hope for over 15 years. faithchurchinthevalley.org. 816-847-0008

MO. RIGHT TO LIFE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND STATEWIDE EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP FORUM. November 15, 10:00 am. Immaculate Conception Parish, Pleus Hall, 1206 E. McCarty, Jefferson City, MO. Lunch provided with free-will offering. Guest speaker, Nancy Valko, past president of Nurse for Life. 573-6355110.

WOMEN OF VIRTUE. November 15, 8:00 am-3:30 pm. Christ the King Church, 8510 Wornall Rd, Kansas City, MO. Speakers: Debi Stack, Fawn Brents, and Dr. Laurie Heap, brain science and relationship expert. kcvirtue.com.

MEN OF VALOR-MEN AND TEEN BOYS. November 15, 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. Fee. Keynote speaker Bill Corum & Dr. Peter Kleponis along with testimony from Donny Pauling. Includes lunch and breakout session for men and teen boys. kc-valor.com.

AVOID PROBATE SEMINARS. November 18, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 M.E. Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. Free. 816-524-3200.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS. November 19, 6:30-8:30 pm. 400 W. Maple Ave., Independence, MO 64050. Free. In past years, the Christmas holiday season may have been a time of great anticipation and excitement... but this year, the prospect of facing the holidays without your mate may cause anxiety and dread. You are not alone. Join in with others. 816.863.4662.

THE AIPAC KANSAS CITY ISRAEL ACTION FORUM. December 9, 2014. 7:00 P.M. Jewish Community Center Of Greater Kansas City, The White Theatre, 5801 West 115th Street, Overland Park, KS. Community Program & Dessert Reception \$25. Speaker: The Honorable Avi Dichter, former member of Knesset and former Shin Bet director. www.aipac.org

ONE THING CONFERENCE. December 28-31. Kansas City Convention Center, 301 W.13th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105. Registration regular from October 1 \$57, late from December 1 \$67. Speakers: Joyce Myer, Mike Bickle, Allen Hood. Worship leaders: Misty Edwards, Phil Wickham, Kari Jobe. More information can be found online at www.ihopkc.org/onehthing.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

GOSPEL SKATE NIGHT. Every 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. Skate City Shawnee, 9800 W. 62nd Terrace, Merriam, KS 66203. Admission \$6 and skate rental \$2. 913-788-7788.

2014 DAY OF PRAYER. November 2. For the women and girls of the Middle East and North America. www.sat7usa.org.

CHRISTIAN SINGLES AGES 50+. November 3, 6:00 pm. Applebee's, 6800 Johnson Drive, Mission, KS. Email sherriarmel@gmail.com for more info or to get on email list for upcoming events.

MO & KS ELECTION. November 4. General election. Get out to vote. For all MRL PAC endorsements www.missourilife.org. For Kansans for Life PAC endorsements www.vote4prolife.net.

TRIVIA NIGHT OF FUN. November 6, 7:00 pm. Emaline Ball-



NOVEMBER 17-24 NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK. OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD. VARIOUS DROP-OFF LOCATIONS. FOR MORE INFORMATION: SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG

room, 616 SW 3rd Street, Lee's Summit, MO. \$15 per person at the door, includes desserts, beverages and trivia. Sponsored by Alliance for Life, diapers and wipes will be collected that evening to benefit pregnancy centers and maternity homes across MO. 816-806-4168.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES CELEBRATION BANQUET ANNUAL FUNDRAISER. November 6, 6:00 pm. Ritz Charles, Overland Park, KS. All proceeds will benefit adoption services and crisis counseling. 913-383-3337.

MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY GALA AT THE LAKE AUCTION. November 7, 6:15 pm. Lake Quivira Country Club, 100 Crescent Blvd, Lake Quivira, KS.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ANNUAL CRAFT. Nov. 7 & 8. Lawson Assembly of God, D Highway in Lawson, MO. 816-580-3708.

SHEPHERD'S WAY MINISTRIES 11TH ANNUAL PANCAKE

BREAKFAST. November 8, 9:00-11:00 am. Cornerstone Church, 301 SE AA Highway, Blue Springs, MO 64014. www.theshepherdswayministries.org.

LOVE'S OUTREACH COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION. November 8, 10:00 -11:00 am. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO. Free food for families in need. Valid ID and proof of residency needed to participate. 816-246-7625.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION. November 8, 9:00 am. Deerbrook Covenant Church, 200 NE Tutor Rd, Lee's Summit, MO 64086. Sponsored by If Not For Grace Ministries. Sponsored by If Not For Grace Ministries. jedlund@infgr.org

43RD ANNUAL HOLIDAY MARKET. November 8, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Holmeswood Baptist Church, 9700 Holmes Rd, South Kansas City, MO. Original creations, apparel, gifts, candles, home décor, beauty products, jewelry, baby items, and more! Visit the Holmeswood Café and enjoy musical entertainment throughout the day! If you would like to obtain information on renting a booth to sell your merchandise, please go to www.holmeswood.org to download booth information and registration or call the church office at 816-942-1729.

SHEPHERD'S WAY MINISTRIES 11TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST. November 8, 9:00-11:00 am. Cornerstone Church, 301 SE AA Highway, Blue Spring, MO 64014. www.theshepherdswayministries.org

THANKSGIVING/HOLIDAY BAZAAR. November 8, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Northland Cathedral, 101 NW 99th St., Kansas City, MO. 90+ vendors. 816-455-2555.

IF NOT FOR GRACE MINISTRIES VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY INFORMATIONAL MEETING. November 8, 9:00-10:15 am. Deerbrook Covenant Church, 200 NE Tudor Road, Lee's

■ calendar continued on next page

Andrew Ironside & Band



Praise Worship Seminar

Saturday, November 29, 9-2 pm with Andrew Ironside Worship Encounter

Sunday, November 30, 10 am

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Friday, October 24, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 25, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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Summit, MO 64086. www.infg.org.

BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS GIFT AND CRAFT FESTIVAL. November 8, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Bethany Lutheran Church Gymnasium, 9101 Lamar, Overland Park, KS 66207. Free admission. You will not want to miss this spectacular Gift and Craft Festival! Close to 50 vendors are planned. Come play the "prize walk" game plus much more! Concessions are available and sponsored by the 8th grade classes of Bethany and Christ Lutheran Schools. Booth rental fees and concession profit support the 8th grade service and education class trip.

PRO-LIFE HALF MARATHON & 5K. November 9, 8:00 am. City Pavilion by Katy Trail, Jefferson City, MO. 5K pre-registration fee is \$25, 5K fee Day of race is \$35. Half Marathon pre-registration fee is \$55. Sponsored by Vitae Foundation and Life Runners.

BCB VISIT DAY. November 14, 8:00 am-5:00 pm. Calvary Bible College, 15800 Calvary Rd., Kansas City, MO. Designed to let you experience life at Calvary! Get an inside scoop on the degree you want to pursue and gain valuable insight from like-minded, fun-loving college students. 816-322-3960.

WOMEN'S HOLIDAY EVENT. November 15, 9:30 am-12:30 pm. CrossWay Bible Church, 701 NW Woods Chapel Road, Blue Springs, MO. Learn to take the stress out of the holidays and focus on Jesus. Includes inspiring speakers, practical holiday break-out sessions, and a delicious brunch - all for \$5. Register online at www.crosswaybible.org.

NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK. November 17-24. Operation Christmas Child has partnered with caring people to deliver more than 113 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children around the world. Each shoebox demonstrates God's love through simple gifts that can bring a world of difference to a child in need. 1-800-353-5949 samaritanaspurse.org

SALVATION ARMY 2014 CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN. November 21, 6:00 pm. Barney Allis Plaza, 12th and Wyandotte, Kansas City, MO. The Kansas City Marriott Downtown is the focal point of the festive Christmas music and lighting display, featuring computer-generated holiday images across the hotel's 22-story façade. City Lights raised money to fund Salvation Army pro-



grams year-round. www.salarmymokan.org.

THANKSGIVING OUTREACH 2014. November 23, 9:00-10:30 am. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 Market St., Lee's Summit, MO. Free Thanksgiving Dinner food boxes for families in need. Attendance during one of the services needed to pick up food box. Reservations required. Quantities limited. Limit 1 Thanksgiving Dinner food box per household. 816-246-7625.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE. November 26, 7:00-8:00 pm. Northland Cathedral, 101 NW 99th St., Kansas City, MO. 90+ vendors. Communion Served. 816-455-2555.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE. November 26, 7:00 pm. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO. Please join us for our Thanksgiving Eve Service. www.cotroc.org 816-246-7625.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER. November 27, 12:30-2:00 pm. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 6422 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS. Free. 913-722-2310.

REDEEMING BIRTH: A WALK THROUGH BETHLEHEM. De-

cember 5,6,12, and 13, 6:30-9:00 pm (last tour starts at 8:30 pm). Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 7320 Quivira Road, Shawnee, KS 66216. Free Admission. An opportunity for the whole family to experience the Christmas Story. You are invited on an interactive walk through the city of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth. See people at work in the marketplace with busy shopkeepers and vendors everywhere (you will have the opportunity to purchase fine Christmas gifts or mementos there). Smell the fragrant scents of herbs, spices, and breads. See the potters, weavers and carpenters at work. Visit a crowded inn and a humble stable where the King of Kings was born! Tours will be conducted every 20 minutes. 913-268-6300.

WHAT A GLORIOUS NIGHT. December 6, 7:00 pm & December 7, 10:15-6 am. Pisgah Baptist Church, 1.5 miles east of Excelsior Springs on Highway 10. 816-630-5121.

MISSOURI RHYTHM VS MEMPHIS LIONS (CHIRSITAN EDUCATION NIGHT). December 6, 7:00 pm. Grandview Christian School, 12340 Grandview Road, Grandview, MO 64030. Adults \$8 and students \$4. 816.872.6622.

GRAND OPEN HOUSE FOR MOTHER'S REFUGE. December 11, 4 to 8 p.m., December 13, 1 to 5 p.m., December 14, 1 to 5 p.m. 3721 Delridge, Independence, MO 64052. Mother's Refuge serves pregnant young women and babies that have no permanent place to live. 816-353-8070.

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA 2014! Dec. 13. Cornerstone Church, 301 SE AA Highway, Blue Springs, MO 64014. Donations of unwrapped gifts for both children and adults are needed for the Christmas store. Monetary donations will go towards providing a meal for everyone and to purchase gifts or whatever is still needed. Deadline for donations is December 4th. This event will provide great opportunities for our less-fortunate families in Eastern Jackson and Lafayette counties. Parents will have the opportunity to "shop" at no charge for gifts for their children and the children will be able to pick out gifts for their parents with gift wrapping provided as well. We are expecting to assist over 350 moms, dads, and children. Stacie Neer 816-228-1979.

AN UNBOUND EXPERIENCE. December 18, 5:30-9:00 pm. Unbound Headquarters, 1 Elwood Ave., Kansas City, KS 66103. Tickets are \$35, includes food, drink and performance. All proceeds will benefit our Education program which helps young adults continue their educations in secondary schools, technical schools or university programs. Live music by Kansas City's own Barclay Martin and the Snow Globes, and silent auction items from the KC area and the countries where we work. www.unbound.org 913-384-7187

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE. December 24, 2014, 10:00 PM. Red Bridge Baptist Church; 4901 E. Red Bridge Road; Kansas City, MO 64137.

NEW BEGINNINGS NYE CELEBRATION. Dec. 31-January 1, 8:00 pm-1:00 am. 2505 SW Wintercreek Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64081. \$30 pre-registration required. Register online at newbeginningsnye.eventbrite.com. For singles in their 40's and 50's. Set in a Christian environment, singles will enjoy games, D.J., dance floor, Karaoke, photo booth, prizes, chipotle buffet and a champagne toast at midnight. NYEnewbeginnings@yahoo.com.

THE 42ND ANNUAL NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE. January 22. Washington D.C. www.marchforlife.org.

FINE ARTS

THE PLAINS INDIANS: ARTISTS OF EARTH AND SKY. Through January 11, 2015. Nelson-Atkins Museum, 4525 Oak St, Kansas City, MO.

BENTON IN BLACK AND WHITE. Through February 15, 2015. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Thomas Hart Benton's 125th birthday! See a selection of lithographs in Gallery 214 and visit your favorite Benton painting from the permanent collection. 816-751-1321.

WILLIAM BAKER FESTIVAL SINGERS CLASSICS & SPIRITUALS. November 8, 8:00 pm. Helzberg Hall Kauffman Center,

■ calendar continued on next page



Ascension Lutheran Church

4900 Blue Ridge Blvd
Kansas City, MO

Phone: 358-1919

Join us for worship each week.

Sunday Morning Worship 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

The church is hosting walkers: 7:00 - 10:00 am, Monday through Friday.

We hope to see you!

FeedKCNow.org


CITY UNION MISSION.

People in Kansas City are hungry.

Not only for food, but also for the guidance and opportunities that lead to a better life.

FeedKCNow is City Union Mission's urgent initiative to relieve their burdens and bring them hope.

And every one of us can make an impact. Visit FeedKCNow.org to help.



3 2 n d A N N U A L

Best Little Art and Crafts Show

IN INDEPENDENCE

November 21, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
November 22, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

4 floors with 120 booths all with original works of art and crafts






No admission!

Free parking and shuttle service

Roger T. Sermon Community Center
201 North Dodgion Independence, MO
Southeast corner of Truman & Noland Roads

816.325.7370 for information

Sponsored by the Independence Parks and Recreation Department

 <p>JACOB TURK Marine Corps Veteran Small Business Owner Independent Mindset</p>	 <p>Emanuel Cleaver Career Politician (30+ yrs.) Methodist Minister 99% Voting with Obama</p>
<p>Leadership.</p> <p>For repeal and replacement of Obamacare with common sense solutions in health care choices and protection for our seniors.</p> <p>Will protect our Constitutional rights, including 2nd Amendment and religious freedoms.</p> <p>Will fight for our military, veterans and for VA hospital fixes.</p> <p>For stopping illegal immigration into the US, restoring our safety and national sovereignty.</p> <p>Pays his bills and his taxes. Lives by a balanced budget.</p>	<p>Politics.</p> <p>Still for Obamacare, which takes \$2 trillion out of medicare for seniors, raises premium costs and reduces choices.</p> <p>Rated "F" by NRA as a "true enemy of gun rights". His votes have attacked religious freedoms.</p> <p>Has neglected our military, veterans and the VA hospitals.</p> <p>OK with allowing illegal aliens to flow into the US, risking an Ebola outbreak and terrorism.</p> <p>Does not pay his bills. Has put taxpayers on the hook for his \$1 million car wash loan.</p>

1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64108. The Highlight of the program will be contemporary composer William Dreyfo's setting of "Songs of the Holocaust," a musical setting of songs from the Polish Jewish ghettos during the holocaust years. 816-994-7200.

THE MUSIC MAN. November 13-15, 7:00 pm. Maranatha Christian Academy Gym, 15000 W. 63rd Street, Shawnee, KS 66216. \$10 for adults, \$7 for students. Presented by Maranatha Christian Academy Theater and Music department.

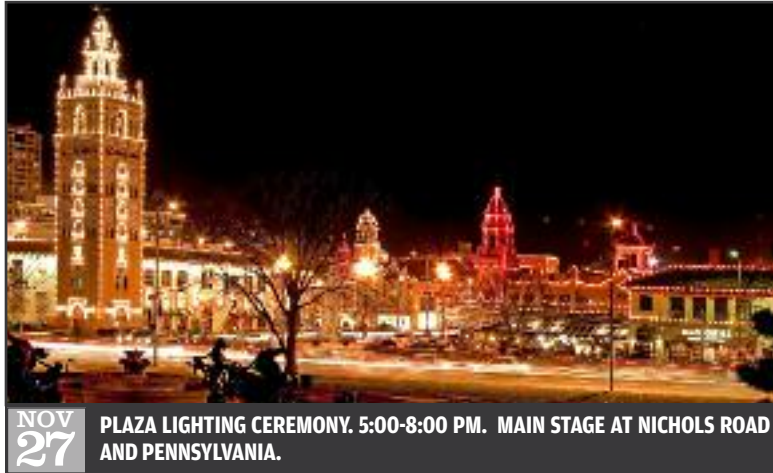
PETER PAN. November 13, 7:00 pm (Family Day); November 14, 10:00 am (School Day) and 7:00 pm; November 15, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; November 16, 2:00 pm; November 20, 7:00 pm; November 21, 10:00 am (School Day) and 7:00 pm; November 22, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; November 23, 2:00 pm. Bell Cultural Events Center MidAmerica Nazarene, 2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS 66062. Sponsored by Christian Youth Theatre. 913-681-3318.

GUYS AND DOLLS. November 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30. Excelsior Springs Community Theatre, 114 Marietta Street, Excelsior Springs, MO 64025. 816-637-3728.

SANTA CONQUERS THE MARTIANS, OR, CLAUS ENCOUNTERS OF THE 3RD KIND! November 15-January 4, 2015. All matinees are at 3:30 pm, all evening performances are at 7:30 pm. There are no performances on December 24, 25, or 31st. Great Plains Mall, 2700 W. 151st St, Olathe, KS. Join the galaxy goofiness in which Santa spreads Christmas joy all over the universe and finally persuades the Martians themselves to be good little boys and girls and share in the holiday hi-jinx as well. 913-642-7576.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL. November 21-December 26. Spencer Theatre, 4949 Cherry Street, Kansas City, MO 64110. A ripping good telling of the classic story of Ebenezer Scrooge, the curmudgeonly businessman who requires the intervention of a few spectral guides to understand the true meaning of Christmas and life. 816-235-2700.

THE WIZARD OF OZ. November 28 & 29 and December 13, 20,



NOV 27 PLAZA LIGHTING CEREMONY. 5:00-8:00 PM. MAIN STAGE AT NICHOLS ROAD AND PENNSYLVANIA.

& 27, 11:00 am & 2:00 pm. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO 64052. \$5. 816-833-9777.

THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI. December 4, 6:00 pm; 5, 6:00 pm; 6, 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm. Emaline Ballroom, 616 SW 3rd Street, Lee's Summit, MO. \$30 (\$25 for seniors and students) including the holiday buffet. Presented by Summit Theatre Group. Holiday musical based on two of O. Henry's short stories and set in New York City in the 19th century. It's a show that speaks to the joy of giving, the true spirit of the holiday season. 816-463-2654.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH. December 5, 8:00 pm; December 6, 8:00 pm; December 7, 2:00 pm. Kauffman Center 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO. The Independence Messiah Choir joins with the KC Symphony and Symphony Chorus. 816-471-0400.

THE NATIVITY. December 5-7, 10:00 am-8:00 pm. Grace &

Holy Trinity Cathedral, 415 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. Come see beautiful seven-foot puppets gracefully move through the aisles of the historic cathedral with live musical and chorale accompaniment. A cast of over forty puppeteers bring these larger-than-life Biblical characters to life! 816-756-3500.

THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS THE NUTCRACKER THAT TELLS THE TRUE STORY OF CHRISTMAS. December 5 & 7. Liberty Performing Arts Theatre, 1600 S. Withers Road, Liberty, MO. \$10-\$25. Sponsored by Dramatic Truth. www.dramatic-truth.org 816-767-9222.

SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS. December 21, 6:00 pm. KC First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. Admission is free, and a love offering will be taken after the concert to benefit the Kansas City Rescue Mission. Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra. 816-942-9022.

FAMILY OUTINGS

OVER BY CHRISTMAS: AUGUST-DECEMBER 1914. Through March 29, 2015. National World War I, 100 W. 26th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108. Exhibit highlights the first five months of the war through specific topics or case studies including: Germany Mobilizes and Germany's Rush to War, Invasion: Belgium and France and War in the East. 816-888-8100.

GREAT PUMPKIN SMASH. November 1, 10:00 am-3:30 pm. Kansas City Zoo, 6800 Zoo Drive, Kansas City, MO 64132. Our animals are getting into fall enrichment at the Great Pumpkin Smash. Watch them crush, kick, bounce and play with big orange pumpkins. 816-595-1234.

UNION STATION CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND. November 1-2. Union Station, Kansas City, MO. Fun for the whole family. www.unionstation.org.

SILVER DOLLAR CITY'S AN OLD TIME CHRISTMAS November 1 - December 30. Branson, Missouri. Celebrate the true meaning of this magical season amidst the glow of over 5 million dazzling lights, 1,000 decorated Christmas trees, two Broadway-style productions and a 5-story special effects Christmas tree. 800-831-4FUN(386) or www.silverdollarcity.com.

BEST LITTLE ART & CRAFT SHOW. November 21, 10:00 am-7:00pm & November 22, 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Roger T. Sermon Community Center, 201 North Dodge, Independence, MO. Sponsored by the Independence Parks and Recreation Department. 816-325-7370.

MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER CHRISTMAS BY CHIP DAVIS. November 23, 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-994-7200.

PLAZA LIGHTING CEREMONY. November 27, 5:00-8:00 pm. Main Stage at Nichols Road & Pennsylvania, by Brio Tuscan Grille. 5:00-6:00 pm: KCP&L Pre-Show with performances and great giveaways from the main stage. 6:00-7:00 pm: KCP&L Plaza Lighting Ceremony (broadcast LIVE on KSHB-TV). 6:45 pm: Flip of the switch followed by fireworks. 7:00-8:00 pm: Post-ceremony concert.

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND CELEBRATION, ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON. November 28, 5:00-6:00 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm. Nelson-Atkins Museum (Atkins Auditorium), 4525 Oak St, Kansas City, MO. Free tickets available at Bloch Lobby Info Desk. Paul Messner Puppets presents their lively interpretation of the story of St. George and the Dragon. 816-751-1278.

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND CELEBRATION, 10TH ANNUAL LUMINARY WALK. November 28, 5:00-9:00 pm. Nelson-Atkins Museum (Donald J Hall Sculpture Park), 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO. 816-751-1278.

MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY. No-

vember 28, 5:30 pm. Crown Center Square, Kansas City, MO. Free. The 100-foot-tall Mayor's Christmas Tree, one of the nation's tallest, is the centerpiece for an illuminating holiday celebration. The tree is a symbol of the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund, which is dedicated to assisting the city's less fortunate. 816-274-8444.

NUTCRACKER. December 6-24. Kauffman Center for Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Sponsored by Kansas City Ballet. 816-931-2232.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

BUILDING BETTER MOMS. The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS. For local mothers of children in early childhood, elementary school, middle school, high school, and for single moms, with both day and evening meeting times available at the Leawood campus. www.cor.org 913-897-0120.

WEEKLY - FAITH BASED 12-STEP PROGRAM OF RECOVERY FROM COMPULSIVE OVEREATING. Call Overeater's Anonymous 913-383-5933 or visit www.kansascityoa.org for more information and to access the schedule of various meetings in the metro area.

MONTHLY - MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE CHAPTERS 816-353-4113; KANSANS FOR LIFE CHAPTERS 913-268-8486.

SUNDAYS. DIVORCECARE/DIVORCECARE4KIDS. 6-7:30 P.M., Help for those going through or having gone through divorce. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW RD Mize Road, Blue Springs, MO. 816-228-5300.

2ND & 4TH SUN. -METRO CITIZEN'S COALITION, 2:30 pm. Trails West Library, 11401 E. 23rd, Independence, MO. Free. Open to public. Rear parking & entrance. 816-781-6394.

3RD SUNDAY. CANCER SUPPORT GROUP. 6:30-8:00 pm. Beacon Free Baptist Church, 10825 E. 79th Street, Raytown, MO 64138. Connect with others who share your journey, you are not alone. 816-353-7447.

MON. - JOB TERMINATION SUPPORT GROUP. 7PM. Christ's Church, 5500 W. 91st St., (91st & Nall), OPKS. If you've been laid off or terminated and are looking for peer support please join us. We pray for each other and are doing readings from "Battlefield of the Mind". 913-648-2271.

For the complete Monthly Meetings Listing, visit www.metrovoicenews.com

MYSTERY

continued from page 3



This production's birth was in Nashville, TN in 1987. Artistic Director Liz Dimmel was driving to the Tennessee Performing Arts Theater to see her daughter perform in The Nutcracker. Liz casually mentioned to her husband Doug, "Wouldn't it be great if there was a version of The Nutcracker that actually told the Christmas story?" By the time they arrived home that evening the conception of The Mystery of Christmas became a reality.

Performance times and ticket prices are: ■ Friday, Dec 5 - 9:30 am Student Field Trip - \$6 Students / \$20 Non Students, \$15 in adv. / \$10 Seniors

■ Friday, Dec 5 - 6:30 pm, Dinner Show \$50 plate - Show Only 7:30pm, \$20, \$15 in advance / \$10 Seniors

■ Sunday, Dec 7 - 2:00 pm, Matinee - \$20 Door / \$15 in advance / \$10 Seniors

■ Sunday, Dec 7 - 7:00 pm Evening - \$20 Door / \$15 in advance / \$10 Seniors

Tickets are available by calling 816.767.9222 or online at www.dramatic-truth.org.

Red Bridge Baptist Church

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- Respect & protect each human life...Nola is endorsed by Mo. Right to Life (Her opponent campaigned as a pro-lifer in 2010, but is now endorsed by Planned Parenthood)
- Support educational freedom, local control...stop "Common Core"
- Stop government waste, grow good jobs in our community!

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www.ElectNola.com

Paid for by Friends of Nola Wood, Bill Randles, Treasurer

MINISTRY GUIDE

Each year Metro Voice provides a listing of organizations that serve the most vulnerable in our communities. Whether it is the single mom and her children, our elderly, the homeless or incarcerated, our readers respond with prayers, time, items and finances to keep these ministries going throughout the year. Below are the organizations that responded to our call for them to share their "Christmas Wish List". Gods word says in 1 John 3:17: "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" Let us all work together to show the love of Christ this Christmas and the coming year. Together, we can make a difference.

ADVICE & AID PREGNANCY

CENTER, INC. Ruth Tisdale, director of client services. Two locations: 11644 W. 75th St., Shawnee, KS 66214; and Foxhill Medical Building, 4601 W. 109th Street, Suite 302, Overland Park, KS. 913-962-0200. www.adviceandaid.com

Advice & Aid Pregnancy Centers serve families facing unplanned pregnancies before and after with Christ like compassion. You can be part of helping one of these families by providing financial support, new infant car seats, new breast pumps, new baby monitors, new pack-n-plays, diapers, gently used winter infant/baby clothing and non-perishable food items. To volunteer, please email volunteer@adviceandaid.com to learn more.

ADVOCATES FOR FAMILIES.

Debbie Soar. 5155 Raytown Road, Suite 109, Kansas City, MO 64133. 816-509-6224. www.advocates4families.org. affdirector1@yahoo.com

Advocates for Families is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering families who are struggling on their journey to successful living. Through collaborative partnerships with businesses, churches and other agencies in the community, we assist families that are in crisis or struggling with life challenges. Needs include: financial donations, clothing, churches and businesses to participate and support ongoing efforts.

BACKPACKS FOR HUNGER—CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION.

Stewart Curtright, Dir. 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, Kan. 913-897-0120. www.cor.org/backpacks.

Over 101,000 KC-area children receive free or reduced lunch during the week leaving thousands at high risk for weekend hunger. Each week, volunteers fill 1,400 weekend backpacks full of kid friendly nutritious food for three KCMO Elementary schools, two KCK schools, and one Olathe school. Please consider sponsoring a child for \$15 a month / \$180 a year. See other volunteer opportunities for this Ministry at www.cor.org/backpacks.

BIRTHRIGHT OF GREATER

KANSAS CITY. Glenda Merten. 816-444-7090. 6309 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64113 birthrightkc@juno.com

We need warm baby blankets, sleep sacks for newborns, maternity clothes especially XL sizes, cash donations as we survive entirely on donations, volunteers to commit their time to our ministry. Birthright of Greater Kansas City, an international, interdenominational, pro-life pregnancy center serving this community since 1971. Peace and Joy!

CARE OF POOR PEOPLE. Richard G. Tripp, 3606 E. 12th St., KC, MO, 816-721-3291. richardgtripp@yahoo.com.

www.coppinc.com.

Our mission is to save lives by providing the materials the poor and homeless of our community need to survive winter's wrath. Throughout the year and especially during our two main events, we need volunteers, financial donations, clothing donations, hygiene donations, and cooked food donations. Our two main events are the Survival Events always on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and the Spring Break for the Homeless always the Saturday before Easter Sunday.

CHURCH ON THE ROCK OUT-REACH CENTER. Cheryl Hoelscher, 1700 SW Market St, Lee's Summit, MO 64082 816.246.7625; www.cotroc.org

We need the following food items for our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner food boxes for families in need: Canned: green beans, corn, sweet potatoes. Boxed: instant mashed potatoes, stuffing, cornbread mix, dessert mixes (brownies, cookies, cheesecake, etc.), hot chocolate. Pkgs: gravy mix (turkey or brown).

COLDWATER. Monica Humbard, Interim Executive Director. 501 NE Missouri Road, Lee's Summit, MO 64086. 816-786-0758. www.coldwater.me

Coldwater is seeking volunteers and food donations for twice-a-month Friends Day Food Pantry & Clothes Closet. Coldwater accepts financial donations to purchase food and is searching for churches/small groups to help prepare/serve a hot meal on Friends Days. See the Coldwater website for current needed food items and program information.

EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF THE GREATER KANSAS CITY AREA.

Christy Heath, local director. PO

Box 561, Grandview, MO 64030. (816) 358-1138. staff@cef-gkca.org website: cef-gkca.org

Volunteers (adults and teens) are needed to serve in after-school Good News Bible Clubs in local public elementary schools, sharing the Gospel of Christ with children.

FAITH IN CHRIST TOILETRY/FOOD PANTRY. John Jones, Pastor. 101 SW 21st Street, Oak Grove, MO 64075. 816-616-3160. jjones57@yahoo.com

Our toiletry/food pantry is open every Thur. from 5pm - 7pm, Sat. from 9am - 11:00 am. Serving eastern Jackson County and Lafayette County. We are always in need of financial donations and volunteers. Financial donations allow us to get more for your money by buying in bulk.

FEED THE PEOPLE. Jerry Whisler. Director. 816-507-6374, feedthepeople@msn.com. www.feedthepeopleministry.org

The ministry has been going out onto the streets every Saturday for the past 21+ years feeding the hurting and homeless right now were averaging between 375-450. We are in need of the following: socks, gloves, wool knitted hats, chap-stick/lib balm, blankets, toothbrush, toothpaste, cough drops.

HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY. Joyce Hunt, 12219 S. Helmig Rd, Lone Jack, MO 64070 816-304-6598 bluejacket@Hughes.net Shirley-Cornwell, 11220 S. Alley-Jackson, Grain Valley, MO 64029 816-804-3511 dclesson@yahoo.com.

The Helping Hands Food Pantry is a ministry of the Lone Jack Christian Church. It is a community supported,

non-sectarian resource for residents of Lone Jack and the immediate area, providing food and some paper goods. We provide holiday boxes between Thanksgiving and Christmas for families identified by the Lone Jack School system. Non-perishable food and financial donations are requested to supply these boxes and to provide for our ongoing needs.

HOUSE OF REFUGE IMPACT YOUTH CENTER. 10816 Hillcrest Rd, KC, Mo. For mail: P.O. Box 5458, Kansas City, Mo. 64131. Tracy Johnson. 816-806-4127. heavensangel10816@yahoo.com. www.houseofrefugefamilyworshipcenter.com.

This year we need food, clothes and financial donations for the youth center. We will be giving out food baskets to needy families.

JESUS AND KIDS EVANGELISTIC SADDLE CLUB (JAKES Club). Cathie Perry, Executive Director or Mike St. Clair, Operations Director. 39002 E. Nevins Road Oak Grove, MO 64075. 816.682.9830. www.JAKESClub.org. info@jakesclub.org Facebook

Since 2000, JAKES Club's faith-based,

free-of-charge programs have touched children with disabilities and their families with the love of Christ through therapeutic horseback riding in the K.C. metro area. To end the year strong, we would appreciate financial donations for veterinarian, feed and hay expenses.

KANSAS CITY RESCUE MISSION. Julie Larocco, chief development Officer, jlarocco@kcrm.org. 1520 Cherry Street, Kansas City, MO. 64108. 816-421-7643. www.kcrm.org.

Our greatest needs are winter wear for men—used and gently used. We also need Christmas gifts. Check website for complete list. We are accepting financial donations and food donations.

THE LIGHT HOUSE. Julie Karanja, Outreach Coordinator & Counselor. PO Box 22553, KCMO 64113. 816-361-2233 x213. juliek.lighthouse@mbch.org www.lighthousekc.org

Join with the LIGHT House in making the seasons bright for young moms who live at our Maternity Home and participate in our Outreach program! Gifts for moms, children and babies are needed. Additionally diapers, wipes and various baby items are needed on an

■ See MINISTRY GUIDE page 22

entertainment

MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE!

KANSAS CITY GETS SPOTLIGHT IN FILM ABOUT 'LOST BOYS' OF SUDAN

moviereview

by **Phil Boatright**

After their village is attacked and slaughtered by terrorists, a Sudanese refugee and his brothers and sister are allowed to enter the United States. They've come from a small plains village with absolutely no modern conveniences we take for granted in America. So imagine the culture shock they must endure as they attempt to adjust to their new home—in Kansas City.

As a critic, I've had some interesting, frustrating and even spiritually rewarding moments while attending movie screenings. One that touched me the most happened at a recent viewing of *The Good Lie* which opened in October. During the opening scenes, a village in the Sudan is attacked by terrorists, with defenseless adults and children being gunned down. This sequence had an emotional impact on the gentleman sitting next to me, which in turn affected me.

Suddenly the man began to sob. This very tall, fit young black man quickly reduced in size, completely shattered by the depiction on the screen. It wasn't an Indi-

film411

THE GOOD LIE

STARS: Reese Witherspoon, Corey Stoll, Sarah Baker

DIRECTOR: Philippe Falardeau

SCREENPLAY: PG-13

ana Jones adventure to him. This was real.

Both the man on the other side of him and I put a hand on his shoulder to in some small way offer comfort. He regained his composure and had the guts to stay there for the entire movie. Later, I was to discover that he had survived such an attack. Others he knew hadn't.

It's easy to become jaded by the blockbusters that bombard our cineplexes. Horrors and injustices taking place in our world too often serve as fodder for moviemakers who know something about placing action adventure on celluloid, but fail to relate the evil of man's inhumanity to man. And we sit there, eating our popcorn, as concerned about the death toll as we demonstrate over the fate of victimized video game pixels. Though the word may seem overused as to how we

deal with injustice, desensitized still fits.

While viewing the film's opening sequence, I suddenly became aware of the horrors being done to our fellow man all over the world. It is a bleak time, because there are several Hitlers now in power, each determined to end the existence of other religions, races or nations. I was also reminded by this film that we're not on this planet just to attend T-ball games and save for retirement's cottage by the sea. This is our time to develop our spiritual walk with Christ, draw closer to our Creator by trusting in Him, and generate a caring nature for others...Well, that's what it had to say to me.

The film's one weakness is the failing to explain why the Sudanese were targeted. The producers assume all moviegoers know the history of the Sudan. By now, we all should know not to assume.

Who are the terrorists, Mr. Filmmaker? Is this a religious cleansing on the part of the attackers? And has this situation been contained, or is it still going on? Never assume moviegoers are getting the answers from the nightly news. Many aren't watching the nightly news.

One of the inspiring aspects of *The Good Lie* is that Christian organizations are seen taking the lead in aiding the Su-



danese victims. Of course, much of the Christian involvement depicted on screen is in code, as if the producers are wary of showing Christians in too positive a light.

It saddened me that one religious organization worker (played by Sarah Baker) was portrayed as a kind of dopy (make that, dopier) version of "Bridesmaids" Melissa McCarthy. When offered tequila, Ms. Baker says "Praise Jesus," then her character proceeds to get drunk. It's the hard-bitten, non-religious woman (played by Reese "Do you know my

name?" Witherspoon) who manages to save the day.

Though *The Good Lie* (title taken from a Huckleberry Finn reference) has some brutal moments that are unsettling, it is full of humor evenly mixed with warmth and pathos. And by the end of this illuminating theatrical experience, we are also reminded of how blessed we are to be in America.

The Good Lie is engaging, enlightening and spiritually rewarding.

booknook

Unexpected Discoveries

By Andrea Vinley Jewell

I always loved reading to my children. Even when they were tiny board books, those annoying squeaky-soft books were a daily part of life. I cherished the time we could cuddle up and read, and I valued the moments I could

take a rest from my mock-speed day. As my children grew, so did their library. We'd scarf up books at garage sales and libraries and request them as gifts.

When my children were in first and third grade, we decided to read the "Little House on the Prairie" series together. I had no idea how important that would be for our family and our future.

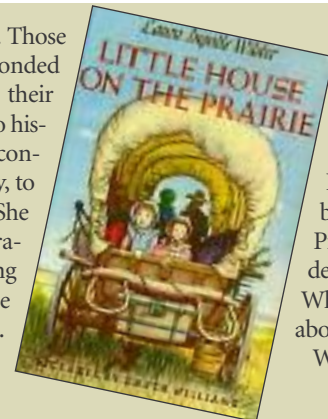
"Yuck! Play ball with a pig's bladder? That's disgusting!" my son, Sean, said

as we read *Little House on the Prairie*. "I did as a little girl," Nana said hesitantly. She was visiting with us and had joined our reading time.

Seeing the golden moment, I ran to get my tape recorder. Nana then told her grandchildren about growing up on a farm during and after the Great Depression and about using a pig's bladder for a ball. The children were enthralled.

Every night for the next 10 days, they'd cuddle up with my mom to tape

the stories she told. Those stories not only bonded my children to their grandmother but to history itself. She connected us to history, to family and to love. She brought the war, rationing, jitterbugging and Walton-type Christmases to life. She helped us understand her, the



world and her faith better.

After she left, we continued reading the series. For the children's school History/Science Fair, we built a Little House on the Prairie dollhouse from the descriptions in the book. What a great way to learn about the pioneer days.

What was even more valu-

■ See BOOK page 20

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Branson still thrills young and old



continued from page 1

perfect months as the weather is still pleasant yet the area turns on the sights and sounds of Christmas. We've been taking our kids since before they were tall enough to ride the coasters at Silver Dollar City. Even today, with one daughter in college and another heading that way next year, a mention of a trip to Branson elicits delights and "Can I bring a friend?"

If you are looking for a fun-filled and easy weekend trip that's the perfect gift for your family—Branson should be at the top of your destinations.

Most people think of a Branson vacation that includes lots of sunscreen. Did you know that all of Branson is open most of December? It's true and the vast majority of the shows and attractions have Christmas-themed entertainment that is respectful, even worshipful and unafraid to keep the name Christ in Christmas.



Any trip should begin with lodging at one of the Christian-owned Myer family hotel properties (supporters of Metro Voice) and you won't go wrong with any of them. We've stayed at each of the local hotel company's properties from Comfort Inn & Suites to Best Western to their newest addition—Holiday Inn Express. Each property emphasizes excellent locations, countless amenities and exceptional customer service while focusing on great value in the upper mid-scale area. Holiday Inn Express has a more "urban" feel with modern colors and furnishings you would expect from any Sheraton hotel in a large urban setting.

After check-in, there's a ton to do your first day or evening. For us it is the Dixie Stampede because you get a show and dinner all in one! The Stampede is one of the most visited shows in Branson and over the years their show has changed so you'll probably be surprised if you haven't enjoyed it for several years. If you like eating a huge wagon train-esque meal, this is it. A whole rotisserie chicken, smoked barbecue pork loin, creamy vegetable soup, potato wedges, corn on the cob and homemade biscuits—all served without utensils. Plus you get dessert and free refills of your. Don't worry—they have plenty of napkins.

Everyone who experiences Christmas at Dixie Stampede falls in love with all the



fun and excitement of the fantastic performances during their spectacular extravaganza. Nothing compares to the way Dolly brings the Christmas season to life. Our hearts were warmed

the simplicity of the message which touches your soul. From the romance of softly falling snow to the breathtaking live nativity scene, the Dixie Stampede is magically transformed into a holiday wonderland and the spirit of the season appears before your very eyes. Their live nativity scene is both dramatic and spectacular. Visit dixiestampede.com.

Silver Dollar City (SDC) is perhaps the main reason most families head to Branson. There are few words to describe the beauty and Christian hospitality of Silver Dollar City. An Old Time Christmas is one of the country's most acclaimed festivals and runs through Dec. 30. SDC has been named by USA Today and the A & E Network as one of the top 10 places in the nation to have a bright Christmas. Sorry Kansas City's Plaza Lights—Silver Dollar City's lights have been named as "USA's Best Holiday Light Show!"

Silver Dollar City is transformed into an evening wonderland for with over four million lights and 1,000 decorated Christmas trees. This year, SDC has invested \$1

million into their light parade and have added over 33 costumed characters for the kids. Your kids of any age will be amazed by the dazzling Light Parade that glides through the streets of the City each evening, with colorful, musical floats. Additional festival highlights include; a dramatic presentation of the Living Nativity; The parade follows the lighting of the 5-Story Special Effects Christmas Tree on the Square, a towering icon with over 250,000 colorful LED lights that is the centerpiece of the Christmas on Main Street light and

sound shows beginning at dusk each evening. The massive tree blazes in synchronization to the musical movements of Christmas songs — up to 100 light changes per second — while lights around the Square flash along with it, accompanied by surround-sound. We like to enjoy the parade and the tree with hot cocoa on the porch of Hannah's Ice Cream Factory.

The festival also features an original musical production of the famous classic "A Dickens' Christmas Carol", with van-

■ See BRANSON page 21



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The Light of the World

BOOK

continued from page 18

able than the enjoyment of that series was that my children learned to value and love reading, and they developed an interest in history.

Over the years they read more of the

classics and talked to their grandparents about them. It was a special bond they shared.

Reading is a multi-faceted experience that can bond generations together. It can also expand a child's world in life-changing ways.

GMA Dove award nominees named



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Well, if you haven't already heard, the 45th annual GMA Dove Awards were announced last month, and there are a few familiar faces garnering yet another (or two or three) Dove awards for this year. Here's the rundown.

Song of the year: Hillsong UNITED "Oceans (Where My Feet May Fall)"
Artist of the Year: Hillsong UNITED
New Artist of the Year: Ellie Holcomb
Rock Album of the Year: "Rise" by Skillet

Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year: "Overcomer" by Mandisa

Inspirational Album of the Year: "Hymns" by Michael W. Smith

Praise and Worship Album of the Year: "Majestic" by Kari Jobe

Rap/Hip Hop Album of the Year: "Never Land" by Andy Mineo.

For more information and a listing of the contestants, visit Doveawards.com.

And... drum roll, please... as the holidays are now sliding into view there are a few recent releases worth checking out, either for yourself or for someone special.

Kirk Cameron's newest theatrical outtake, *Saving Christmas*, will be hitting screens nationwide on November

14th. The soundtrack accompanying the movie came out October 27! Featuring contributing artists such as Steven Curtis Chapman, Casting Crowns, Tenth Avenue North, 1Girl Nation and Rhett Walker Band, to name but a few, this would be a great collection of Christmas classics, as well as a few new numbers, to bring to the family festivities.

Speaking of Rhett Walker Band (and new music, for that matter), their newest release, *Here's To the Ones* was also recently released and has gotten some good buzz. Leaning a bit more country this time, and a bit less hard rock, this album is still driving and catchy. Well worth checking out.

Another new, recent release is for King & Country's *Run Wild. Live Free. Love Strong*. These brothers have made quite the name for themselves since releasing their debut, and pulling out from under their sister's shadow a few years back. The newest release is also generating quite a bit of attention on Amazon.com and iTunes! (over 400 five-star reviews on iTunes!). For fans of deep meditative lyrics and a splash of 80s Euro-pop, this would definitely be one to look for, either for your own stereo or to wrap.

On the slightly older, quite a bit cheaper side, I dug up some great bargains in music on some of my favorite Christian music sites (I'll leave a little to



the imagination, so you can do your own research). The band, and the self-titled album *Connersvine* is not very well-known, and for that reason it's a catch for under \$5. Reviews on different sites have given this worship collection high praise, both for lyrics

and vocals, and musically they sound within the modern alternative genre.

Another band (I'm not familiar with) which has gotten some big praise online, and is dirt cheap – depending where you look – is *Hearts of Saints*. Their



freshmen release has also gotten quite a bit of attention from fans, online, and it's an easy find for only a few bucks.

Finally, getting down from my low-budget high-horse, one more place to find some great Christian music? Thrift stores! Salvation Army, Goodwill and Red Racks all have a ton of CDs for around two bucks, and they frequently have some great Christian artists, from Gospel to metal, rock to pop. Save some money and find a bargain for Christmas!

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■ BRANSON

continued from page 19

ishing ghosts, revolving scenery, pyrotechnic special effects and flying spirits all accompanied by a live band. This version of the Dickens classic has become a tradition for our household and we rank it with the finest productions in Kansas City or St. Louis. In recent years, SDC has added a theatrical production of the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" which was voted the number one "Inspirational Film of All Time" by the American Film Institute. This stage production features unique special effects and a talented cast of 14 singer/actors.

Don't forget the great rides and attractions—Fire-In-The-Hole (a Widaman favorite), Frisco Sing-Along Steam Train, Grandfather's Mansion, Marvel Cave and some great coasters: Thunderation, PowderKeg (you'll have to blindfold mom) and WildFire. Even in temperatures down to 42 degrees, guests can soar into the night on the park's coasters and rides, including the ground-breaking top-rated wood coaster Outlaw Run. Fine craftsmanship is also showcased, as the park's 100 demonstrating craftsmen create one-of-a-kind handmade holiday items, from blown glass ornaments and angels to pottery dessert platters. One of my favorite stops is the Ironsmith's Shop. For information visit silverdollarcity.com.

After enjoying a day at Silver Dollar City there's time to enjoy great family



head home. If cruising the lake is your thing, you'll want to experience another attraction—Showboat Branson Belle's great Christmas excursion. The ship departs at noon, 4 and 8 each day.

Decorated with lights and garland for the holidays, the 700-seat Showboat Branson Belle is the largest inland passenger ship in the nation. Guests can stroll the four decks of Branson's grandest lake attraction for unique views of the lake and hillsides in lights and then take a seat in the dining theater for the show.

After your cruise there's still time to spend at one of the outlet malls to catch up on your shopping.

shows. Our recommendation begins with The Haygoods—a family of amazing singers and musicians who are known for their ability to entertain numerous generations—including teens! That's why The Haygoods are now the number one show in Branson—and for good reason! USA Today calls them "tremendously talented musicians" and the Springfield News Leader describes the show as "pure musical talent meets cutting edge performance."

The family of five brothers and one sister features over 20 different instruments with tight vocal harmonies, high energy choreography and a passion for making sure every one in the audience is entertained. For info visit www.thehaygoods.com.

After the Haygoods you'll need a good night's sleep and then it's on to Sunday.

Silver Dollar City's production of "A Christmas Carol"



Reserve Sunday morning for a leisurely breakfast and church. We like to have family church time in the room and then head to the pool where the kids can swim and we can enjoy a cup of coffee or take in the Jacuzzi.

Don't stay in the pool too long. There's lots to do on Sunday afternoons before you



things? Have them serve your party "family style" with everyone picking something off the menu that appeals to them then pass them around the table. Jit, the owner, works to make it the most enjoyable dining experience you'll find in Branson. You'll cherish the conversation and laughter this family meal elicits. Visit indiaclayovenbranson.com.

There's so much to do in Branson and every taste of music, entertainment or attraction can be satisfied.

We guarantee that the money spent in Branson will be some of the best-spent vacation budget during the year. You'll create Christmas memories that your family will treasure for years but we guarantee this will not be your last trip to Branson during the holidays.

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■ SECULARIZATION

continued from page 3

contributed to the problem, Duncan said, because Christians thought they simply needed to "batten down the hatches." Instead, they failed to engage the culture. They have lost the difference between the gospel — God reconciling the world through Jesus — and mission or service.

The church has lost its accountability, and it has told outsiders to come in, even though God has commanded believers to go and share the gospel. "People don't come to church to find God. They come to the church after they find him," Duncan said.

The church has confused political power with spiritual authenticity, it has chased influence at the expense of authority, and it holds private discussions in public.

Duncan believes the U.S. church can learn seven lessons from U.K. brothers and sisters. The church must seek God instead of trying to organize its way. "We're not a business, but a family," he said.

The church must not let culture shape its understanding of Scripture and must engage the culture distinctively. It must recognize the age of denominationalism is dying and must refuse to compromise on the important issues. It also must learn to take risks.

Today's church must not compromise on the gospel. Instead, it must guard the gospel and pass it to the next generation. "We must be a gospel people who plant gospel churches," he said.

Joshua Hedger, director of the Center for Church Planting at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, spoke on reaching younger generations through cultural engagement, relevancy and authenticity.

He emphasized that while congregations must be different in each locality, foundations for church planting apply to all.

The American church is substituting social justice for the gospel, Hedger said. Instead, believers must learn a new language and a new missiology to reach younger generations.

—Vicki Brown is associate editor of *Words & Way*



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■ THANKSGIVING

continued from page 12

I had pleaded with God. I had believed, but in spite of all my prayers, her out of control free fall continued.

"Happy?" I questioned. "Never."

In Matthew 5, Christ's Sermon on the Mount, Jesus defined blessed as makarios, sometimes translated as happy.

While nurses poked and doctors assessed, I cried against my son's chest. God's definitions and mine didn't add up to the same thing.

Jesus described the poor in spirit, those that mourn, those hungry and thirsty for righteousness, the persecuted and the insulted as makarios. Happy. Blessed.

Was Paul blessed when he penned the words from prison, "... always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God...?" (Eph. 5:20 NASB) Was he happy?

Is happiness a criterion for praise? In the marbled corridor full of hospital smells, beeps and whistles, I felt sure happiness would never again be part of my life, and I wondered, "Can I live without ever being happy again?"

Job worshipped in response to unthinkable

loss, when all he possessed was stripped away and his ten children died. Scripture says, "He fell to the ground in worship, and said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.'" (Job 1:20-21, NIV).

"Worship acknowledges the truths of God despite unhappy circumstances. Worship exalts Him to His rightful place. When everything is stripped away, God has to be enough."

Surely the emotion of happiness was as far from Job's heart at that point as it was in mine. Swirling thoughts in the winds of brokenness gathered around dawning truth.

There is never a circumstance in which we cannot worship.

"Even if God never answers another prayer of mine in the way I ask Him to," I realized,

"praise remains the same when He is the object, because He remains the same."

Worship acknowledges the truths of God despite unhappy circumstances. Worship exalts Him to His rightful place. When everything is stripped away, God has to be enough.

Makarios isn't about me. It is about the incomparable treasure of knowing Him, the God of the Universe, the Christ of my redemption.

I pulled myself away from the wall, stepped into the big steel elevator, and rode it to the first floor. I walked past the lady at the reception desk. Heavy glass doors separated inside from outside. I pushed open the double doors, and gasped.

Sunshine dazzled. Vibrant hues of brilliant greens, reds and yellows took my breath away. As though the Creator splashed hope into my sorrow and surrounded me with His Presence, a dark sepulcher within opened to glorious beauty, and involuntarily my lips moved.

"Thank you God," I breathed. My heart bowed in reverent worship.

Makarios. Blessed by God.

Sylvia Schroeder is a writer living in the Kansas City area.

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■ MINISTRY GUIDE

continued from page 17

ongoing basis, to support young moms who are choosing life for their babies!

LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY. Elaine Munyan. 9777 Antioch Road, Overland Park, KS 66212. 913-888-4750. www.westbrookechurch.org office@westbrookechurch.org Serving 35 to 50 people each week.

Wish list: Holiday meal items: frozen turkeys, stuffing, potatoes, cranberry sauce, etc, as well as food staples, soap, tp, etc.

METRO LUTHERAN MINISTRY. 3031 Holmes Street, Kansas City, MO 64109. www.mlmkc.org 816-931-0027

Wish List: Financial support for our ministry and programs; Volunteers for the Christmas Store and our many other ministries; Non-perishable sack lunches for hungry students enrolled in our Learning to Earning Program; Small appliances for Christmas store gifts (ie., crock pots, electric skillet, toasters, etc.); king/queen size blankets for Christmas store gifts; Food donations (for the pantry);

MOTHER'S REFUGE. Robert Zornes, 14400 E. 42nd St., Suite 220, Independence, MO 64055. (816) 353-8070. Robert@mothersrefuge.org. www.mothersrefuge.org.

Mothers Refuge provides a loving home for homeless, pregnant and parenting teenagers. We are moving back to our rebuilt home after suffering a devastating fire two years ago. Items we need that will bless us and help us get moved back are, gift cards from grocery stores, Wal-Mart, Sam's, Home Depot, Lowes, Quik-Trip and fast-food restaurants. Please call for complete Wish List with Christmas & personal items for our young moms and babies.

THE SALVATION ARMY Amanda Waters, Director of Community Relations. 3637 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64111. 816-968-0373 www.salarmymokan.org

For nearly 125 years, The Salvation Army's Red Kettles have represented the love, hope and compassion of the Christmas season. Your donations help change lives in our community! For more information about The Salvation Army, to volunteer or to donate online, go to www.salarmymokan.org call 1-800-SAL-ARMY.

THE SHEPHERD'S WAY MINISTRIES, INC. Shirley McNeall/executive director/ founder, PO Box 1833, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-525-2932. theshepherdsaway@att.net. www.theshepherdsawayministries.org

Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with incarcerated and raising money for future women's home. Needs: financial donations, property with home and 3 or more bedrooms in rural area; volunteers, grant writers; volunteers interested in working with women who have been incarcerated.

THANKSGIVING MEAL BOXES AND CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA. Peggy Gary Pantry Director. Life Christian Center, 1650 E. Langsford Rd., Lee's Summit, Mo. 64063. 815-525-2568. www.lifechristian-kc.org

LCC is seeking donations of turkeys for Thanksgiving meal boxes for the needy in our area. We are also accepting financial donations for the purchase of new toys, clothing and gifts for parents, for our Christmas Store that will be set up in our church to help those families in need. For more information contact Peggy Gary at Godchasers131@aol.com or at 816-738-1833.

■ RACE

continued from page 2

said his denomination started engaging the issue 20 years ago, when the former IPHC general superintendent worked to unite two Pentecostal denominational fellowships, which were divided by race, to create the Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches of North America, a fellowship that continues today.

When the IPHC gathered in Fayetteville, N.C., in 1996, denominational leaders repented of seven specific sins, including the sin of racism. The denomination also made changes in their leadership and departmental structure to be more repre-

sentative of the denomination's diversity.

"Racial reconciliation remains a major focus of our movement," Beacham said.

"We continue to host and encourage regular dialogue within and outside the denomination between white and African American pastors and churches. Needless to say we still have a long way to go, but I am thankful we are engaged in the process."

Anderson said, "Sermons, seminars and courses in churches on racial reconciliation are not just a response to current events. They represent a deep expression of Christian faith — one that was an issue in biblical times as much as today."

HOMELESS

continued from page 1

But while the headlines in the news and the reality on the ground seem incongruous to most sharp observers, there's no getting by one fact: food pantries, soup kitchens and other services our community's poor residents continue to stretch the resources of local organizations. The problem seems most critical as Thanksgiving and Christmas approach and Kansas City prepares for another record-breaking winter.

This year Metro Voice readers can again do their part by answering the call to assist with food and warm clothing donations, finances or just a few volunteer hours.

Here are several of the major organizations that serve Kansas City's poor and homeless but there are countless others. Check with your church or area lay clergy organization to see if there is one that serves your community. Plus, don't forget the smaller rural communities that surround Kansas City in Missouri and Kansas. These communities often don't have the resources or population to keep their pantries well stocked.

If you know of an organization that isn't listed here, let Metro Voice know so we can help share their needs in our December issue. Also included in this issue is a Ministry Needs Guide listing organizations that serve a wide variety of at-risk populations in the area. Our guide serves as a Christmas "wish list" for these organizations who have shared with us what they need this Christmas to serve the community.

METRO LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Every year Metro Lutheran Ministry (MLM) provides critical help to the poorest of the poor in greater Kansas City. They distribute millions of pounds of food, hot breakfast each Saturday at two locations and assist with employment and GED assistance. Volunteers with MLM are crucial in making Christmas possible for thousands of area families. Working throughout the year, money is raised through special events to purchase gifts through corporate and individual donations.



Through the Christmas Store, individuals give gifts to approximately 1,000 disadvantaged families brightening the season of almost 4,000 people. The effort to give gifts, Bibles, blankets and meals is among the largest gift giving programs in the Kansas City area.

Each family is pre-screened to meet

low-income guidelines and is not receiving help from any other Christmas store. One hundred of these families are homebound and volunteers deliver their gifts to their homes. The other 900 families are served at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Westport Road.

A packing party is planned for Saturday, November 15 from 9 am to 11 am at Metro Lutheran Ministry, 3031 Holmes, Kansas City MO). Help MLM pack Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for needy families! The Christmas Store will be open Dec. 6 through Dec. 13 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Road, Kansas City, Mo.

For information call 816-931-0027 or info@mlmkc.org.

CITY UNION MISSION

Last year was a busy year for City Union Mission (CUM). The organization works hand-in-hand with individuals, churches, schools and businesses to



make the holiday season from Thanksgiving to New Year's a little brighter for low-income or homeless families and men, nursing home residents, and Jackson County Jail inmates. The Mission distributes over 37,000 new items and about 200 food baskets during the Christmas season.

CUM does everything they can to share the message of hope God delivered through Christ's birth with the men and women in their care and struggling families and individuals in our community. The thousands of gifts the community gives at Christmas are an important part of this process, which gives their staff, volunteers and faithful donors many opportunities to show homeless and hurting people of all ages they're worthy of love, acceptance and respect.

Gifts a family receives: Each household receives one household Gift. Adults receive two gifts. Teenagers receive two, children receive three gifts and everyone gets three stocking stuffers each.

The Mission needs your financial help, gifts or time. The Mission asks that all gifts be new and unwrapped to allow staff to assign gifts to families that are age and need appropriate. You can either buy the gift yourself or make your donation indicating what you are donating towards in the memo/comments field. Deliver gifts to 1700 E. 8th Street between 8 am and 3:30 pm, Monday - Friday. After 3:30 and on weekends gifts need to be taken to 1310 Wabash.

Deliver food to City Union Mission's Food Warehouse at 1020 E. 10th Street (10th & Troost), Kansas City, Mo. For food delivery info call 816-329-1490. Hours are 8 to 4pm, Monday-Friday.

For more information visit cityunionmission.org or call 816-474-9380.

CARE OF POOR PEOPLE

In the past, Care of Poor People



(COPP) held a "Survival" event. It's wasn't a cute name to catch your attention but an event that people counted on to, well, survive. Care of Poor People (COPP) is changing how it helps the homeless this year and instead of holding one winter event, the organization will continue to collect items for distribution to the homeless all winter long. This year, Grand Avenue Temple Church will serve as a distribution point.

COPP is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping those that are struggling in our community as well as teaching other communities how to do the same. Started by formerly homeless Richard Tripp, the organization now uses volunteers to provide people with the basic necessities to live.

"The costs of living for food, gas, utilities, and housing are going up while wages and hours are being cut," says Tripp. "Families are breaking under the increasing pressures resulting in single parents trying to raise responsible children while also having to be away from home so many hours working to try to meet their physical needs in a bad economy. The elderly are fearful of how to live with incomes that don't increase when all of their expenses do."

Tripp says that these ingredients are combining together to create a growing population of homeless individuals and families forced to live in cars, tents, and in underground tunnels in an attempt to just survive.

But while Tripp and his cadre of volunteers can't make a difference in national policy, they can make a difference in the lives of every day individuals who are struggling to survive.

COPP is calling Metro Voice readers and the community at large to encourage their friends, family, and neighbors, religious and social groups to get involved.

They are also accepting donations of winter survival gear including new and used winter clothing, blankets and shoes for men, women and children, Personal care items including shampoo, soap, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and diapers for babies.

Tripp's desperate plea is to take action. "Please don't look away and determine it's someone else's problem," he says. "Winter is approaching quickly and someone's life may depend on your help."

To get involved, visit www.coppinc.com or call Richard directly at 816-721-3291. You can also find them on Facebook.

SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army's 2014 Red Kettle Campaign in Kansas City kicks off Friday, Nov. 7, and continues through Christmas Eve every day except Thanksgiving Day and Sundays. This year, volunteers will be ringing bells at more than 250 locations in the metropolitan area.

This year there are opportunities for to be hired as a bell ringer and you may choose the day, time and location most convenient to your schedule though a minimum two-hour shift is required. For information, go to www.ringkc.com.

"Many of our paid bell ringers are people trying to make ends meet in a tough economy, but they also want to do something that makes them feel like they are making a difference," said Major Evie Diaz, divisional commander of The Salvation Army in Kansas City. "Their work will help us provide food, clothing and shelter to people in need in their own community throughout the year and during the Christmas season."

The money collected during the Red Kettle Campaign supports a number of Salvation Army programs in the area including emergency rent and utility as-



sistance, homeless services, youth and senior programs, substance abuse services and disaster response.

"Every cent dropped into a Red Kettle allows us to meet the on-going and ever-increasing demand for the services we provide," states Major Charles Smith, divisional commander of The Salvation Army in Kansas City.

Locations to serve include:

6111 East 129th St., Grandview, MO – 816-966-8300

14700 East Truman Rd., Independence, MO – 816-252-3200

6723 State Avenue, Kansas City, KS – 913-232-5400

420 Santa Fe, Olathe, KS – 913-782-3640

3013 East 9th St., Kansas City, MO – 816-483-8484

6618 East Truman Rd., Kansas City, MO - 816-241-6485

5306 N. Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO – 816-452-5663

500 West 39th St., Kansas City, MO – 816-753-6040

The Salvation Army is also seeking volunteer bell ringers! Sign up at www.ringkc.com to get your choice of dates and times. There is a two-hour minimum for each bell ringing shift.

Anyone wishing to donate to The Salvation Army by credit card may call 1-800-SAL-ARMY or go to www.salarmymokan.org. Checks may

be mailed to The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 412577, Kansas City, MO 64141.

The Salvation Army has also launched its Online Red Kettle Campaign, which allows individuals, groups and businesses to host a "virtual red kettle" on the internet and invite their family, friends and colleagues to donate. To sign up, go to www.onlineredkettle.org.

KANSAS CITY RESCUE MISSION



Kansas City Rescue Mission (KCRM) wants to make it easy for you to reach out to our neighbors in need. In November, KCRM and partnering churches will continue the tradition of providing feasts for the homeless through their onsite nine-day Celebration of Thanks.

KCRM is also starting a new tradition called Give and Take. Individuals may choose to donate to one or both of two community outreaches and Mission volunteers will take the food you provide right to the door of someone who needs it most.

Volunteers will deliver over 500 hot, single-serving, turkey dinners to poverty-stricken families, elderly and injured on Thanksgiving Day. Three different volunteer units will help cook the meals, assemble and deliver them throughout Kansas City to families who need a reason to give thanks. Don't have time to volunteer? Donate food or cash to purchase food from the list below.

Another component of the outreach will provide multi-meal food baskets to families in need all over the city. In all, the Mission anticipates feeding 2,400 needy people this Thanksgiving, despite the challenge of working around construction.

"This is just too important not to continue," said Executive Director Joe Colaizzi. "Folks are counting on us. It will be exceptionally challenging this year, but with the help of our generous donors and volunteers I know we can pull it off!"

Here's a list of items you can contribute: turkeys, hams, Stove Top-type stuffing mix, boxed instant potatoes, packaged gravy mix, canned corn, canned green beans, canned fruit, canned cranberry sauce, canned yams or sweet potatoes, brown sugar, 1-lb. butter in tubs or sticks, cake mixes, canned frosting, Bisquick, brown and serve rolls, pumpkin and fruit pies, pre-baked, and Jello.

For more info or to volunteer contact thanksgiving@kcrm.org or call 816-421-7643.

Metro Voice hopes that, by working together, our readers along with these fine organizations can continue to make a difference in the lives of Kansas City's most needy individuals. And because these are Christian organizations, they're not changing physical lives only, but changing lives for eternity.

17th Midwest Christian EDUCATION EXPO

Saturday, Feb. 28 • 9:30am – 2pm

At Colonial Presbyterian Church • 9500 Wornall, KCMO

Just north of I-435 at 9500 Wornall Rd. in South Kansas City



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