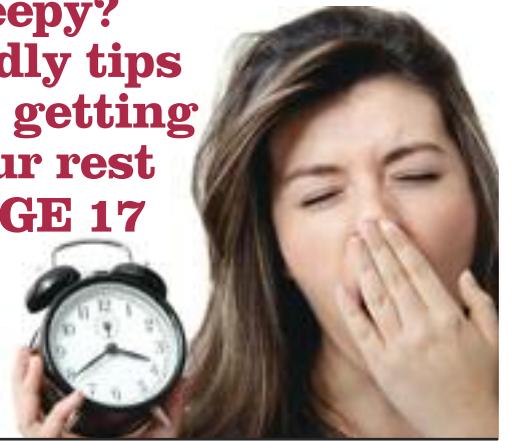




Concerts & Events | PAGE 12

Sleepy?
Godly tips
for getting
your rest
PAGE 17



ISRAEL: A Trip Within Your Reach

The Widamans exiting
Hezekiah's Tunnel



This month Metro Voice launches a three-part series covering how to visit Israel with your family, church, friends or individually.

Publishers Dwight and Anita Widaman traveled to the Holy Land with their daughters this past June. Their exciting journey made a life-long spiritual impact on their entire family and a similar trip could do the same for yours!

On page 5 we set the stage and share why Israel matters to followers of Christ.

'GOD HELPED US TO FORGIVE'

Pastor and wife
who lost both
children in
tragic accident
confront
their
emotions

by **Carey Lodge**

A Christian couple whose two young children were killed in a car accident in May have said they've had to "learn how to do things differently" but still have faith in God.

"We have to learn how to do things differently. We can't just plow through,"

Gentry Eddings, recently shared with a reporter.

A worship leader at one of Charlotte, N.C.'s biggest churches, Forest Hills, Gentry was driving back from his sister's wedding on May 23 in a caravan of several family vehicles when a truck struck the rear of his wife's car which was stopped at a light. Their two-year-old

son Dobbs died at the scene.

Hadley, a pre-school teacher, was eight months pregnant at the time. Their son, Reed, was born by emergency C-section but died three days later.

In the days following the accident, the Eddings said that they had already forgiven the driver of the truck, 28-year-old

■ See EDDINGS page 23

(From left): Hadley and
Gentry Eddings with their
2-year-old son Dobbs.



FERGUSON: One year later



by **Vicki Stamps**

FERGUSON — Despite some violence that arose here on Aug. 9 during the one year anniversary of the shooting death of African American teenager Michael Brown by a white police officer, local church leaders have seen positive changes in both the community and the church.

"The Christian community," Ken Petty, pastor of The Gate, said, "looks to transform the wider community where we live. The racial divide was brought to the surface and many pastors and leaders began praying and leading to bring about harmony and healing."

Stoney Shaw, pastor of FBC Ferguson, agreed that the church perception changed. "I think our congregation became more sensitive and aware of community issues," he said, "although we were doing a lot to minister to the community, now we are reaching the different groups in the community."

Passage Community Church continues to work with the city government to repair

■ See FERGUSON page 23

HOW TO HOST A CHURCH OR PLANNING RETREAT

For many organizations it is always good to hold an annual planning retreat.

While I'm not big on New Year's resolutions, I am a fan of pausing to reflect on the year that has

passed and set goals for the year ahead. I've done retreats

like this in the past, both independently and with others,

and have picked up a few tips for making them both fun and productive. If

you're able to find time to squeeze in your own half-day retreat (or longer), here are some ideas to try.

SEE OUR
RETREAT GUIDE INSIDE
STARTING ON PAGE 7!



Two congregations connect to community through schools

by Vicki Brown

Serving Clark Elementary School helps the roughly 40 members of Woodlawn Avenue Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan., realize they have a purpose, a contribution to make to their community.



MADDRON

For members at First Baptist Church in Lee's Summit, connecting one-to-one as mentors at Westview Elementary School has been a way to improve lives.

Ministering to Clark Elementary "seemed to be what God wanted," Woodlawn Avenue Pastor Steve Brecheisen said.

About seven or eight years ago, the congregation was praying for a ministry to the neighborhood. God "gave a vision" to a member, explained Beth Easterday, the church's volunteer Christian education director.

Members started by doing a school supply drive. "The doors opened after that. ... We just followed God's leading," she said.

"Build relationships with the administration. Their blessings on church involvement is crucial."

David Maddron

Now in addition to school a supply drive, every year the congregation provides goodie bags for all students at Christmas. At Easter, members take home-baked cookies.

They provide grocery gift cards to six families the principal selects at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Several times throughout the school year, church members reach out to teachers by providing doughnuts, brownies and other snacks — always with a note of thanks and appreciation.

The congregation responds with help whenever the principal calls about families with extra needs. "We always make it

known to the principal that we are available if a family needs help," Easterday said.

But she believes Woodlawn Avenue's longest lasting contribution will be through the lives volunteers touch in their weekly after-school Bible club, Campus Kids. Part of Wichita-based Campus Kids Ministries, the club is hosted at the school. About 65 students register each school year, with about 30 to 40 attending each week.

A typical session includes songs, a Bible story, an activity, an object lesson, a craft or game and a snack. Students are not required to attend, and those who do must have a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian.

Several First Baptist, Lee's Summit members mentor students who struggle with math, reading, writing and other subjects. The congregation also provides breakfast foods for Westview Elementary's Character Study Breakfast, a monthly event that recognizes students from each grade and class for a specific character trait. Occasionally, the school has invited First Baptist members as guest speakers.

Leaders from both churches said they

have not experienced any problems over separation of church and state issues. The Wichita School District "pretty much has opened their arms to church help," the Woodlawn Avenue pastor said.

David Maddron, children's minister at First Baptist, Lee's Summit, agreed. "We try to be very sensitive to the opportunity we have to serve our community in this manner and, thus, all those who have partnered with us over the years have really helped make our involvement with this school a huge success," he said.

The two ministers also noted that partnership with a local school has benefitted their churches. It provides an opportunity for members to become involved, Maddron said.

"We desire to meet the needs of our community and this is just one of those unique opportunities for us to be able to do that," he added.

"I'm amazed at how the church comes together...every time we do something for a kid or the school," Brecheisen said. "It's pretty amazing" for a congregation of its size.

Member Jo Templin felt led to start Kids' Camp, a children's worship experience held each Sunday during adult service, as an offshoot of the school effort.

Congregations interested in connecting with a local school should first pray for God's direction, the church leaders emphasized. "Pray for guidance, for what God would want you to do," Easterday said.

When members believe the ministry is God-directed, they should approach the principal.

"Build relationships with the administration. Their blessings on church involvement is crucial," Maddron said.

"We can show people Jesus with our actions. That can go a long way in building those relationships and, ultimately, helping shape the lives of children."

Church members must be willing to help in any way possible, he added, including stapling pictures to a bulletin board. "Make the most of the smallest of opportunities," he said.

— Vicki Brown is the Word & Way Association Editor

Christian author warns of pending persecution in summit

Christian statesman, author, and composer Jack Hayford addressed attendees of the Assemblies of God General Council in August, warning that American Christians shouldn't expect to escape coming persecution in an increasingly wicked world.

Hayford, founding pastor of the Church on the Way in Van Nuys, Calif., as well as The King's University in Southlake, Texas, commended the denomination for the magnitude of its global evangelism efforts.

"Being here with you has an element of feeling at home," said Hayford, former president of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. "The kinship runs deep with this movement."

Hayford focused on the Great Commission and how Jesus foretold of the im-

partation of the Holy Spirit to prepare His followers for coming troubles. Hayford said American churchgoers can't ignore the reality that hundreds of Christ followers in the Middle East are dying for their faith. Christians in the U.S., especially the young, will face persecution, to the point of martyrdom, he predicted.



HAYFORD

"My prayer is for an awakening in our land right now," Hayford said. "But the evil that is sweeping over our world will increase." He said the Holy Spirit's empowerment would be necessary to stand unto death.

Hayford exhorted pastors to be passionate about the Holy Spirit as a way to

lead new Christians into a life of discipleship.

"The world is coming unglued, darkness is deepening and the glow of the Light of the World fills our hearts. But penetrating the darkness -- now as then -- will require the flames of Pentecost -- and not only for a day."

newsbriefs

India's Government Blocks Access to Porn Websites

(WNS)--Millions of India's online movie-browsers met a mysterious information blockade as laptops glowed with a cryptic message: "This site has been blocked as per the instructions of Competent Authority." India's government required internet service providers to block 857 objectionable websites.

Telecommunication officials say the sweeping censorship is meant to control easy access to sexually explicit material. The government made no official statement to defend the sweeping censorship, but telecommunications officials say the order is meant to promote moral decency and protect children. "Free and open access to porn websites has been brought under check," N.N. Kaul, spokesman for India's telecom department, told Reuters, adding, "We don't want them to become a social nuisance."

Researchers digitally unwrap ancient, charred Leviticus scroll

(WNS)--The contents of a 1,500-year-old parchment scroll, burned so badly it could not be opened without destroying it, has remained a mystery since its excavation, 45 years ago, from inside the Holy Ark of the synagogue at Ein Gedi, Israel, on the western shore of the Dead Sea. But scientists at the University of Kentucky recently used a new software program to digitally unwrap parts of the document and analyze its text. They were surprised to find the first eight verses of the book of Leviticus enshrouded within the scroll. The



most ancient manuscript of Leviticus that archeologists have discovered so far dates to the first century B.C. and is part of the Dead Sea scrolls. Researchers have found no other copies of the book dated to within a thousand years of that. "It is important to go as far back as possible to the original sources and to have continuous examples of copies of texts without one-thousand-year gaps where we can lose track of things," Seales said.

Whom do evangelical insiders favor in 2016?

(WNS)--Good news for Marco Rubio, Scott Walker, and Carly Fiorina. Mixed news for Jeb Bush and Ted Cruz. Bad news for Mike Huckabee, Rick Santorum, and Ben Carson. And if



RUBIO



BUSH

anyone thought Donald Trump or Chris Christie were picking up support from evangelical leaders, pop that bubble. Those are the findings from a survey of nearly 100 evangelical leaders and insiders. Numerous 2016 GOP candidates have identified evangelicals as a key part of their road to the White House, so WORLD, the leading evangelical news magazine, recently asked 103 evangelical leaders and insiders to see whom they prefer. Ninety-four responded. WORLD's first snapshot shows 39 percent of respondents naming Rubio as either their first or second choice. Bush ranked second as the first or second option for 32 percent of respondents. Walker came in third at 28 percent. But when asked to choose their favorite from among the top four GOP candidates in current polls (Trump, Bush, Walker, and Rubio) Rubio at 40 percent and Walker at 33 percent were the clear leaders.



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Seminar to address the impact of same-sex marriage ruling on faith-based institutions

In the recent months, the Supreme Court ruled that all 50 states must issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples; furthermore states must recognize marriages from other States.

In essence, same-sex marriage is the law of the land.

The Supreme Court's decision impacts churches, ministries and faith-based organization across the United States. At this point, the Supreme Court says it will not force any minister to perform any wedding in which he/she have religious objection. In the future will churches and other faith-

based organization be at risk of losing their tax exemption for exercising their religious freedom?

You have the right to speak and teach what you believe; but what happens when you exercise it?

Faith-based non-profit organizations should take this issue seriously and understand basics of how the decision impacts them now and in the future. The Sunshine Organiza-

tion is partnering with The Source Connection and attorney Michael K. Whitehead to help bring clarity and provide a forum for church and community leaders to get their questions answered. This legal seminar is not about debating the right or wrong of the Supreme Court's ruling.

But it will help registrants understand how the decision is going to impact churches, ministries and other faith-based organizations that prohibit same-sex marriages in their doctrines of faith.

Pastors and staff, deacons, elders, board members / trustees; school and college ad-

ministrators and boards; Other non-profit organization boards, staff, and legal and financial advisors; and concerned citizens should consider attending. For a discounted rate of \$75, registrants will have access to an attorney who has defended family, faith and freedom for over 40 years, including before the Supreme Court. The seminar, Protecting Churches and Ministries, will be held on September 12 at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The goal is to help those in attendance acquire knowledge, gain an understanding

and apply wisdom; and empower them carryout a practical action plan with policies to preserve their religious freedom. Ample question and answer time is built into the agenda.

more information

Register online at www.u-shine.org
For info call the Sunshine Organization at 816-984-1661.



WHITEHEAD

Iraqi Christian radio reaches millions amid ISIS threat

Erick Stakelbeck | CBN News

WASHINGTON -- Iraq is considered one of the most dangerous countries in the world for Christians.

Some two-thirds of its once large Christian population have fled the country in the past 12 years alone.

And even in cities not controlled by ISIS, like Baghdad, Islamic jiahdists have placed a bullseye on the backs of believers in Jesus.

Most of Baghdad's Christians have fled the endless violence. But one Iraqi pastor has not only stayed behind -- he's leading Iraq's first Christian radio station.

"When we started this project, it was a pioneering project," Pastor Maher Fouad told CBN News.

"No one ever applied for a radio station in the history of Iraq, especially a Christian radio station."

Pastor Maher leads Baghdad's New Testament Baptist Church. He told CBN News he founded 102.9 FM in Baghdad a decade ago to reach Iraqis with the Gospel.

"During the time, violence was a major problem in Baghdad, with the sounds of explosions and car bombs," Pastor Maher said. "And out of all these radio stations that broadcast violence and negative news, our radio station appeared broadcasting the Gospel and the good news of Jesus Christ."

Since then, the violence hasn't stopped -- and neither has Pastor Maher. The station's daily programing now reaches up to eight million people in and around Baghdad.

"I pray publicly on our radio station so all the Iraqis will hear it," he said. "Not only Christians but also Muslims call us live on the air requesting that we pray for them."

"Not only Christians but also Muslims call us live on the air requesting that we pray for them."

Pastor Maher Fouad

His bold stance has brought countless death threats -- and with ISIS declaring war on Christians, things have only become more dangerous.

"The situation here in Baghdad is not only bad, it is very bad," Pastor Maher told CBN News. "When ISIS occupied Ramadi, we became in danger because Ramadi is not very far away from Baghdad. On one side, we have ISIS threatening us. And the second danger we face is from car bombs and explosions."

But Pastor Maher remains on the air and he's spreading the message beyond Baghdad. In 2010, with the help of U.S.-based High Adventure Ministries, he established another Christian radio station in Basra, in southern Iraq. That station can be heard as far away as neighboring Kuwait and Iran.

"We rejoice because many, many people are listening and receiving the message and are responding to the message of the Gospel," Pastor Maher said.

In the meantime, he says he has no plans to leave Iraq.

"The Lord protected us," he declared. "And I believe the Lord will protect us also in the coming days."

He says thousands of Iraqi Christian refugees need aid -- and he's praying the U.S. government and the American Church will step up to help as ISIS continues to wreak havoc.

Friday, September 25, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 26, 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.

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When?
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Nonprofits hold out for help on contraception

by **Emily Belz**

(WNS)--When the Supreme Court reconvenes in the fall, the nine justices will consider appeals from at least a half-dozen nonprofits that have lost round after round at the circuit court level over the contraceptive and abortifacient mandate.

Most recently, the Little Sisters of the Poor, a group of Catholic nuns who serve the elderly poor, lost its petition for protection from the mandate at the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The court consolidated its case with cases from Guidestone Financial Resources, Reaching

Despite the circuit losses, nonprofits haven't been forced to comply with the mandate to this point because they have tenuous protection during the appeals process.

Souls International, Truett-McConnell College, and Southern Nazarene University.

Though nonprofits challenging the mandate have a record of success at the district court level, in the last year they have a string of losses at the circuit level. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against Priests for Life. The 6th Circuit ruled against the Michigan Catholic Conference

and the Catholic Diocese of Nashville. The 5th Circuit ruled against East Texas Baptist University, Houston Baptist University, the Catholic Diocese of Beaumont, and the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth. The 3rd Circuit ruled against the Diocese of Erie, the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Geneva College,

■ See **NONPROFITS** page 22



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New Museum of the Bible gets support from Israel

JERUSALEM, Israel – It's hard to tell who's more excited about the new joint venture between the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., and the Israel Antiquities Authority.

When it opens in the fall of 2017 near Washington's National Mall, the eight-story museum will dedicate its top-floor gallery to display biblical artifacts chosen from approximately 2 million antiquities from Israel's National Treasures.

Both a permanent exhibit and special rotating exhibits are being planned.

With 39 active archaeological excavations in Israel today, it's possible that some of the artifacts to be featured in the museum's top floor gallery have yet to be discovered.

The Museum of the Bible, which also takes part in Israeli excavations, is about to begin a dig at Tel-Shimron, one of the Jewish state's largest and most biblically significant sites.

IAA Director Israel Hasson said part of the museum's "mission" is to make Israel's archaeological heritage accessible to people around the world.

"The Israel Antiquities Authority is thrilled and proud to partner with the Museum of the Bible on this landmark project," IAA Director Israel Hasson said.

The "rare opportunity" to display Is-



raeli antiquities that "illuminate the Bible" will provide visitors with a first-hand look at the "rich and diverse history and archaeology of the Holy Land," Hasson said.

Meanwhile, Museum of the Bible President Cary L. Summers appeared equally excited with the newly formed alliance.

"The Israel Antiquities Authority is thrilled and proud to partner with the Museum of the Bible on this landmark project."

—Israel Hasson

"The Israel Antiquities Authority's unparalleled two million artifacts, along with the 40,000 objects in Museum of the Bible's Green Collection, will combine for a new standard of museum experience unlike any ever seen before," Summers predicted.

The Green Collection's 40,000 objects from its founder, Hobby Lobby President Steve Green, includes some very rare and significant biblical texts and artifacts such as cuneiform

tablets dating to the time of Abraham, biblical papyri and manuscripts, Torah scrolls, and rare printed Bibles.

Jesus painting gets the boot

Kansas School District Removes 60-Year-Old Artwork

From Wire Services

A Kansas public school has removed a picture of Jesus that hung in a hallway for decades after a complaint from a national church-state separation group, The Wichita Eagle reported.

Royster Middle School removed the print of Warner Sallman's "Head of Christ" last Thursday, following a complaint from the national Freedom From Religion Foundation, Richard Proffitt, the school superintendent, said.

Proffitt, who is in his first year as Chanute superintendent, said the picture was taken down after the district's lawyer advised that the school could not legally display it.

"Oh man, it's getting bad," said Erika Semey, who attended Royster 10 years ago. "That's what's wrong with this world. Not enough people have Christ in their lives."

Ryan Jayne, a spokesman for the Freedom From Religion Foundation, which is dedicated to the principle of separation of church and state, said it's "wonderful" that the picture has been taken down so quickly.

"It's nice to have people who appreciate the law and get things done (and) who follow the law even if it's likely to be unpopular in the community," Jayne said.



Warner Sallman's "Head of Christ."

It is the second time that Jayne has worked with Proffitt to resolve an issue of religion at a school.

According to the Eagle, the foundation filed a complaint last year with another Kansas district – where Proffitt was then-superintendent – after a teacher allowed a member of Gideons International to speak in his class and hand out Bibles to students. Proffitt put a stop to the Bible distribution.

Proffitt, who expects to take some heat over removal of the Jesus picture, told the paper he thinks the Freedom From Religion Foundation was alerted to the picture after a recent school visitor took a snapshot of it and sent it to the foundation, which then made its complaint.

Our ISRAEL

By Dwight and Anita Widaman

Journey

Part 1 of a 3-Part Series

Why a trip is right for you.

There was an air of excitement in the crowd as we scurried in to find a place to stand. Anita and I, along with our daughters, Hannah and Emma, boarded the cable car for the fast, three-minute zip to the top of Masada, Herod's palatial mountain fortress in Israel. Along for the thrill ride were tourists from around the world, including thirty American Jewish students. Visitors from Russia, France, China and Brazil snapped pictures out of the open windows of the gondola as the landscape below seemed to rush into the distance.

Suddenly, starting with one voice, a song erupted among the American students. Anita and I smiled broadly, immediately recognizing the tune and, with people from around the world, joined in the singing:

*Ain't no mountain high enough
Ain't no valley low enough
Ain't no river wide enough
To keep me from you.*

It wasn't an old spiritual but the classic song by Diana Ross and the Supremes! The singing continued, until no one remembered the verses and it trailed off into applause and laughter as we reached the summit, 1,300 feet above the valley below.

Standing on Masada, you can't ignore the weight that history has placed on this one tiny corner of the world—Israel. Built by King Herod in the year 30 B.C., the fort was an architectural wonder of its day with a grand palace, army garrisons, a syn-

vived and recounted her story to the Romans. Archeologists have since discovered the lots, with a name for each Jewish soldier in the rubble. Their deeds left behind a saga of heroism, courage, and martyrdom unlike anything in the annals of history.

And here stood the Widaman family. How amazing!

Above our heads, in the dry 105-degree wind, an Israeli flag fluttered as evidence that God keeps his covenants! Almost 2,000 years after Rome obliterated Jerusalem, murdered its 700,000 residents and killed or dispersed every other Jew in the land, the Jewish people were here, in 2015, boldly claiming that God was not done with them and holding on to a tiny fraction of the land that God had promised to them in Genesis 15:18. "On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates...'" and in Joshua 1:4, "From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory."

So, what land did God actually say belongs to Israel? All of the land modern Israel currently possesses, plus all of Samaria and Judea (what the media refers to as the West Bank), plus a slice of Egypt and Syria, plus all of Jordan, plus some of Saudi Arabia and Iraq!

Today, Israel doesn't ask to keep all of what God gave them. It is content with just a sliver, a fraction of what God promised. It is a tiny island of seven million people in a vast sea of 500 million Muslim Arabs. Israelis just want to exist.

Israel's flag boldly declares this reborn Jewish nation, while the Roman Empire is gone and relegated to the dusty pages of middle-school history books.

Should we be so amazed that God keeps His promises?

Two thousand years later there is a hunger among Christians to reconnect with Israel and yet so many still lack knowledge about the birthplace of our own faith. Why does Israel remain a mystery for so many? Most people have at least a working knowledge of Britain, France or Australia, though they have never set foot in those countries.

Why are people surprised at what they see upon landing in Israel—the Holy Land? It is because reality conflicts with the



Dwight, Anita, Emma and Hannah Widaman at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

Down, down, down we go, deep underneath modern Jerusalem.



image

the media wants you to believe. A drive through Jerusalem's central business district or along the Mediterranean coastline of Tel-Aviv reveals a scene not of destruction, bunkers or a population at arms but one similar to the Golden Mile of Chicago or Fort Lauderdale. Across the landscape, skyscrapers reach ever upward, touching the sky with metal and glass and cutting edge architectural designs.

The streets are filled with people of all faiths shopping, walking to school or going to work in sleek commuter trains. A drive down any freeway reveals signs for Ace Hardware, KFC, American Eagle and Forever21. Billboards hawk the latest technology—this IS the place where the cell phone and many other modern conveniences were invented—including the newest technology that runs your grandfather's pacemaker or the newest heart surgery technique.

All of this just steps away from the most holy sites in the Jewish and Christian faiths. It's surreal, and you have to experience it for yourself.

We encourage everyone to develop a greater understanding of the Holy Land. This past June our family had the opportunity to spend 12 days in Israel as the guests of the Israel Ministry of Tourism.

Our goal was to cover Israel from an underreported angle—family travel.

This October and November we are going to take you along with us using two feature stories and photo spreads. October will cover the land, her people, and all the tastes, sights, and sounds that make Israel the most exciting place on Earth to visit

with teenagers and young adults. We'll walk through knee-deep water in Hezekiah's tunnel, explore the Galilee on horseback and set sail on the Sea of Galilee. We'll share our insights of Caesarea, the Dead Sea, uncovered Roman cities, and the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem. You'll see our reactions of walking on the actual streets that Jesus walked upon as we descend 50 feet below modern Jerusalem to the ruins of the Jerusalem that Jesus knew. You'll peek inside the Garden Tomb and even read how the Dead Sea is springing back to life as prophesized in the Bible.

You'll experience our time spent to-



The "Jesus Boat."

gether as a family—the laughs and tears, the late-night walks through Jerusalem's streets, the search for an American hamburger, and conversations with new Jewish, Christian and Muslim friends.

In November, we'll show you how to plan your trip to the Holy Land a make it a reality. Included will be travel tips on when to go; how to get there; where to stay; we'll answer questions such as "should you go alone or with a group?"; plus interviews with Kansas City pastors who are making the journey with their own congregations.

Most of all, we want to share with you, and perhaps experience through our words and photos, our love for the Holy Land. We'll help you see why a trip to Israel should be a goal for every Christian. How it makes the Bible come to life and how it will enrich your understanding of Israel and bring you closer to God's Word.

We don't know why those American kids started singing that song from the 1960s. But looking back it seems appropriate. Nothing can keep us from the love of God and perhaps nothing should keep you from experiencing Israel for yourself and your family.

Tel-Aviv, Israel.



agogue, warehouses filled with grain and food, and lavish swimming pools and steam baths.

For me, it was an emotional moment to stand on the ancient precipice. Below, you see where the Roman army camped after having chased a group of zealous Jewish soldiers and their families who had made Masada their last stand for freedom after Rome destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D. The Romans spent two years besieging Masada, finally building a ramp from the valley floor to the walls of the fortress high above.

The Roman army made it to the top and broke through, yet what they found astonished them. Instead of the Jews allowing their wives and children to be raped, enslaved or tortured to death, they took the lives of their own families, then drew lots for who would be the last man to kill himself as the Romans breached the wall.

We know this because one Jew sur-



Typical Lunch

Before You Go

When people travel to Israel, they have various levels of knowledge of the Bible and Jewish history. Our travel guide often referred to the movie "Ben Hur" when visiting Roman ruins. My daughters would refer to the movie "Exodus" when eating a late-night snack on the terrace of the famous King David Hotel or when staying at a hotel on a kibbutz. With Israel's long history of invasions, it can be difficult to understand the timeline of archeological sites.

Much of the public's understanding of history comes from movies. Below is a list of movies that may get you in the Israel/Jewish mood. The films are good to watch before traveling to Israel, especially for teens who don't want to read "Leviticus" and "Start-up Nation." So, invite friends over and have a movie night with hummus, pita, and Coke Zero (an Israeli favorite). Although some movies may lack in some factual accuracy, they are a good starting point. These titles should be available from your local library, Netflix or Amazon Prime.

The Bible. (2013) This 10-hour mini-series is a powerful, action-packed presentation of creation to John's exile on Patmos. It is a modern production through computer-generated imagery, award-winning filming and acting. Everyone from teens to grandparents will enjoy it.



Fiddler on the Roof (1971) Tevye is a Jewish milkman in 1905 Russia trying to keep his faith and traditions in a changing, hostile world. Through the love interest of his daughters, he is pushed to see how far he will bend his traditions. It is a musical that everyone will enjoy.



Lawrence of Arabia. (1962) T.E. Lawrence, a British lieutenant stationed in Cairo in 1917, is sent to Arabia to find Prince Faisal and serve as a liaison between the Arabs and British against the Turks. Against orders, he unites Arab factions to overtake the Turkish port of Aqaba. He eventually leads the Arabs all the way to Damascus. One Israeli tour guide mentioned it as a truthful telling of colonial intervention in the Middle East.

Schindler's List. (1993.) A German Nazi entrepreneur hires Jewish laborers to work in his Polish factory. He gradually gains a heart for the Jewish workers and becomes their protector.



Through bribes to SS and German officials, Schindler provides for his workers eventually saving many of them. Rated R, it is a historically devastating to watch. Schindler is featured at the Friends of Zion Museum that will be reviewed next month.

Exodus. (1960) Based on the book Exodus, by Leon Uris, the movie begins in 1947 with Jewish refugees living in a camp in Cyprus. An intelligence officer is able to sneak them onto a ship but they are not initially able to enter the British controlled Holy Land. It follows a few of the passengers' lives upon entry. The film covers the creation of Israel by the UN and the struggles that quickly follow.



Six Days in June. (2007) This documentary directed by Ilan Ziv, investigates the causes, actions taken to initiate the Six Day War in 1967, and its immediate consequences in the region due to the victory by Israel. It includes great archival footage that follow both leaders of Israel and Egypt. The causes of Six Day War are reflected in the crisis in the Middle East today.

newsbriefs

Study: Adults accept more traditional gender roles after they become parents

(WNS)--Men and women affirm more traditional family values after the birth of their first child, according to a study released in late July. The study's author, Australian professor and social scientist Janeen Baxter, describes the results as problematic--evidence of men and women conforming to sexist gender roles--in a post on the Child and Family Blog. She notes the study, first published in the journal *Social Forces*, found men and women grow "more traditional" about mothering,



Baxter

housework, and caregiving after the birth of their first child, a shift that should "concern policy makers."

Baxter rejects the notion of God-given gender roles, instead arguing societal structure is to blame. The report contends societal pressure to adopt traditional roles leaves "reluctant" mothers with less opportunity to rethink a responsibility that might not fit her family, and forces "enthusiastic" fathers to fight for opportunities to be involved with their children.

Out-of-Wedlock Births Decline Among Millennials

(WNS)--The majority of babies born to millennial mothers will soon be born within wedlock, according to a new forecast released this week. Research is showing that millennials, who belong to the generation born between 1980 and 2000, are more likely to value marriage before childbirth as they age.

The forecast, released in the August edition of the 2015-2017 U.S. Fertility Forecast by Demographic Intelligence, predicts the coming wave of millennial mothers will "typically have a ring on their finger and a strong expectation that a hands-on parent and partner will be in their family future," according to the forecast summary. Demographic Intelligence is a research firm that analyzes demographic, cultural, and economic trends to forecast marriage and birthrates for private clients like Fisher-Price and Procter & Gamble.

Up until now, the majority of babies born to millennials have been outside of wedlock. But that is changing. As the generation is aging and now entering the late 20s and 30s, more college-educated women are starting to have children, and childbearing is shifting from unmarried to married mothers.

Year to year, the rate of marital childbearing is also growing. The percentage of babies born to married millennial women will increase from 49 percent in 2010 to 63 percent in 2017 and to about 77 percent by 2025, according to Demographic Intelligence projections.

"Older and better-educated, millennial women are moving toward family formation, and these women expect to enter parenthood after marriage," said Sam Sturgeon, president of Demographic Intelligence. "That's partly because they realize their expectations for a more egalitarian parenting arrangement are more likely to be realized if they marry before having children."

Sturgeon says research suggests women with at least a college degree are more likely to see a child as a disruption to their education or career early on. This recent forecast picks up a new wave of women who now have their education and career settled, and would like to step into motherhood with a partner who can share the burden. Sturgeon

Joy starts here

Conference brings together spiritual and physical aspects to maintain joy

"Most of the problems that arise in the world comes out of a low-joy environment," according to E. James Wilder, one of the co-authors of the books "Joy Starts Here" and "Joyful Journey."

Wilder and his co-authors Anna Kang, John and Sungshim Loppnow, and Sheila Sutton, will be hosting a conference drawing from these books Sept. 25-26 at Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Road in Kansas City.

Numerous resources and books are available for Christians on the topic of joy, but one of the unique aspects of the conference and Wilder's books is that it combines spiritual as well as physical aspects of a person to help him or her live joyfully.

"Our approach starts with two understandings that are going to be true for all people across all ages and cultures," Wilder explained. "First, we have an understanding of what God says is true -- the biblical truths. Second, everyone has the human brain. We can put those two things together, and apply the spiritual truths in a way that matches the way our brain functions."

Wilder and his co-authors found that neurologically and theologically, joy arises from "being glad to be with people," and knowing that people are glad to be with you; and they hope the conference will equip people to be able to exercise and live out that joy in their daily lives.

Theologically, their approach finds its basis in John 15, in which Jesus tells his disciples,

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's com-

"Our approach starts with two understandings that are going to be true for all people across all ages and cultures"

James Wilder

mands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." (verses 9-11).

The conference will feature interactive exercises that tie in these theological truths with biological aspects of the body to build practical skills in the lives of the attendees to maintain joy, such as "checking in" with God throughout the day; "resetting the nervous system normal" to a joyful one; and practicing "interactive gratitude" with God.

Wilder has hosted conferences on this topic numerous times previously within the U.S. as well as internationally, including in Seoul, South Korea, and in Chiang-Mai, Thailand. People of various age groups, from teens to adults, have attended the conference, and Wilder added that he still receives letters and feedback months afterward about the positive effects that the conference has had in individuals' lives.

"Unlike some events, where you walk away and say, 'Wow, that was powerful,' and you only hope it lasts, this conference will equip people with tools to keep using as they move forward."

i moreinformation

For more information, visit www.joystartshere.com/KansasCity/.

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newsbriefs

Springfield Church Splits from Presbyterian Denomination

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. - A Missouri church has voted to split with the Presbyterian Church USA over differences in theology.

The Springfield News-Leader reports that 72 percent of the voting members of the First and Calvary Presbyterian Church approved the split.

The church also recently received a restraining order to keep the local presbytery from interfering in the church's operations. While some churches have left the Presbyterian Church USA over its growing acceptance of same-sex marriage and gay clergy, Senior Pastor Andrew Chaney said his church decided to split because of changing teachings on the divinity of Christ, the authority of the Bible and church governance.

He cited new language adopted by Presbyterian Church USA in a governing document that says members are united through diversity, including "theological conviction," which means people of different faith beliefs are welcomed in the church. Chaney said

First and Calvary members generally believe only one conviction should unite the church.

Facebook Page Draws Complaint from Group Over Bible Verses

JONESBORO, Ark. - The Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation says Bible verses posted on a Facebook page operated by the director of 911 emergency dispatch services in Craighead County, Arkansas, constitutes a government endorsement of religion.

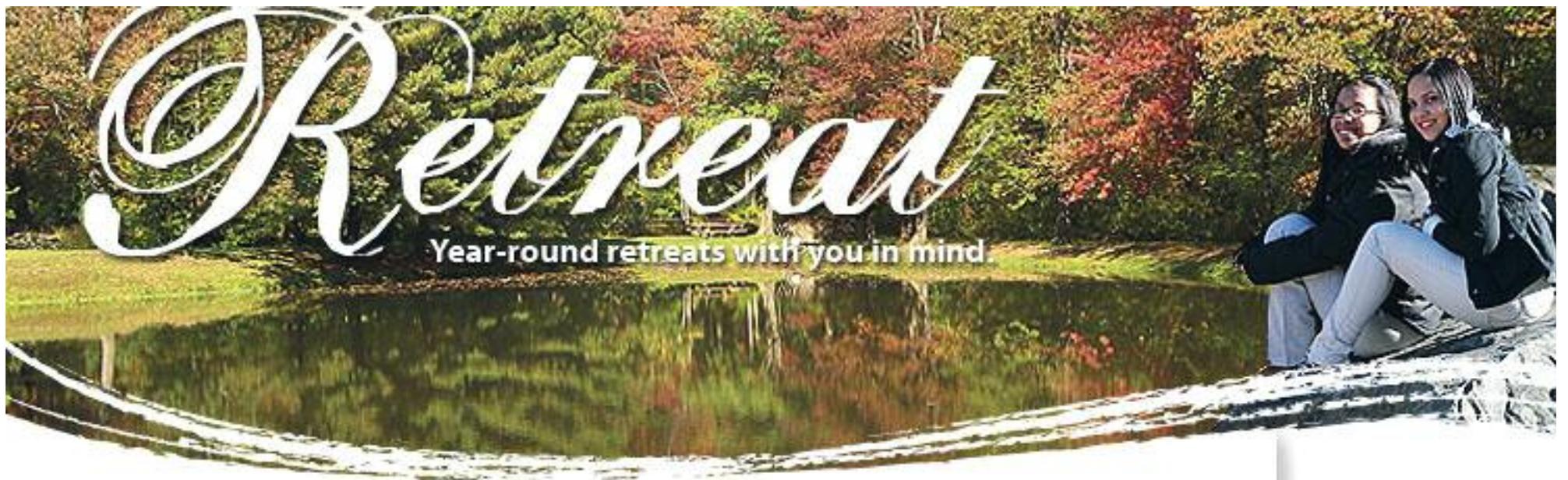
Jonesboro, Arkansas, Mayor Harold Perin initially responded to the complaint by ordering that the religious material be taken off the page, but was later told the site was private and not under the control of city government. The Jonesboro Sun reports that officials have asked for the state attorney general's opinion on the

matter.

The page, formerly called "Dispatch Jonesboro," is now called "Presley Dispatch." It provides alerts on traffic accidents, weather or other law enforcement or public safety topics.



CHANNEY



RETREAT

continued from page 1

ESTABLISH A PURPOSE

Don't host a planning retreat just for the sake of it.

Define a singular driving purpose for your time, and then make sure everything you plan to work on is in alignment with that purpose. For example, I have established that the purpose for our retreat is figuring out how we'll reach a certain revenue goals while maintaining our culture, our quality and our focus on the types of clients we want to work with.

SET A LOOSE AGENDA

An agenda might feel odd for a planning retreat, which most view as a time for creative, outside-the-box thinking, but trust me: if you're hosting your planning retreat last-minute like we are, you won't have time to fall off-task. An agenda can help you stay focused and productive.

Just make sure that it's not too rigid or limiting. You still need to leave time for your creative juices to flow.

GET OUT OF THE OFFICE

It's unlikely that you'll do your best big-picture thinking in the same place



ALYSSA CONRARDY

Co-found and President of Proper Strategies

viewpoint

that you do your routine day-to-day work. Pick another location for your retreat so that the team has a chance of pace.

A hotel, retreat center, bed and breakfast or camp ground could work equally well, depending on your needs.

SET THE RULE THAT THERE ARE NO RULES

A planning retreat is a time to bring all ideas to the table, regardless of their feasibility or practicality. Set the rule upfront that your planning retreat has no rules.

Participants should be comfortable to bring up any idea they'd like, no matter how crazy it may seem. This is how many of the most influential initiatives get hatched.

REFLECT AND RELEASE

With limited time for your retreat, it might be tempting to jump head first into discussing your goals for 2016, but slow down. Your retreat will be a much more positive and rewarding experience if you first take time to reflect back on 2015. Did you set goals at the beginning of the year that you've now met or exceeded?

Be sure to recognize that accomplishment. Did your organization add significant business or grow its staff in 2015? Celebrate how you've grown. It's easy to forget how far our organizations or churches can come in the span of a year unless we deliberately pause to acknowledge it.

FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS

In order to make your retreat a productive endeavor, it's important to keep your focus limited to a few key items. Don't overwhelm your retreat team with too many things to cover. For example, I focus on the following items only:

- Growth
 - Talent
 - Account management
- Nothing more, nothing less.



HAVE FUN AND TAKE BREAKS

A retreat should not be all work and no play. Make sure you take breaks between sessions.

Snacks, physical activity and brain teasers are all great ways to keep your mind sharp through the whole retreat.

SET CLEAR ACTION ITEMS AND MEASUREMENT PLANS

One of the biggest downfalls that organizations face is turning all the talk and pie-in-the-sky plans they cover in their retreats into real action in the New Year.

Don't let this happen to you. Reserve at least the last hour of your retreat to set action items for your team, key performance indicators through which you'll determine whether your goals are being accomplished and measurement plans to keep everyone on track.

As Co-Founder and President of Prosper Strategies, Alyssa Conrardy guides the firm's efforts to help mission-driven organizations build communities and create change.

How to have a successful women's retreat

by Susan Lawrence

Are your women's retreats in a rut? The same women, same traditions, same locations? It's time to step outside those routines and experience a fresh perspective!

Women invest a lot of time and energy into their families, churches, communities, and work. They sacrifice their own needs for others. A retreat helps them recharge, feel encouraged, and be spiritually fed. But our women's retreats can become so routine and stuck in tradition that we're not facilitating the freshness we want to occur in women's lives. Try one or more of these ideas to revitalize your next retreat.

What a Difference a Day Makes

Getting away for 24 hours is wonderful, but some women aren't willing or able to leave their families and job for that long.



Consider a one-day retreat that lasts only eight hours. Retreat means withdrawal, so even a shorter break can be a rest from the routines of everyday life. When you plan a one-day retreat, you'll include more women, keep costs affordable, and make planning simpler for you and your team.

An Experience You Won't Forget

Most groups design their retreats around a speaker, expecting everyone to follow the same schedule and respond to a single person and her message. But

when women experience what they're learning, biblical principles stick with them up to nine times longer! Consider out-of-the-box activities that can be debriefed with discussion and Scripture. Do a ropes course together and then dig into the topic of trust. Embark on a one-day service project and talk about putting faith into action. One group went on a dog-sledding trip—it challenged women physically and then helped them consider challenges God had in store.

Make it Relational

Women like to talk! When people connect, learning becomes more effective and helps build Christian friendships. Don't ask women to sit and listen for hours on end. Instead, have them get into groups and go for a long walk with three simple questions to prompt their discussion. Mix women up at meals and provide

■ See WOMEN page 10



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THE ABBEY

Conception Abbey is located in Conception, Mo., an hour and a half drive north of Kansas City. It is a monastery of the Swiss-American Congregation of the Benedictine Confederation. It was established in 1873 when Abbot Frowin Conrad and seven novices came from Engelberg Abbey in Switzerland to found a monastic house from which to serve the needs of the local Catholic community. Today, the spiritual descendents of Abbot Frowin provide pastoral care to 15 parishes, as well as hospitals, religious houses and schools throughout Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming.

The Benedictine monks of Conception Abbey tend the abbey grounds, care for farmland and orchards, and run The Abbey Guest Center, Conception Seminary College and The Printery House. They are historians, writers, scholars, teachers, musicians and artisans. Through their various apostolates, the monks of Conception Abbey have made substantial contributions throughout the Midwest and beyond.

St. Benedict tells us that "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say: I was a stranger and you welcomed me." The Conception Abbey Guest Center provides simple accommodations in an atmosphere of quiet, perfect for private prayer and reflection. We invite you to stay in our brand new St. Gabriel Guesthouse and welcome your group, small or large. Our facilities include, overnight accommodations, small meeting rooms, large conference rooms and meals. Whether you come for a tour, personal retreat, directed retreat, workshop, or just to get away we hope that after one visit,

you'll never be a stranger to Conception Abbey.

Visit us online for more information and a full listing of our directed retreats, www.conceptionabbey.org/guests. May your stay be spiritually refreshing and personally relaxing.



CAMP PALESTINE

Camp Palestine is more than just a great place to visit. It provides a year round camping experience for spiritual growth, education, relaxation and recreation. It offers the perfect setting for weekend retreats, seminars and conferences. Camp Palestine is located on 160 acres of rural beauty in Chilhowee, Mo. (about 13 miles west of Warrensburg), and one hour east of Kansas City.

Our fully equipped 300-seat dining hall and the smaller private dining room, provides a relaxing place to enjoy delicious, fresh meals prepared daily by our kitchen staff. Our spacious and serene chapel, with fireplace, also includes 4 class rooms available for use.

For your outdoor recreation, we offer an Olympic-size swimming pool, baseball fields, lighted basketball courts, a walking trail, a volley ball court, a soccer field, picnic shelters with grill, a lake for fishing and boating.

For indoor recreation, we offer Wii-games, pop-a-shoot basketball, multiple board games, ping pong, air hockey and foosball tables.

Camp Palestine's overnight accommodations include 16 cabins which accommodate 18 people each. For a more relaxing and formal environment, guests are invited to stay in our 64 room lodge. Camp Palestine is where convenience and comfort finds peace.

LAKE DONIPHAN

Lake Doniphan Conference & Retreat Center is situated on 300 wooded, rolling



acres surrounding two scenic lakes, just outside of Excelsior Springs, Missouri. We're only a short traffic free drive from downtown Kansas City or the Kansas City International Airport. Whether it's a camp, reunion, retreat, group, family, individual, men, women, adult or youth events...Lake Doniphan is a beautiful place to be year round! We also welcome corporate entities looking for more affordable off-site business conferences or retreats.

Guests appreciate Lake Doniphan's peaceful setting for its calming effect and the chance to stop and breathe deeply, letting go of the normal stress factors in their lives. There is something healing and restoring about the woods and the lakes that infiltrates even the busiest of people, if given a chance. Too many of us forget this, unless we deliberately schedule time apart such as for a personal or group retreat.

Founded in 1944 as a Christian youth camp, groups visiting Lake Doniphan include people of many faiths regularly hosting Jewish, Buddhist, Sufi and Kria Yoga groups. This welcoming spirit is based on a mission to provide a place of refuge and reconciliation for people from all walks of life and all faith traditions. We want to enable all our guests to find renewal and inner peace of body, mind and spirit, as they deepen personal relationships with their Creator and others in their lives. We don't limit this opportunity to just some, but welcome all who are seeking.

Groups may reserve the entire conference center if they wish, but because of the layout of the Lake Doniphan grounds, groups do not need to interact, other than to smile if they walk past each other. There are three lodges so groups can be housed in separate buildings. One guest recently commented, "It is wonderful to see the respect with which groups treat each other, regardless of their distinctly different be-

liefs or purpose to be here. Everyone here has always been respectful and honored other's times for worship, meditative walks around the lake, or even an enthusiastic pickup game of basketball." We believe it is because for so many of our guests, Lake Doniphan has become sacred ground.

Lake Doniphan also hosts family reunions and secular groups just looking to get away, or to focus on a shared hobby such as scrapbooking, quilting, singing, or even karate. With an over-night capacity of 300, you'll appreciate our all-inclusive rates which include lodging, meals, meeting space, use of the grounds and many activities. To reach Jim Wheaton, Executive Director, and see if you or your group might benefit from a retreat at Lake Doniphan call (816) 630-1523 or visit their website at www.lakedoniphan.com. Guests and past events are featured on their Facebook page at Facebook/Lake Doniphan. We invite you to visit us soon!



SKY RANCH CAVE SPRINGS

Sky Ranch Cave Springs is located in the breathtaking surroundings of Northeastern Oklahoma, in the four-state area. This 1480 acre, non-denominational facility holds all the adventure of camping, as well as all of the comforts of home. Sky Ranch understands that purposeful and intentional planning is vital to providing an experience that is peaceful, meaningful, and beneficial to all guests. With years of retreat experience to draw from, the staff at Sky Ranch Cave Springs recognizes that a successful retreat begins the moment a potential guest makes an inquiry. With unparalleled attention to every detail, the heart of Sky Ranch is to provide excellent service, outstanding facilities, and unique opportunities for group members and leaders to connect, grow, and benefit from their time together.

Sky Ranch has the capacity to host groups of various sizes, from small family reunions to larger corporate or church retreats. A couple of different lodging options provide modern, comfortable sleeping accommodations for up to 400 guests. A variety of meeting spaces provides seating and gathering opportunities, complete with stages, a full AV inventory, and indoor/outdoor options. A new outdoor amphitheater provides a beautiful backdrop for an intimate time of worship for youth or church retreat groups or a fun twist on movie night!

While lodging and meeting spaces are crucial to retreat success, Sky Ranch knows that feeding group members well is equally important to an enjoyable event! A flexible menu plan and a fully stocked salad bar are just a few of the perks offered by the dining facility.

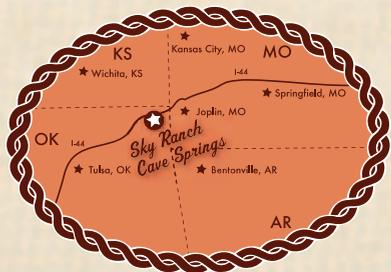
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tivities – from energetic and challenging to more low impact options – providing entertainment, fun, and relaxation for all types of groups. Horses, paintball, swimming, volleyball, basketball, disc golf, skeet shooting, and a 2,300-foot tandem zipline are just some of the incredible activities included in a Sky Ranch retreat.

The foundation of all Sky Ranch camps is to bring kids, parents and groups together and closer to God. Sky Ranch Cave Springs is committed to providing an environment where relationships are nurtured and strengthened – a place where guests and leaders can spend time investing in the group, rather than worrying with the details of the retreat. With the facilities, recreational options and amenities available, Sky Ranch Cave Springs is the perfect location for youth, ladies', men's, and family groups.



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Only one of six in the country, Trout Lodge & Camp Lakewood is a year-round YMCA conference and retreat center, summer/winter camp and outdoor education facility centrally located outside of Potosi, Mo., only 90 minutes south of St. Louis. Situated on 5,200 gloriously wooded acres with a spectacular 360-acre lake, rates include lodging (hotel-style, family cabins, dorm-style or rustic cabins), buffet meals and many amazing activities, with children five and under free. This is truly an affordable one-of-a-kind experience guaranteed to make lifelong memories.

Yes, families who visit Trout Lodge, children who proudly call Camp Lakewood "my camp", and adults who participate in awesome adventures all love our facility. But did you know that we're also home to hundreds of groups each year –

churches, schools, reunions, corporate, universities, special needs camps and more? Not a "one-size-fits-all" facility, our event planning staff will assist you in designing an experience based on YOUR needs. From lodging to meals, activities and even meeting spaces, your adventure is uniquely yours.

Our recreational activities are plenty: paintball, caving, horseback riding, water/boating activities (seasonal), arts & crafts, zip line/climbing towers, sports, mini-golf, team building and so much more, which creates endless opportunities for a fully customizable experience.

Something else that sets us apart from for-profit resorts is our Y mission of helping others, which is why no one is ever turned away due to financial constraints. Compassion for others is evident as soon as you step on our property. And everyone, from the food service staff to the program staff is welcoming and excited to make your stay a perfect experience. You are always far away from the ordinary and right in the middle of the action when you stay at Trout Lodge & Camp Lakewood.

Visit ymcaoftheozarks.org or call 888-FUN-YMCA for more information.

Why Have a Men's Retreat?

Retreats are a useful way to get men away from the phone, the job, the television, and other distractions and into a concentrated atmosphere for evangelism, encouragement, and spiritual transformation.

WHY PLAN A MEN'S RETREAT?

Men in your church are hungry for fellowship and friendship. An organized chance to get away with other Christian men opens doors for deeper sharing.

Big events help smaller men's groups generate enthusiasm and recruit new members. Several churches working together can offer a more attractive program than most can put together on their own.

Spiritual decisions are sometimes made more easily in larger gatherings away from home. A retreat can be a time to harvest spiritual seeds planted and nurtured much earlier.

WHAT DO MEN DO ON A RETREAT?

- Make and strengthen friendships.
- Enjoy recreation... fishing, volleyball, softball, basketball, hiking, skiing, camping, archery, trail rides, motor derbies, ping pong, water sports, rafting, canoeing, target or skeet shooting, golf, muzzleloading, rock-climbing, horseshoes.
- Share group experiences... meals, discussions, videos,



- seminars, devotions, special speakers, worship.
- Focus on high-impact topics... personal finances, leadership, marriage, parenting, making a career count for God, finding a personal ministry, overcoming a painful past, managing conflict and anger, rebuilding and maintaining personal integrity, discovering a spiritually-empowered life, setting ultimate priorities.
- Examine personal values and make or renew spiritual commitments.

Regardless of the goal of your men's retreat, it will be a transforming event for your church or group. Be creative and step out of the box. Your men will thank you for the time and thought you devoted to them.

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*Where's
the best
place to
hold your
retreat?*

Things to consider as
you choose your location

Kay Nysse | Tahquitz

IS YOUR GROUP ADULTS, KIDS, COUPLES, SINGLES, OR FAMILIES; OR A MIXTURE OF ALL OF THE ABOVE?

Check out what type of housing is available at the facility you are contracting. Would your group be better suited to sleeping in dorms, individual rooms, or cabins? A big question can be, "Do I have to walk outside to find the bathrooms or showers?" or even, "Are there flush toilets?" Is the terrain rugged or can it be walked in high heels? Will the older members of your group enjoy getting around there as much as the not-so-older ones? Remember, most retreats are not about endurance tests.

WOULD OUR GROUP BE HAPPIEST WITH A RUSTIC, SEMI-RUSTIC, COMFORTABLE, OR A LUXURIOUSLY PAMPERED SETTING?

Retreat facilities offer a wide variety of amenities. Ahead of time, be sure to check out whether or not your choice offers an emphasis on rugged outdoorsy type activities, includes its own in-house spa and exercise room, or is somewhere in between.

Is a pool important to the enjoyment and relaxation of your bunch? How close is the shopping adventure if that might be an interest for free time? What does the area offer in sights and recreational opportunities?

Some retreat attendees have jumped



out of their cars upon arriving, tennis gear or golf clubs in hand, only to find that the facility does not have tennis courts or even a miniature golf course, contrary to what someone's second cousin's wife's brother thought he heard about the retreat five years ago.

It's sad to disappoint your group before things even get started. It makes the truly spiritual experiences at a retreat more difficult to come by.

FOOD!

What is your group's expectation with regard to meals? Unfortunately, we are food-oriented creatures, and this item can make or break a retreat experience. Is your group generally happy with "home camp cooking" or are they seeking more of a gourmet, cuisine type of fare? Most facilities have sample menus that your leaders can look over beforehand.

LAST AND CERTAINLY NOT LEAST -- RETREAT.

The word implies getting away, coming to a place apart from the normal,

busy, everyday goings on to seek spiritual refreshment. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God..."

Does the facility that you are considering do that for you, and will it give your people that needed respite so that they will find the peace to listen for God's still, small voice? If you are able to, visit the retreat sites that you are investigating. You'll have a much better idea of whether or not they will suit the needs of your group and a much clearer picture of the directions needed to navigate there. Driving distance can be an important factor in your decision. Everyone will have differing opinions on just how far away is far enough.

Above all else, cover your plans and your retreat in prayer. God will accomplish exactly what he desires with your retreat, whether or not everything goes according to your plans.

Psalm 23:3 says, "He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

Come and let Him restore your soul.

WOMEN

continued from page 7

an icebreaker. Play board games that allow for conversation.

Throughout your retreat, plan for plenty of discussion in small groups, with no more than five women per group. This allows everyone to go deeper, grow closer, and build more lasting relationships.

Smarter, not Harder

Why reinvent the wheel when there are retreat resources that

have already been tested and fine-tuned? Take advantage of creative ideas and practical tools such as planning timelines, supply lists, schedule suggestions, promotional and registration items, and more. Network with other retreat directors by sharing in online discussion boards. Involve new women to join in as you plan—and be 100 percent open to the new ideas they bring. The more others are involved, the more likely they are to invite friends and create an excellent retreat for everyone.

Step out of those retreat ruts and revitalize the women in your church. Freshen things up and be refreshed yourself!

—Susan Lawrence is a women's ministry consultant



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Grape Friends Harvest



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ISIS HORROR: World leaders ignoring genocide of oldest Christian communities



JOHNNIE MOORE

Author and former Sr. Vice President, Campus Pastor and a Professor of Religion at Liberty University

viewpoint

In the middle of the first Republican debate, I started receiving emergency messages from the Assyrian Christian community in the Middle East.

They were writing to inform me that ISIS had attacked yet another Assyrian city in Syria — a city filled with Christians. This time it was in the Homs province, and they did there what they have done in so many other cities. They kidnapped at least 60 Christians, and among them are dozens and dozens of women and children. I'm told the number will probably climb.

Like the more than 200 Christians ISIS kidnapped along the Khabour River in Syria in February, the fate of these new victims is unknown.

Yet, no one in the world can say they do not know what ISIS does to Christians in the Middle East. This includes President Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Vice President Biden, and all of those — Republican or Democrat — running for president.

In the words of "emir" of the "Caliphate," ISIS intends on marching all the way to Rome and will "break their [Christian] crosses and trade and sell their women" as they go.

So, far, they have fulfilled their promise. Every single encounter these terrorists



have had with these ancient Christian communities has resulted in one of four outcomes: forced conversion, sexual slavery, extortion or execution.

We have evidence of this — abundant evidence — including a price list from a slave market in Mosul which lists the slaves for sale by age and by religion with Christian girls listed from 1- to 9-years-old for approximately \$172. Older Yazidi and Christian women can be bought for the cost of a pack of cigarettes.

Who can forget the cover of ISIS's October magazine which superimposed an ISIS flag atop the obelisk in St. Peter's Square, the Nazi-like symbols they painted on the homes of Christians in Mosul, the scores of churches destroyed, manuscripts burned, and the crosses chipped out of the tombstones in Christian cemeteries? Then there were the 21 Egyptians and the 30 Ethiopians who were grotesquely executed in Libya, for their faith alone.

This recent kidnapping is a stark reminder that the rhetoric of this presidential season effects real lives — and innocent children — at a time when the world's most ancient Christian commu-

nities face a legitimate threat of extinction at the hands of terrorists who've been allowed to run wild across our world.

If our leaders don't begin to take this threat more seriously, the oldest Christians communities in the world will have survived nearly 2,000 years of conflict — from the likes of Genghis Khan — only to fade into history in the 21st century. They literally might not survive past 2015.

Syria's quiet Christian genocide wages on while the world remains mostly indifferent. I wonder what we will say to our children and grandchildren when they ask us what we did to stop this Christian holocaust?

William Wilberforce's words seem apropos, "You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again that you did not know."

Johnnie Moore is the author of a new book about Jesus called Dirty God (#Dirty-God). He spent a dozen years at Liberty University where he was its senior vice president and campus pastor as well as a professor of religion. He now works in Hollywood for an Emmy-Award-winning television producer.

Religious hypocrites



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

Clay Center, Kan. — A Florida teenager once made national news after he was arrested for an impersonation stunt. Matthew, an 18 year old, wormed his way into being a physician's assistant at a local hospital. He had an I.D. badge, the right clothes and was even trusted by a doctor to do CPR on a patient.

Matthew was a fake, pretender or an actor. In a word he was a hypocrite. Often people say the reason they do not

attend church is because some religious hypocrite ruined it for them. I have been in church since I was a little boy and have seen my share of these fake Christians.

What is so frustrating is these Bible-toting pretenders appear to say and do all the right things and get away with it. They go to church, speak good Christiane and give the impression of being a good person, while many believe them. However, in places or circumstances where the mask comes off, another side is exposed. Their immorality, selfishness, or anger surfaces. People who witness this see first-hand the two-faced act being played out.

Jesus once said these religious hypocrites will stand before Him on their day of reckoning and plead for mercy saying, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works

in your name?" (Matthew 7:22). Yet they will be utterly shocked to hear Jesus say, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness" (Matthew 7:23). We can fool others or even ourselves, but nobody can fool Jesus.

"Unless one is born again," Jesus clearly stated, "he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Being good some of the time is not good enough. We must be born again through the work of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Then we must walk in loving and humble submission to Him, for Jesus tells us that "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Stop being a pretender and start being real. Surrender your whole life to Christ. Call upon Him in a spirit of brokenness and be changed in a moment. May Jesus be your hope for today.

Clint Decker is President & Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc. cdecker@greatawakenings.org

'Don't judge me'



REV. DR. IAN PAUL

Associate minister at St Nic's, Nottingham, England, Honorary Assistant Professor

myopinion

Why Christians need to challenge assumption that taking sides wrong

I have a guilty secret. Every Saturday morning, whenever I am at home, I have a lie-in. Not just any old lie-in; it follows a particular routine. I get up, go downstairs, and take our dog for a walk. Then I prepare breakfast and take it upstairs again, and my wife and I have breakfast in bed.

And then...I stay there. It is my one moment of indulgent behavior — don't judge me for it! But what it does mean is that, most Saturdays, I tune in to a live radio program with the Rev Richard Coles.

Richard is wonderful to listen to. He is interesting, witty and poetic. Every link sounds as though it has been finely crafted. And, like any good chat-

"When we decide not to take a position on an issue, we are in fact taking a position: if we don't disapprove, we are offering our tacit approval."

show host, he is non-judgemental. After all, why would anyone come on a show to be quizzed or questioned? You want your story to be listened to with interest.

So it was fascinating to hear him the other week talking to Boris Becker, the youngest ever player to win Wimbledon at the age of 17. During the conversation, Richard talked about Becker's "unusual family arrangements" as giving him a "richness of personal experience". He was referring to Becker's widely reported one-night stand with a Russian model in a restaurant when his wife was pregnant with their second child. The encounter led to the birth of a child by the woman, and to Becker's divorce from his wife.

All this got me thinking. Becker was clearly happy with the non-judgemental tone of the discussion. But I wonder what his wife would have thought about it? The sense of neutrality about what was perhaps the worst form of betrayal within a marriage could only be received as a slap

■ See REV. DR. IAN PAUL page 21

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

the events calendar

Compiled by Anita Widaman

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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!



NOV 20 7:00 P.M. CASTING CROWNS AT THE TOPEKA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 214 SE 8TH AVE., TOPEKA, KS 66603.

some bands: Plumb is known for her song lyrics and beautiful voice; Rapture Ruckus- exciting hip hop from New Zealand. General Admission -\$15. Tickets online at www.attendstar.com or at the Coffeehouse. Seating is limited to 299. This will be a sellout show! All ages! (620) 431.5815. www.fireescape.net

THE BROTHERHOOD TOUR. ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND AND BOOTH BROTHERS. Oct. 23, 7 p.m. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 East 350 Highway, Raytown, MO 64138. 816-353-1994

GREG LOGINS AND REVIVAL. October 24, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church, 215 Jefferson, Kearney, MO. 816-628-5583.

NEWSBOYS CONCERT. November 12, 7:00 pm. Memorial Hall, 600 N 7th, Kansas City, KS 66101. Featuring Hawk Nelson.

CASTING CROWNS. Nov 20, 2015 07:00 pm. Topeka Performing Arts Center, 214 SE 8th, Topeka, KS 66603

SOUTHERN GOSPEL (CALL FOR GROUPS)

ALPHA OMEGA CHRISTIAN MUSIC ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING, PRAYER, DEVOTION, POTLUCK AND JAM. FIRST FRIDAY, 7pm. 10035 E. Westport Rd., Independence, 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., KCMO. 913-432-0359.

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE CHURCH. SECOND SATURDAY, 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 SATURDAY. 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. pegcla@msn.com.

MOMENT OF TRUTH BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH. THIRD SATURDAY in January, May, September & October, 7pm. 310 Randolph Rd, Claycomo, MO. Gospel music sing. 816-452-4426.

RADIANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD. LAST SUNDAY, 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. SECOND SUNDAY, 6 p.m. Pot luck dinner at 5 p.m. Paradise Missouri. 816-591-1020.

CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

AVOID PROBATE. September 3, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO



SEPT 12 BETH MOORE LIVING PROOF LIVE SIMULCAST. VARIOUS LOCATIONS.

64063. 816-524-3200.

FALL REVIVAL SERVICES. September 6-11, 10:30 am. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO 64082. Fall Revival with Chresten Tomlin. September 6: 10:30 am & 6:00 pm. Monday-Friday: 7:00 nightly. 816-246-7625.

ALPHA COURSE. September 9-December 2, 5:30 pm. KC First Church, 11811 Stateline Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. The internationally recognized Alpha ministry provides a relationally minded, friendship focused, model of educational evangelism through hospitality (open meal), video based gospel presentations, and gracious conversation around tables. This ministry provides members with a wonderful opportunity to invite their friends who have questions about the very meaning of life, and offers a Christian response.

BEGINNING ACTING CLASS: ALADDIN. Wednesdays September 9-November 4, 5:00 pm. Parkville YMCA, 8875 Clark Ave., Parkville, MO 64152. Sponsored by Act One Academy of Christian Theatre. act1kc.com

GOOD NEWS TRAINING. September 12, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. (Register by September 10.) BreakPointe Community Church, 10001 W. 88th St., Overland Park, KS. \$6.00. Lunch is provided, and materials are available for purchase. 816-358-1138.

BETH MOORE SIMULCAST. Sept. 12. Grace Family Fellowship, 125 N. Armstrong, Pleasant Hill, MO 64080. \$35 price includes ticket, breakfast and box lunch. After Sept 5, price is \$30 and will not include lunch. To purchase tickets, contact the church office at 816-540-5872 or visit our website at www.gffpleasanthill.org.

BETH MOORE LIVING PROOF LIVE SIMULCAST. September 12, 8:00 am. Pisgah Baptist Church, 112 Pisgah Dr., Excelsior Spring, MO 64024. Early registration \$30 per person. After July 1, price increases to \$40. Cost includes light breakfast, lunch, the Simulcast, and materials. Capacity limited; register early. Child care is not provided. 816-630-5121.

calendar continued on next page

CONCERTS

CROWDER, LAUREN DAIGLE, NF (NATE FEUERSTEIN), FINDING FAVOUR, AND 3FOR3. September 2, 7:00 p.m. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 East 350 Highway, Raytown, MO 64138. General Admission \$20 816-353-1994

NEHEMIAHFEST IX. September 18-20. Smith's Fork Park, 1601 DD Hwy., Smithville, MO 64089. Free Admission! Christian Concert and Camping Event. Nearly 50 bands on 4 stages. Food, fun fellowship. Friday headliner, John Elefante, former lead singer, Kansas! Saturday, Bread Stone. www.nehemiahfest.com.

SWEET SPIRIT & FRIENDS GOSPEL MUSIC OUTREACH. September 19, 6:00 pm food, 7:00 pm music. Moment of Truth, 310 Randolph Road, Claycomo, MO 64119. Tribute to Outreach Founder: Riley Brown (sharing Riley's music). 816-452-4426.

DELINDA LAYNE & FRIENDS CONCERT. September 26, 6:30 pm. Leawood Baptist Church, 83rd and State Line Road - Northwest corner, Leawood, KS 66206. Delinda is coming back to town for a FREE concert. She will be joined by David Smart, Andrew Yates, Peggy Forstand, Elizabeth Birger, and more! A love offering will be taken. 913-649-0100.

SERYN AND D.CLEA IN CONCERT October 5,

2015, 7:30 PM. FireEscape Coffeehouse, 126 W. Main, Chanute, KS. 66720. Two great bands- SERYN from Nashville and D.Clea from Springfield, MO- folk, alternative - Adults- \$10, students- \$5 - all ages show! Tickets online at www.attendstar.com Seating is limited! (620) 431.5815. www.fireescape.net

THE KING'S HERALDS. October 5, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church, 215 Jefferson, Kearney, MO. 816-628-5583.

PLUMB AND RAPTURE RUCKUS- THE EXHALE TOUR. October 23, 2015, 7:30 PM. FireEscape Coffeehouse, 126 W. Main, Chanute, KS. Two awe-

Family Fun

Sept. 26 thru Nov. 1

Fri. 6-10
Sat. 12-10
Sun. 12-6

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SUPREME COURT MARRIAGE DECISION & RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. September 12, 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Kaufman Foundation Conference Center, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, MO. Attorney Whitehead will be conducting an extensive seminar regarding protecting churches and ministries related to the Supreme Court Marriage Decision. You will take home a practical action plan with policies to preserve your religious freedom. To register contact www.u-shine.org.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY COURSE. September 13, 2:00 pm. Pisgah Baptist Church, 112 Pisgah Dr., Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. \$95 per person or per married couple. Dave Ramsey's 9-week video course. Sundays 2:00-3:30 pm beginning September 13.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? September 13-October 4, 6:00 pm. KC First Church of Nazarene, 11811 Staline Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. Building on the Parable of the Good Samaritan, KCFC accepts Jesus injunction to be a neighbor to those we know, even those outside our comfort zone. Four week Sunday night study. The study addresses how we might become better neighbors to people with different ethnic backgrounds, those with Muslim backgrounds, those who are part of the Gay and Lesbian community, and those families who have members struggling with Mental Illness. 816-942-9022.

2015 FALL HOLY DAYS AT OR HAOLAM. September 13, 7:30 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah; September 14, 10:00 am Rosh Hashanah; September 22, 7:30 pm Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre; September 23, 11:00 am Yom Kippur Shabbat Svc; September 23, 6:00 pm Neilah (break the fast) picnic at Harmon Park, Prairie Village, KS; October 3, 10:00 am Sukkot (outside, parking lot to north, weather permitting/carry-in meal); October 10, 10:00 am Simkhat Torah Shabbat service; October 17, 10:00 am Messiah's Birthday Celebration. Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation, 7029 W. 74th St., Overland Park, KS. 913-383-8448.

AWANA. September 16, 2015-May 2016, 6:30 pm. Westbrooke Church, 9777 Antioch Rd., Overland Park, KS 66212. A bible club for boys & girls, ages 4 through 6th grade. We meet Wednesday nights, 6:30-8:00 pm during the school year. office@westbrookechurch.org.

AVOID PROBATE. September 22, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

JOY FOR FAMILIES. September 24, 6:30 pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 12501 W. 137th St., Overland Park, KS 66221. Speaker Dr. Jim Wilder foundational teaching on how to expand emotional capacity to stay in the tension of relationships particularly in light of traumatic histories. Learn practical skills to help increase joy in the family system. 913-706-9167.

JOY STARTS HERE FOR LEADERS-CHURCH, SCHOOL AND MARKETPLACE. September 25, 11:30 am. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, Kansas City, MO 64112. This is a \$10 box lunch that includes a talk by Dr. Jim Wilder about the role of the leader and how to help spread joy in your community. 913-706-9167.

JOY STARTS HERE. September 25-26, 6:30 pm. Colonial Presbyterian, 9500 Wornall, Kansas City, MO 64112. Speakers Dr. Jim Wilder and Ed Khouri. If you want to live with more joy and experience richer and more meaningful relationships with others and God, plan now to attend. 913-706-9167.

GOOD NEWS TRAINING. September 26, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. (Register by September 24.) Blue Ridge Bible Church, 8524 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO. \$6. Lunch is provided, and materials are available for purchase. 816-358-1138.

FEAST OF SUKKOT 2015. September 27-October 5. Tabernacles in Kansas City. info@sukkotkc.org.

WOMEN TO WOMEN: LEARN, CONNECT & SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST. September 28, 7:00 pm. Liberty Christian Fellowship, 1815 W. Liberty Dr., Liberty, MO 64068. This is a special night brought to you in the conjunction with Sat-7 Women for Middle East HOPE which reaches across borders and connects hearts and hands with the serious spiritual practical needs of Middle Eastern and



SEPT 22 AN EVENING WITH MATTHEW KELLY, OVERLAND PARK CONVENTION CTR.

North Africa women to produce real change.

PERSUING THE COMMON GOOD OF THE CITY. October 2-3. Christ Community Brookside Church, 400 W. 67th St., Kansas City, MO 64113. Move beyond individual contribution, and engage together in a conversation on how to best collaborate as neighbors for the flourishing of Kansas City. cg2015@madetoflourish.org

BRANSON FALL SPECTACULAR WEEKEND EVENT. October 9, 10, 11. 2820 W. Hwy. 76, Branson, MO 65652. Sponsored by Midwest Christian Singles. 417-297-0062.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ADULT RETREAT. October 12-14. Windermere Camp, 1650 Koehler Dr., Roach, MO 65787. Speakers: Dr. Bing Bayer & Dr. Randy Fullerton. Worship Leaders: Aaron Allison. 800-346-2215.

WRITE ABOUT JESUS. October 15-17. First Baptist Church-Harvester, 4075 Old Hwy. 94, St. Charles, MO 63304. Our mission is to equip and inspire the Christian songwriting community. 314-346-1275.

ALLIANCE FOR LIFE CONFERENCE 2015. October 25-27. Chateau on the Lake, Branson, MO. Networking to create a culture of life. 816-806-4168.

RECONCILIATION WEEKEND. November 6-8. Sponsored by If Not For Grace. A three-day, two-night retreat where abortion wounded women and men will experience unconditional love, grace and forgiveness. Permission is afforded to grieve the lost child or children and work through the shame of the regretted choice to abort. info@inf.org.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

DRAMATIC TRUTH CLASS. September 1. Dramatic Truth School of Arts, 10510 Grandview Rd., Kansas City, MO 64137. New classes added Intermediate and Advanced Contemporary, Choreography Composition, Irish Step, and Belt Program Martial Arts now offered. 816-767-9222.

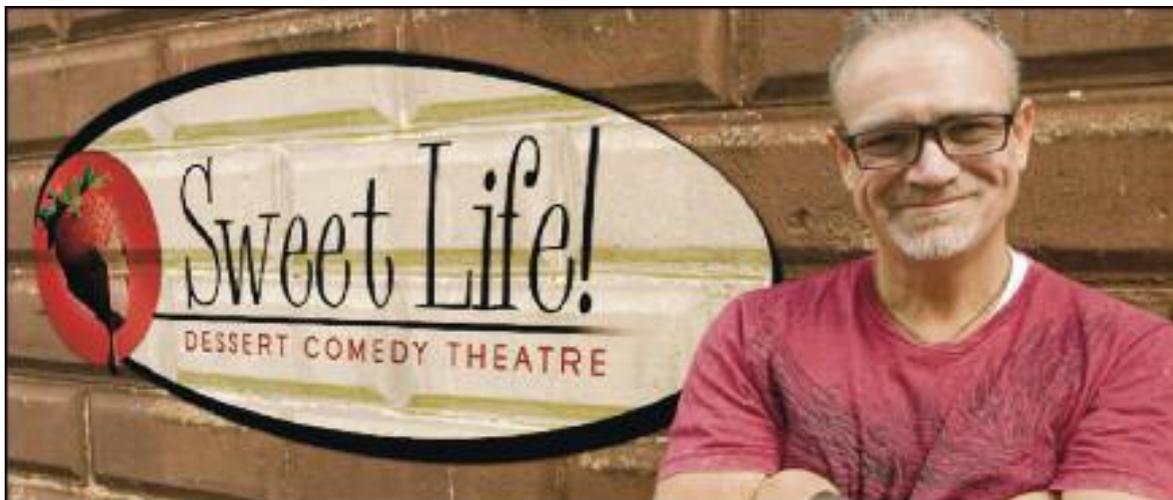
PETER PAN AUDITIONS. September 1 & 3, 5:30 pm. Northland Mission Auditorium, 600 NW 110th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64155. Sponsored by Act One Academy of Christian Theatre.

LOVE'S OUTREACH COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION. September 12, 10:00 am. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO 64082. Free food for families in need. Free and open to the public. Valid ID and proof of residency needed to participate. 816-246-7625.

2015 APPLE FESTIVAL. September 12, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. First Baptist Church, 58 Highway & South Washington St., Raymore, MO 64083. Handmade quilt and craft auction; handmade craft sales; great free children's area with games, prizes, face painting; food including breakfast, lunch and a variety of apple treats; live Christian entertainment. Most activities will be indoors. www.mbch.org. 1-800-264-6224.

DEFEET HUNGER. September 12, 8:00 am. St. James United Methodist Church, 5540 Wayne Ave., Kansas City, MO 64110. Pack lunches for Harvesters. We hope to pack 10, 000 this year. The food that is packed at

calendar continued on next page



Two Dessert Theater Comedy Events!
November 14
Bethany Lutheran Church
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or call (913) 648-2228
Tickets available on iTickets.com

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9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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- Handmade Craft Sales
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Christian Business Network



De-Feet Hunger goes 3 places: 1) Older kids in school that don't have backpack snacks (could be used for dinner or over the weekends). 2) Emergency Assistance (disasters like tornadoes, etc.). 3) Any agency of Harvesters can access and request the lunches. 816-863-4662.

FIRST NIGHT OF CLASSES. September 15, 6:00 pm. Heart of America Bible College, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. Please join us as we kick off our fall semester teaching and training God's leaders for His glory. 816-356-6380.

AN EVENING WITH MATTHEW KELLY. September 22, 7:00 pm. Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS. Registration fee: \$100 per person (\$50 is tax-deductible). Keynote speaker Matthew Kelly. Kelly uses his keen sense of humor and passion for helping organizations become the best-version-of-themselves. His books include *The Dream Manager*, *The Rhythm of Life*, and *Off Balance*. Sponsored by Vitae Foundation. Reserve your seat by calling 573-634-4316.

TGIW/CTC/PMM/DLC GOLF TOURNAMENT. September 24, Registration 10:45 am; Lunch 11:45 am; Shotgun start 12:30 pm. Creekmoor Golf Club, Raymore, MO. The cost is \$195 per person or \$700/four-some. Lunch and on-course snacks and drinks included. 816-525-6339.

BOW TIES FOR BABIES. September 25, 6:00 pm. Grand Street Café, 4740 Grand Ave., Kansas City, MO 64112. Bow Ties for Babies benefiting Alexandra's House, a community-based, volunteer, peer support perinatal hospice and infant care system for parents pregnant with babies with lethal or sub-lethal anomalies, pregnancies that end unexpectedly or any infant who passes away in our community. 816-931-5378.

CHRISTIAN COLLEGE FAIR. September 28, 6:00-



SEPT 12 2015 APPLE FESTIVAL. 9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 58 HIGHWAY & SOUTH WASHINGTON ST., RAYMORE, MO 64083.

8:00 pm. Maranatha Christian Academy, 15000 W. 63rd St., Shawnee, KS 66216. Financial advising time, students in 9th-12th grade.

COLLEGE FAIR Sept. 28. Change/Add: Financial Aid Workshop, 7 p.m.

RED BRIDGE 50 YEARS! JOY IN THE JOURNEY. Red Bridge Baptist Church, 4901 E Red Bridge Rd, Kansas City, MO 64137. October month long celebrations. Special events include: speakers Jimmy Draper and Bud Long. This Hope in concert, All-Music Sunday, Missions Focus. 816-761-1194

FUSION YOUTH WEEKEND. October 2 & 3, 2015. MBTS Chapel Auditorium, 5001 North Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, Missouri 64118. Fusion Youth Weekend is for high school students from 9th-12th grade and their Youth leaders. This weekend will primarily focus on how we can be reaching the lost around us while having the Gospel as our motivating factor! Fusion@mbts.edu or call 816-273-3824

2015 GOLF TOURNAMENT RACHEL HOUSE. October 9. Staley Farms Golf Club, 10310 N. Olive Ave.,

Kansas City, MO. Together we are making a difference two lives at a time. 816-875-1055.

AMERICA'S PRO-LIFE HALF MARATHON/5K. October 24. Katy Trail State Park, Jefferson City, MO. Hosted by Vitae & LIFE Runners 573-634-4316.

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE ANNUAL BANQUET. October, 29, 6:00 pm. Adam's Mark, 9103 E. 39th St., Kansas City, MO 64133. Tickets on sale now for \$40. Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be the guest speaker at the Annual Benefit Dinner for Missouri Right to Life. 816-353-4113.

THE MARKET AND COOKIE CAFÉ-HOME DÉCOR, ARTISAN EXTRAVAGANZA. October 30-31. Central Church of the Nazarene, 12600 W. 87th St. Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66215. 913-541-2600.

BLUE SPRINGS MO IMPACTING THE GLOBE. November 7, 8:00 am. Cordill-Mason Elementary School, 4001 SW Christiansen Dr. Blue Springs, MO 64014. The Blue Springs community is partnering with ImpactLives, a non-profit organization, to prepare more than a quarter of a million meals to be distributed through sustainable humanitarian efforts in the Dominican Republic and possibly other 3rd world countries. 816-519-0085.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS AND VENDORS! HOLMESWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH 44th ANNUAL HOLIDAY MARKET. November 14, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Holmeswood Baptist Church, 9700 Holmeswood Rd., Kansas City, MO 64131. Registration forms: www.holmeswood.org. 816-942-1729.

THE SWEET LIFE COMEDY TOUR. November 14. Bethany Lutheran Church, Overland Park Campus, 7pm and Stilwell Campus, 4pm. Two Dessert Theater Comedy Events! Tickets just \$10. www.bethany-joco.org. Tickets at iTickets.com or

call (913) 648-2228

FINE ARTS

THE ADDAMS FAMILY. Through September 20. New Theatre Restaurant, 9229 Foster, Overland Park, KS 66212. 913-649-7469.

POPS IN THE PARK. September 7, 7:00 pm. The Theatre in the Park, 7710 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS. The Kansas City Symphony's free Labor Day concert. Bring your family and friends, plus blankets, lawn chairs and a picnic dinner.

CIRQUE ÉLOIZE ID. September 8-13. Starlight Theatre, 4600 Starlight Rd., Kansas City, MO 64132. 816-363-7827.

SATURDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE. September 11-October 4. The Nelson-Atkins Museum, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Inspired by the life of George Seurat and his famous painting "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte" and featuring a Grammy Award-winning soundtrack. 816-235-2700.

INTO THE WOODS, JR. September 11, 12 and 13. Hollywood Theatre, 401 Delaware St., Leavenworth, KS. Presented by The River City Community Players. 913-651-0027.

THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE. September 18, 25, October 2; 7:30 pm. September 19, 26, October 3; 7:30 pm. September 20, 27, October 4; 2:00 pm. The Barn Players 6219 Martway, Mission, KS. \$18. 913-402-6920.

IMAGINATION. September 19, 11:00 am-2:00 pm. Puppetry Art Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO 64052. \$5.00 per person, admission includes a tour of our puppet museum. A musical variety show using recycled bottles, pipes, and yarn. 816-833-9777.

THE MIRACLE WORKER. September 22-October 25. The Coterie Theatre, 2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-474-6552.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT. September 24-25. Lied Center, 1600 Stewart Dr., Lawrence, KS 66045. Dreamcoat is the irresistible family musical about the trials and triumphs of Joseph, Israel's favorite son. 785-864-2787.

DON GIOVANNI. September 26, 7:30; September 30, 7:30 pm; October 2, 7:30 pm; October 4, 2:00 pm. Muriel Kauffman Theatre, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Mozart's music is evocative and glorious as the Don romances and then discards his conquests. He finally meets his end and the cold hand of destiny in this beautifully re-imagined master piece. 816-994-7200.

TOM SAWYER. October 1, 7:00 pm; October 2, 7:00 pm; October 3, 2:00 & 7:00 pm; October 4, 2:00 pm. School Day Performances: October 1, 10:00 am; October 2, 10:00 am. Bell Cultural Events Center MidAmerica Nazarene, 2030 E. College Way, Olathe, KS 66062. Sponsored by CYT. www.cytkc.org

KRISTIN CHENOWETH WITH THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY. October 3, 8:00 pm. Helzberg Hall, 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO. Benefit concert for arts education. 816-994-7222.

MULAN JR. October 15, 7:00 pm; October 16, 7:00 pm; October 17, 2:00 & 7:00 pm; October 18, 2:00 pm. School Day Performances: October 15, 10:00 am; October 16, 10:00 pm. Goppert Theater Avila University, 11901 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64105. Sponsored

■ calendar continued on next page



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JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNOCOLOR DREAMCOAT

SEPT. 24-25

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNOCOLOR DREAMCOAT. AT THE LIED CENTER, 1600 STEWART DR., LAWRENCE, KS.

by CYT. www.cytkc.org.

FAMILY OUTINGS

SANTA-CALI-GON FESTIVAL. September 4-7. Historic Independence Square, Independence, MO 64050. Free. 500 artisan, crafter, food and commercial vendor booths. Three free entertainments stages, a large carnival midway, car shows, including antique fire trucks. SCG 5K run. 816-252-4745.

RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL. Open weekends plus Labor

Day & Columbus Day September 5-October 18, 10:00 am-7:00 pm. 913-721-2110. KCRenFest.com.

RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS: LEGENDS. September 10-13. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64105. 816-949-7140.

ART WESTPORT 2015. September 11, 5:00-9:00 pm; September 12, 10:00 am-9:00 pm; September 13, 11:00 am-5:00 pm. Westport, Kansas City, MO. Top artist from around the Metro will line the streets of Westport showcasing their original art, unique jew-

elry, fine crafts and much more. www.artwestport.net.

SPRINT FAMILY FUN SERIES. September 12, 11:00 am-3:00 pm. Kansas City Power & Light District, 14th St. between Main St. & Walnut St., Kansas City, MO. \$5 per child fee applied for premium activities all-access wristband. Admission to the event is free. Kids dressed as their favorite super hero or princess receive a special treat.

LIBRARY IN THE PARK. September 12, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Big Eleven Lake, N. 11th Street and State Ave., Kansas City, KS 66102. Sponsored by Kansas Public Library. All food and activities are totally free. We'll have a taco contest with local taquerias, great bands, and

fun activities. 913-279-2106.

KANSAS CITY 9/11 MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB. September 13, 6:00 am. Town Pavilion, 1111 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64106. September 11th marks the anniversary of a day that most of us promised to never forget. Join us as firefighters from Kansas City region and beyond are supported by members of the community, coming together for a day of extreme physical challenge and intense reflection in a truly inspirational setting. Our proceeds support S.A.F.E. as well as supporting the families who have suffered a LODD in the Kansas City Metro Area. 913-961-9754.

SCHEELS KIDS KLUB, AN AQUARIUM ADVEN-

TURE. September 14, 6:00 pm. SCHEELS, 6503 W. 135th St., Overland Park, KS 66223. FREE Event: come and learn about the fish that live in the SCHEELS salt water aquarium and watch as our diver gets inside the aquarium to feed them. All kids get a FREE ride on the SCHEELS Ferris wheel. www.scheels.com

MONARCH TAGGING. September 14, 16, 18 and 20; 1:30-3:30 pm. Powell Gardens, 1609 NW 50 Hwy., Kingsville, MO 64061. Become a citizen scientist by learning the art and science of monarch butterfly tagging during drop-in sessions. Nets and tagging materials will be available to use during these sessions,

■ calendar continued on next page

Heartland Habitat for Humanity

Become a Friend of Heartland Habitat and support our Christian housing ministry. For just \$25, you can help build a home!

Your \$25 will purchase:

- 8 2x4's for construction
- A gallon of paint
- Flowers for the garden
- 2 window shades
- The front door lock-set
- Light fixture for the children's bedroom
- Electric outlet covers for the entire house

Call 816-468-7190 and 913-342-3047 or visit www.heartlandhabitat.org

2015 Fall Holy Days at Or HaOlam

Sunday, September 13, 7:30 P.M.
Erev Rosh Hashanah ערב ראש השנה

Monday, September 14, 10 A.M.
Rosh Hashanah ראש השנה

Tuesday, September 22, 7:30 P.M.
Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre ליל תפילה

Wednesday, September 23, 11 A.M. Yom Kippur Shabbat Svo יום כיפור

Wednesday, September 23, 8 P.M. Neilah (break the fast) picnic at Hamon Park, Prairie Village, KS

Saturday, October 3, 10 A.M. Sukkot סוכות
(outside, parking lot to north, weather permitting/carry-in meal)

Saturday, October 10, 10 A.M. Simkhat Torah Shabbat service

Saturday, October 17, 10 A.M. Messiah's Birthday Celebration

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT:
7029 W 74th St, Overland Park, KS (one block east of Metcalf)
Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld - rabbi@orhaolam.com - orhaolam.com - 913-383-8448

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(from left) Jim Daly, Focus On The Family; Chuck Swindoll, Insight For Living; John MacArthur, Grace To You; Jane Hunt, Hope In The Night; Allister Begg, Truth For Life; Tony Evans, The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans; James MacDonald, Walk In The Word; David Jeremiah, Turning Point; Adrian Rogers, Live With Finding; Crawford Loritts, Legacy Moment; And More! Visit BRTN Online for Program Schedule



SEPT. 10-13 RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS: LEGENDS. LIVE AT THE SPRINT CENTER, 1407 GRAND BLVD., KANSAS CITY, MO

TUESDAY - HURT, HABIT OR HANG-UP. 7pm. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., OPKS. 913-449-7265.

TUESDAY - CHRISTIAN MUSIC NIGHT. 7 - 9 pm. Skate World, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Parkway, Mission, KS. 913-262-0711.

TUESDAY - HEARTLAND HEALING ROOMS. 7:00-8:30 pm. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. www.heartlandhealingrooms.org.

1ST TUESDAY - CREATION SCIENCE ASSN. FOR MID-AMERICA, 7 p.m., Westbrooke Church, 9777 Antioch, OPKS. Nursery available for fee. "Creation Safari's". www.csama.org for more info. Res. req. 816-618-3610.

1ST TUESDAY-FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETING. 7:00 pm., Life Springs Church, Neos Youth Center, 206 N. Webster St., Suite 112, Spring Hill, KS. Contact Kim: fibrohopeandhealing@yahoo.com or 337-852-5052.

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY. - GRIEFSHARE. 7-8:30pm. Timothy Lutheran Ministries, 425 NW RD Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO. 816-228-5300.

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY. MOPS & MOMS NEXT. 10am. Roanoke Baptist Church, 3950 Wyoming St., KCMO. Call or email Bo Price for info. pastor@roanokebaptist.org or 816-561-4932.

2ND TUESDAY, MOPS. 6:30 p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave., OPKS. 913-649-0900.

2ND TUESDAY. EQUIPPING BELIEVERS MID-WEST. 7:00 pm. Blue Spring, La Quinta Inn, 3402 NW Jefferson St., Blue Springs, MO 64015. Free Prayer for healing and freedom from addiction, Free training to heal the sick, evangelize the lost, set the oppressed free. 913-488-6749.

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY. "WINGS OF HOPE". Blue Springs Christian Church, 7920 S. 7 Hwy, Blue Springs, MO. A Christian based ministry to provide support for families grieving loss through miscarriage or infant death, because every life matters. Email: wingsofhope@bscc.org 816-210-4594.

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY, MOPS. 9 a.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave., OPKS. 913-649-0900

3RD TUESDAY, 12:00 pm. LUNCH & LEARN. KC First Church of Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd. Kansas City, MO 64114. Each session will focus on a different geographical area or skill set. Please bring your own sack lunch; desserts and beverages will be provided. 816-942-9022.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY, LIFE PERKS COFFEE HOUSE 7:30-11:30AM. inside First Baptist Church, 125 N. Armstrong, Pleasant Hill, MO. 816-540-5872.

WEDNESDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 1:30-3:00 pm. Hope City, 5101 E. 24th St., KCMO.

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY - LIVING FREE, CHRIST-CENTERED 12 STEP PROGRAM. Room 6, 6:30-8:15. Abundant Life Baptist Church, 414 SW Persels, LS, MO. 816-554-8181.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY - CHRISTIAN BUSINESS CONNECTIONS NETWORK. 3:00 pm, Gusto! Coffee, 3390 SW Fascination Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64081

WEDNESDAY - GRIEFSHARE. 6:30pm. Summit Woods Baptist Church, 2501 SE Shenandoah Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64063. A ministry that assists those who have suffered loss through the death of a loved one. 816-525-8215.

WEDNESDAY - BREAK TIME CLUB. 9:30am-2:30pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW R.D. Mize

Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64014. Enriching environment for older adults with mental and/or physical limitation. \$10 donation. 816-228-5300.

WEDNESDAY - AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP. 11:30am-12:30pm. 601 E. Oak St., Pleasant Hill, MO (please use North basement entrance off Myrtle Street). Are you troubled by someone else's drinking?

WEDNESDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY. 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist Raytown, 100500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO. Please enter through the rock entrance. Meet in room B-116. For info call: 816-778-1156 or www.firstbaptistraytown.com

WEDNESDAY - CATCH THE FIRE SOAKING PRAYER CENTER. 7-9pm. 816-804-8283.

WEDNESDAY - DELIVERANCE - BREAKING CURSES WORKSHOP. First Love Ministries Church, 4747 Hadley St., Overland Park. 7 p.m. 913-403-9644. Call Tues. - Fri. after 1 p.m.

2ND WEDNESDAY - LEE'S SUMMIT WOMEN'S

which are included in regular Garden admission. The sessions will be cancelled if it rains or temperatures fall below 55 degrees. 816-697-2600.

2015 KANSAS CITY REGIONAL QUILT FESTIVAL. September 19-21, 10:00 am. Overland Park Convention Center 600 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211. Fifteen Quilt Guilds from the Kansas City area are participating and will include many vendors. Friday & Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. 913-486-5694.

THE 84TH ANNUAL PLAZA ART FAIR. September 25, 5:00-10:00 pm; September 26, 10:00 am-10:00 pm; September 27, 11:00 am-5:00 pm. Plaza, Kansas City, MO. 240 artists from across the country.

WOODWORKING IN AMERICA. September 25, 11:00 am-6:00 pm; September 26, 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Sheraton Hotel at Crown Center, 2345 McGee St., Kansas City, MO 64108. Immerse yourself in woodworking weekend packed with skill-building classes, aisles of top toolmakers are social events where you can talk shop and relax with fellow woodworkers.

SHUCKS MAZE. September 26-November 1; Fridays 6:00-10:00 pm, Saturdays 12:00-10:00 pm, Sundays 12:00-6:00 pm. 291 Hwy., Lee's Summit, MO. Corn maze, pumpkin patch, barrel train, corn cannon, hay mountain, hayrides, concessions, picnic area, hay jump. 816-600-0024.

WORLD SERIES OF BARBECUE. October 1-4. Arrowhead Stadium at Truman Sports Complex, 1 Arrowhead Dr., Kansas City, MO 64129. The opportunity to witness more than 550 teams competing in the largest BBQ event in the world, a Food Court with many options available for purchase, Live Entertainment, entrance in the Marketplace/Expo, Kids Korral, Cooking Demonstrations and more. Sampling of contest foods is not-included in the event entry. www.americanroyal.com

CIVIL WAR BATTLE. October 10, 9:00 am-5:00 pm; October 11, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Shoal Creek, 7000 Northeast Barry Rd., Kansas City, MO 64156. Public Admission fee \$10 per car. 816-792-2655.

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 - CHRISTIAN BUSINESS MEN'S COMMITTEE meets weekly in various parts of the city. Call Jim Mathis, 913-269-6709, for time and location.

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.

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.

MONDAY-HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 4:00-6:00 pm. Hope City, 5101E. 24th St., Kansas City, MO.

MONDAY - 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.

2ND & 4TH MONDAY - MOPS. 9:30 a.m. MOPS. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E 350 Highway, Raytown, MO Support groups for mothers of preschool-aged children. Offers creative activities, social events & learning opportunities. 816-353-1994.

2ND & 4TH MONDAY - JOB LOSS SUPPORT. 9-10am. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., OPKS. 913-381-1285.

TUESDAY, IF NOT FOR GRACE PRAYER. 9:30 am. Crown Pointe Church, 5950 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64086. kmiller@infq.org

TUESDAY - FEAR NOT SUPPORT GROUP. 7pm. New Summit Presbyterian Church, 1800 NE Independence Ave., Lee's Summit, MO. Christ-Centered support group for anxiety and depression. Material based on the Christian 12 Steps; Serenity Prayer also Anxiety Centre "The Anxiety/Phobia Workbook" by Edmund Bourne.

TUESDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY. 7pm. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., OPKS. Christ centered 12-step pgm for anyone with a hurt, hang-up, or addiction. Contact Craig Hauser, 913-449-7265.

September 12
LIVING PROOF LIVE SIMULCAST
WITH BETH MOORE
Grace Family Fellowship
125 N. Armstrong, Pleasant Hill, MO 64080.
\$35 price includes ticket, breakfast and bee lunch.
After Sept 5, price is \$30 and will not include lunch.
To purchase tickets, contact the church office at 816-540-5872
or visit our website at www.gffpleasanthill.org

FUSION OCTOBER 2-3
YOUTH WEEKEND
Millions of our people around the world will live their lives free and do not see no opportunity to see the good news about Jesus. God is moving His church to respond to this tragic reality. How is He moving you to respond?
The Passion Youth Worship and PWV is a D-Rive type experience with Biblically based worship, teaching and hearing your response young believers to God's plan for His redemptive and saving plan to respond young. Hands-on with fun, interactive, gospel, personal teaching, and witness sharing experiences. God's grace for high school students. PWV will allow you to learn these things together. Living in relationships with one another and allowing your faith about life as a Christian across the globe.
Friday-Saturday, October 2-3
\$30 in advance, \$35 at the door
Register at mbts.edu/yw

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Alan R. Jones, CPA
406 N. Foxridge Drive
Raymore, MO
816-331-2232
alanjonescpa@hotmail.com
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health & wellness

...know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God...



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The value of sleep

As the days begin to get shorter heading into the second half of the year, I would like to highlight the importance and value of sleep. It's easy to stay up late in the summer, especially when it stays light until almost 10 p.m.

For many families, back to school means back to a regular routine, and that

includes a bed time routine. Quality sleep can make or break how you feel the next day, your energy levels, how well children behave and focus in school, and also the amount of healing and repair that occurs in your body. Here is some Biblical wisdom and some considerations for quality sleep:



on melatonin, continue to increase dosages to get an effect and it causes your own body to stop producing melatonin naturally!

This is not a sleep solution, it is becoming drug dependent.

Going outside for a walk as the sun sets will help produce melatonin. Melatonin can be found naturally, from rice, but very few health food stores are aware of this and use these products. Please do not assume everything you buy at a health food store is good for you.

1) SLEEP BASED ON GOD'S DESIGN:

God designed the earth, the sun and people to work and function together. We are designed to get up when the sun rises and go to bed shortly after the sun sets. One reason we know this is because after the sun sets, our body produces melatonin that drips into our spinal cord which makes us sleepy.

If you are not outside and you are using fake lighting that stresses and fools the nervous system (T.V., video games, cell phones, etc), then your body may not produce melatonin properly.

One reason we have such an insomnia problem is America is that we use technol-

ogy and don't live out in the world God designed for us! Have you ever been camping? Notice how the sun goes down and you are exhausted and quickly go to bed. This is because you are outside and your body is working based on God's design.

2) MELATONIN IS LIKELY NOT A GOOD SUPPLEMENT FOR YOU:

We live in a synthetic world. Men are "re-creating" nature in a laboratory. Almost all melatonin supplements are made from PETROLEUM.

This is why people become dependent

3) MINERALS ARE CRUCIAL FOR SLEEP:

Magnesium is the #1 mineral deficiency in America. Taking magnesium before bed can calm the nervous system, relax blood vessels and turn off a busy brain. If you have trouble falling asleep, magnesium may become a good friend. Everyone needs it. A magnesium bath before bed can be great for calming children and getting them prepared for bedtime. Other electrolytes are important as well, which would include calcium, potassium and sodium.

4) LIGHT SOME CANDLES:

Something our family has been doing recently is lighting candles. As the sun sets, we light candles and ALL technology in the house is turned off (this means no lights, television, cell phones, computers, etc.)

What an amazing way to disconnect from the modern world and return back to the "good old days." It makes me think of all those episodes of Little House on the Prairie I watched growing up with my mom, the simple life before technology. We have found it a great way to unwind, relax and connect with our family. Without technology to distract us or entertain us, instead we connect with each other by talking, telling stories, reading the Bible, or playing games.

5) WE ALL NEED GROWTH HORMONES:

Growth hormones are released during sleep, but only if you go to bed on time. Growth hormone is release in the body sometime between 9 p.m. and midnight after going to sleep.

If you go to bed at midnight or later, you miss it. Again, this is based on how God designed us to go to sleep after the sun sets. Why is growth hormone important?

Many call it the anti-aging hormone. It's what helps young ones to grow strong and for us older ones to stay young! Growth hormone is crucial for the body to heal, repair and grow healthy new cells and tissues.

God clearly required rest and sleep for all creatures on this earth. There is a reason that all life is governed by the sun rising and the sun setting. It would benefit us to honor God's design even in a busy, complex, technology-filled world.

—Vaughn Lawrence is a natural health care practitioner, herbalist and owner of Spirit of Health who lives by their motto: "We Love God. We Love People. We Love Health. www.spiritofhealthkc.com.



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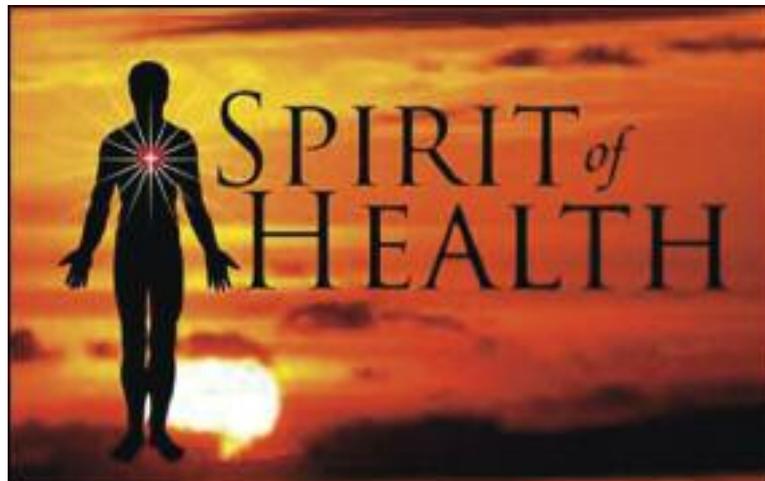
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Noah's Ark replica promises to be 'one of the world's greatest Christian attractions'

entertainment

 by **Andre Mitchell**

Almost all Christians have read the story of Noah's Ark, told in the Bible from Genesis 6 to 9. God asked Noah to build the massive vessel to save him, his family and the world's animals from the great flood.

By next year, Christians can relive Noah's story through a life-size replica of the ark now being built in Williamstown, Ken. The \$29.5-million project also promises to feature taxidermy animals depicting those brought by Noah in his ark.

Creation Museum chief executive and President Ken Ham shared a video, which was taken from a helicopter, on his Facebook page showing how the construction of the life-size Noah's Ark is going so far.

The video first shows a wide parking

"When you see what they have produced, you will be amazed at the size of what is being built..."

Ken Ham

area, which can fit 4,000 vehicles. The video also shows how the massive ark is now taking shape.

"When you see what they have produced, you will be amazed at the size of what is being built... This will be one of the greatest Christian attractions in the world and will be opened sometime in 2016," Ham said on his Facebook page.

Those interested in knowing how the ark's construction is going can visit the site.



A view from a helicopter of the Ark Encounter project by Creation Museum in Williamstown, Ken.

Visitors will have the thrill of witnessing firsthand the historic construction of Noah's Ark, being built according to the biblical proportions described in Scripture, Ham said.

"Our guests will safely observe the Ark

from a viewing spot just outside the actual hard-hat area. It will be their once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see an Ark being built, which will become the largest timber-frame building in the world," he added.

The Ark Encounter website, which al-

lows people to donate money to help construct the Noah's Ark replica, also released a video showing how artists are working on the taxidermy animals to be featured in the ark.

Visit www.arkencounter.com.

bookshelf

ROCK & A HEART PLACE: A ROCK 'N ROLLER-COASTER RIDE FROM REBELLION TO SWEET SALVATION

Ken Mansfield with Marshall Terrill

It's a story we know well—a celebrity's rise to stratospheric success followed by an even mightier fall. As common as these tales are, however, some cases (albeit rarely reported to the mainstream media) continue on to reveal a genuine turn to the

■ See BOOKS page 19

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RETURNING GLORY

Glory Trail

I'm Stuck...and Waiting



Approaching Lakota on the back side of the dam I was shocked to see that he was stuck — and stuck good. There were vines all around his four legs and he was just waiting. I was coming to halter him to teach a class and had no idea he was in this mess. I wondered how long? He showed NO sign of stress. Nobody in sight. I alone had the challenge of setting him free. As I began with one leg I was anticipating a bolt — nope — he just waited.

Each leg, one by one, then his tail started twirling and I knew this was it — he had had enough. But, no, he was letting me know that his tail was strangled in the brambles too. As I worked, he nuzzled me gently as if to say, "I knew you'd come, I was just waiting." When free he just quietly walked up the hill.

WOW! I was in awe of this horse that could trust so deeply, and wait so quietly as I guided each step out of a stuck place. Walking up the hill, thrilled and exhausted, my heart surrendered humbly to my Jesus. Again He touched my heart with a horse.

With tears I petitioned Him - "When I'm stuck help me to wait, trusting You. Wait for You to place each step where You know best. Wait for You to free every part of me - no panic, no stress. Wait for You to untangle all my messes. Trust You to set ALL of me free." — Roseanne

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'Max' comes to DVD

If you missed it in theaters this summer, and you most likely did, you have second chance to catch this little gem.

In "Max" Justin Wincott knows what he's good at. He can jump on his mountain bike, race through ramp courses and match up with just about anybody on the twisting woody slopes near his house. And he knows his way around the slopes and pitfalls of online game hacking, too.

Yeah, that second activity isn't always exactly legal, but he figures it can earn him a few bucks when he sells software shortcuts to a shadowy guy in town named Emilio. Now, Justin would usually steer clear of a guy like Emilio. In this case, though, the dude's related to Justin's best friend, Chuy, so ... what can he do, huh?

Anyway, those are Justin's two skill sets. And, frankly, if he's not ramping or hacking, well, he's busy trying to fly under his dad's military-minded radar. His mom is cool. But Dad? Well, let's just say Justin prefers to stay out of the man's usually critical eyesight as much as he can.

Then Justin's older brother, Kyle, gets killed while serving in Afghanistan. Justin's life is sent spinning. And the blow nearly kills his mom. That's hard to watch, for sure. But there's something else, too.

It turns out that Kyle's highly trained military service dog, Max, was shipped home along with Kyle's body. The dog would help the Marines scope out dangerous areas and search for hidden weapons. And when his master was killed in that particularly nasty firefight, Max came out of the event with the same kind of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder that human soldiers can experience. He was so traumatized he won't let anyone near him.

Anyone except Justin, who the animal forms an almost instant connection with. Does Max sense that the teenager and his master were brothers? Maybe. And it



film411

MAX

STARS: PLauren Graham, Thomas Haden Church, Jay Hernandez, Robbie Amell, Josh Wiggins, Luke Kleintank, Miles Mussenden, Dejon LaQuaque
DIRECTOR: Boaz Yakin

For all of their relational strains, Justin and his dad step up to protect each other and voice their love for each other. At one point, Dad admits to some of his own failings and tells his son, "A hero always tells the truth, no matter what the consequences are." Carmen makes it clear she believes you always support and stand up for your family and friends.

So, what we have here is, well, a dog-and-his-boy hero story.

It's a matinee-style flick that harkens back to old TV shows like Lassie and The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin. Remember those? This pic has that same "What's wrong, boy? Is someone in trouble?" feel. Only this time around there's a few modern dog-chew twists: The four-pawed paladin is a military pooch that's skilled at sniffing out weapons caches. And the kid is an initially angsty teen who's pretty good with mountain bikes and—get this, Rin!—online hacking.

A duffle bag full of duck-for-cover peril comes along for the adventure, of course, showing up in sequences of war and moments when bullets are ricocheting or bad dogs are attacking with bared fangs. Not that the likes of Jeff, Timmy or Rin would run away from any of that, but it will make the smallest pups in your family whimper a bit.

Ultimately, though, the heroic-choices-in-the-face-of-steep-odds action, and good, clean messages of doing right and standing by your loved ones are still as prevalent and cheer-worthy as they were in the old classics.

seems that Justin may be the only person who can help this emotionally wounded dog. In fact, the Wincotts find out that if they don't take Max in, he'll be put down. And Mom and Dad won't hear of that.

Justin isn't immediately keen about this new arrangement, but with time and a little help from Carmen, one of Chuy's dog-savvy cousins, that strange initial link between boy and beast becomes a solid bond. And as one thing leads to another, Justin realizes that he and this four-legged former war hero make a pretty good team. They become a trail-leaping, sharp-eyed duo with a knack for sniffing out local crimes. Not to mention, maybe digging up what actually happened to Kyle.

Though Justin comes off as a self-focused, angry teen when we first meet him, his interactions with Max help us see the emotional connection he had with his older brother and the deep feelings he holds for his friends and family. Justin and his friends also choose to take heroic steps that help someone in need, in spite of the fact that their foes appear too connected and powerful to defeat.

musicbriefs

'REND COLLECTIVE: AS FAMILY WE GO' ALBUM REVIEW

Foy Vance, Needtobreathe
Rend Collective

Somewhere between the vigorous energy of Foy Vance and popular contemporary worship acts lies Rend Collective. Ever since the worship band from Northern Ireland released Organic Family Hymnal in 2010, they've added a vibrant intensity to congregational catalogs with songs of celebration and praise.



As Family We Go brings a communal theme to the table, a nod to both the familial bonds between the band members and the greater church family they are addressing. The songs themselves are vertical expressions filled with hope and joy rooted in the person and character of God. Slower numbers like "One and Only" are quite lovely, but Rend Collective's signature up-tempo tunes are the bread and butter. Don't miss the one-two punch of "Celebrate" and "Free as a Bird."

- See more at: <http://www.ccm-magazine.com/article/rend-collective-as-family-we-go-album-review/#sthash.fwP3jthk.dpuf>

- Matt Conner

FORWARD FLAME

Literally, Forward is a clarion call for an "engaged alienation," asking Christians to take counter-cultural stands and encourages hope to the persecuted church around the world.



Through it all, FLAME addresses the global church with a potent cocktail of truth and chastisement, hope and love.

■ See MUSIC page 20

BOOKS

continued from page 18



Almighty. Legendary music executive Ken Mansfield, along with Marshall Terrill, shed light upon sixteen stories of hope and redemption involving well-known subjects from the universe of Rock 'N Roll including Mark Volman (The Turtles), John Elefante (Kansas), Shane Evans (Collective Soul), Brian "Head" Welch (Korn), and Dez Dickerson (Prince). Each profile representing its own chapter, the book almost reads like a collection of short-stories with insight seemingly even stranger than fiction at times. A must read for any music lover, but especially for those whose record collections travel well beyond the world of CCM.

-Kevin Sparkman

TRANSCENDING MYSTERIES: WHO IS GOD AND WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM US

GINNY OWENS & ANDREW GREER

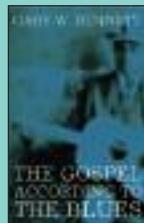
Transcending Mysteries appeals to audiences, Christian and non-Christian alike, who yearn to tie the understanding of the Old Testament and the Jesus of the New Testament together. Acclaimed artists Ginny Owens and Andrew Greer collaborate to create an insightful and thought-provoking new classic.

-Kevin Sparkman



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE BLUES

GARY BURNETT



For the brand new fan on up to the true aficionado, The Gospel According to the Blues will give all readers a new appreciation, respect and love for the blues. In the book, author Gary Burnett takes the reader on a journey through an exhaustive history of the lauded genre providing insight into the authors, musicians and music and, as an added bonus, deeper revelations into its attested connection to the Christian gospel. You will certainly want to play through the integrated and helpful listening guide at the end of each chapter. If short on time, simple Google

searching will gain you access to most of the recommended selections. For a more authentic experience, however, we think this book will inspire many to visit their local used vinyl store.

-Tamara Phillips

AWAKENING FAITH: DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM THE EARLIEST CHRISTIANS

MATT CONNER

James Stuart Bell has made an impressive and inspirational career compiling the writings of figures like Charles Spurgeon and A.W. Tozer. His latest book, Awakening Faith, is a book of 365 devotional readings centered on a short scripture passage with corresponding insight from some of the fathers of the Christian faith. From Augustine to Polycarp, Bell helps Christianity's rich tapestry and tradition illuminate faith in modern times.

-Tamara Phillips



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Poetry and Christian rock legend come to KC this fall



D.C. JEANES
Metro Voice
music critic

musicscene

ELEFANTE COMES TO NEHEMIAH FEST

Nehemiah Fest has been a staple of music, faith and food every fall in the Kansas City area for over a decade now. With local artists as well as national acts performing for a free event, it's been a popular pastime every year. Located at Smith's



Fork Park (Smithville Lake - 1601 DD Hwy, Smithville, Mo.), this year's festival will include forty bands, on four stages, over three days, from Sept. 18 - 20.

Nehemiah Fest will also continue tradition of having Bread of Stone, visiting as they do every year, from Nashville. New

this year, however, is special guest John Elefante, former singer of Kansas, and long-time producer (along with his brother, Dino) of Petra during their height of popularity in the eighties.

"I heard about [the festival] through a friend in Colorado," Christian author and president of His Song Evangelistic Outreach Ministries, Ellis Lucas, "asked if I wanted to do it." Elefante says the scheduling was tricky, as he has a performance in Canada the following night, but he was intrigued by the concept of the festival. Currently working on his next solo project, he reflects on his musical history. "I became a Christian in 1980 and produced a lot of Christian music through the years, but I never understood the full purpose of it until I got involved with Petra."

Elefante says his time with Petra and seeing what their ministry was doing for fans changed his perspective. He also says, after leaving Kansas, he thought he'd be writing and recording a lot more than he did. "Obviously, a long solo career wasn't God's plan for my life. [Back then] solo records would have served me more than they would God."

He is working on his next solo album, however, and says long-time Kansas contributor, and friend, Kerry Livgren, is



working with him on it. He also spoke proudly of his three kids; the two older were adopted when he and his wife were told "with a capital 'N' we could never have biological children of our own." Their third, biological child, recently turned 13.

"Nehemiah is about rebuilding and community," David Lin has said in the past, and that is the continuing focus of Nehemiah Fest; this time including John Elefante. If you have an interest in great music and a heart for the Gospel to reach the multitudes in Kansas and Missouri, please check out <http://nehemiahfest.com/> to see how you could get involved.

POETRY IN AUTUMN TOUR

Another event coming to the Kansas City area just a few weeks after Nehemiah Fest, is the Poetry In Autumn (PIA) Tour, premiering Sept. 25.

"I got involved with the PIA tour first because of my love of poetry," spoken word artist and founder of Kansas City ministry

etry in Kansas City for twenty years, I have been looking for ways to grow what I do and present this awesome art form to all of Kansas City."

He's also excited what this can mean to an audience hungry for the Truth. Featuring special guest GMA Dove Award and Stellar Award nominee Jonathan McReynolds, the tour will also introduce many to artists in the spoken word and hip hop movement, including Janette...ikz, Jackie Hill Perry, Preston Perry and Ezekiel Azonwu.

"These four powerful individuals are some of the greatest Christian poets of our generation. Poetry allows our voices to be heard, and to share the stage with all races," and says God sees His children as "a rainbow of people. Poetry allows us to speak, not just about Christ, but about the injustices of this world, love, life and relationships."

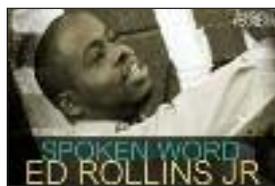
THE ART IS MORE PERSONAL, AS WELL

"Poetry has helped me heal after the tragic loss of my daughter. There were moments where I didn't see God, didn't hear God and didn't have a desire to hear him.

But through this process it made me really learn to serve God through the tragedy to love him and realize my 8 year old daughter, Valerie Morae' Rollins, gave her life to Christ the Sunday before she passed."

"So, for those who struggle with things, writing was my saving grace; to all those 'closet poets' and writers out there, come out, bring your pens and notepads because you will be inspired to write. Come and realize the power of the spoken word!"

<http://www.thepiatour.com/>



4HISWILL, LLC, Ed Rollins Jr., says about connecting the tour to the Kansas City area, as the events consultant, "I also believe the power of words goes beyond religion and touches the souls of the listeners."

4HISWILL is a creative arts company dedicated to providing amateur and professional artists an avenue to develop their skills.

"I really love the fact PIA... chose Kansas City and is looking forward to being [here]. As a lover of words and doing po-

MUSIC

continued from page 19

- See more at: <http://www.ccm-magazine.com/article/flame-forward-album-review/#sthash.MFUtwLG3.dpuf>
- Matt Conner

ONE WILD LIFE: SOUL GUNGOR

Representing part one of the One Wild Life trilogy, Soul is the newest effort from husband and wife-led and multiple GRAMMY-nominated musical collective Gungor. From the arrangements and phrasings, to the melodies and genre-bending — Soul is expertly crafted and calls for all within earshot to take immediate notice.

- See more at: <http://www.ccm-magazine.com/article/gungor-one-wild-life-soul-album-review/#sthash.r0q0bQQ.dpuf>

- Kevin Sparkman

FOUR BLOOD MOONS: SOMETHING IS ABOUT TO CHANGE VARIOUS ARTISTS

-The official soundtrack for the John Hagee New York Times best selling book, turned documentary, now full motion picture (released March 2015) does little to prop up the mostly well-received docu-drama. Two of the first three tracks are previous Mat Kearney ("Sooner Or Later") and Newsboys (the Peter Furler-fronted "In Wonder") recordings, which serve as high points. If you like variety, this collection also includes numbers from V.Rose, Canton Junction, and the JJ Weeks Band.

-- See more at: <http://www.ccm-magazine.com/article/four-blood-moons-something-is-about-to-change-soundtrack-review/#sthash.7xOxpcTL.dpuf>

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■ REV. DR. IAN PAUL

continued from page 11

in the face. And that's the problem with not being judgemental: not to judge is to judge. When we decide not to take a position on an issue, we are in fact taking a position: if we don't disapprove, we are offering our tacit approval.

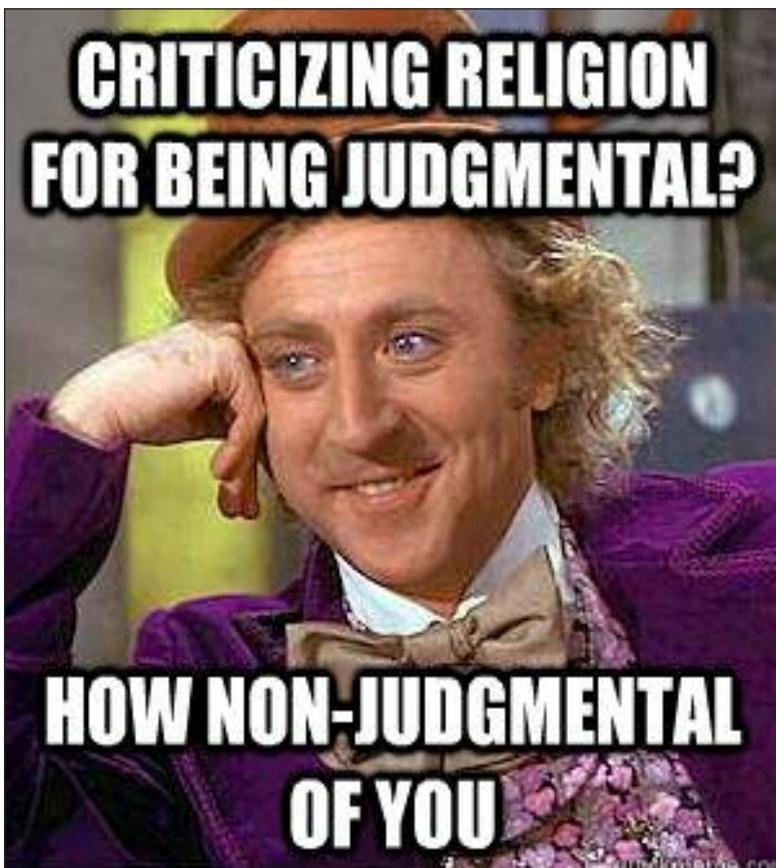
CULTURE'S AMBIGUITY

I think this is the dilemma behind our culture's ambiguity in relation to offering judgements. On the one hand, we value freedom—the freedom to act in a way which is in line with our conscience. But when people offer judgements about our use of freedom, we get, well, very judgemental. So (to offer an 'extreme' example), David Cameron has been happy to state his intolerance of intolerance, his condemnation of 'extremism'. But this only raises the question: how 'extreme' do you have to be in order to provoke this intolerance? What degree of intolerance, and in what aspects of life, merits this intolerant response?

This cultural dilemma makes itself felt in the Church as well. It is more and more common to summarise the gospel as "Don't judge." This in part arises from Jesus' own teaching: "Judge not, lest you be judged" (Matthew 7:1) he says, in one of his many pithy aphorisms. But it seems to have gathered force in a culture which does not like other people interfering in our own lives. Who are they to tell us what we can and cannot do, how we should live?

As a result, many people dislike the whole notion of judgement—and they particularly dislike the culture of a Church which appears to be self-satisfied and judgemental, where you have to pretend to be something you are not in order to be welcomed. After all, all sorts of people appear to have felt welcomed by Jesus.

And there's the paradox. Neither Jesus nor Paul appeared to have had any qualms about rendering judgement. This is sometimes seen in direct rebukes, both to Jesus' own followers as well as to those on the outside, but it is also seen in the 'vice lists' that appear in the gospels and Paul's letters. These lists often mention sexual sin, but they also consistently include things like greed, selfishness, putting others down, lying, and so forth.



A classic example comes in Mark 7. Jesus first criticizes the Pharisees outside his group for their hypocrisy and then rebukes his own followers for being slow to understand. This leads him to express 12 'vices', many of which are based on the 10 Commandments:

"What comes out of you is what defiles you. For from within, out of your hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile you" (Mark 7:20–23).

PREDJUDICE AND INTOLERANCE

It seems as though there are things that we should make judgements about and this is actually part of loving people (assuming that Jesus perfectly expressed God's love). We should not presume to judge prematurely or out of our own prejudice and intolerance. But that does not mean we should never make judgements. In fact, both Jesus and Paul expect Jesus' followers to be able to make judgements – to discern between what is right and what is wrong.

How, then, do we make sense of Jesus' prohibition on 'judging others'? Perhaps the key is in the second half of his saying: "...lest you be judged". People find judgement most distasteful when those rendering judgement appear to think that they themselves are immune from it. Jesus makes clear that none of us is free from the judgement of God; the declaration of what God approves and disapproves of is a vital part of helping us to grow in holiness.

When we are honest about the fact that we, too, stand under the judgement of God's truth, then that lends our judgements a quite different tone. This still might not be popular, but if we never make judgements about what is right and wrong, we are withholding an important part of the truth about ourselves and about God. And without that we cannot be truly loving.

Rev Dr. Ian Paul is associate minister at St Nic's, Nottingham, England, and Honorary Assistant Professor at the University of Nottingham. He blogs at www.psephizo.com.

'Lord of the Rings' actor laments about world's loss of moral compass

British actor John Rhys-Davies, 71, best known for his role as the dwarf Gimli in the "Lord



British actor John Rhys-Davies fears that the end of Western European Christian civilization is coming soon amid the ongoing persecution of Christians.

of the Rings" movies, bewailed that the world has sadly lost its moral compass, given the threat of Islamic terrorism and the persecution of Christians almost worldwide.

expressing fears that the end of "Western European Christian civilization" is coming soon.

"Basically, Christianity in the Middle East and in Africa is being wiped out. I mean not just ideologically but physically, and people are being enslaved and killed because they are Christians. And your country and my country are doing nothing about it," he told his American interviewer.

Carolla replied by saying that the American society in general has become terrified of judging others, and that might have contributed to the inaction on the injustices faced by Christians.

"This notion that we've evolved into a species that's incapable of judging other groups and what they're doing, especially when it's beheading people or setting people on fire or throwing acid in the face of schoolgirls," Carolla said. "I like

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NONPROFITS

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and Seneca Hardwood. The 7th Circuit ruled against Wheaton College and the University of Notre Dame. Several cases are still pending at other circuits.

So far, about a half dozen of the organizations have asked the court to hear their cases. Four justices must vote to accept such a request, and they will reconvene at the beginning of October to start filling the docket.

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty's Mark Rienzi, senior litigator for the Little Sisters case, thinks the Supreme Court will take up one of the nonprofits' cases, even if the circuits don't split. The Supreme Court has issued emergency orders on behalf of nonprofits challenging the mandate three times, which indicates interest in the case.

Despite the circuit losses, nonprofits haven't been forced to comply with the mandate to this point because they have tenuous protection during the appeals process. Wheaton College and the University of Notre Dame are the exceptions: Wheaton dropped its student health insurance plan over the ruling, and Notre Dame has complied over its conscience objec-

tions.

Why have nonprofits lost at the circuit level? Six years into President Barack Obama's term, the circuit courts now have a number of his appointees. But Rienzi, who has handled the Little Sisters case, says that's not the clear reason.

"Plenty of judges not appointed by this president have also gotten it wrong," he said. His explanation? "Bad analysis. . . . They've been accepting the government's argument that it's for the courts and the government to decide what counts as complicity—not the religious objectors. . . . That is fundamentally the wrong way to assess religious liberty claims."

The objecting nonprofits say the government is still using their insurance as the vehicle for delivering the drugs they object to, and therefore they are morally complicit.

"[The federal regulations] want to borrow the nun's health plans," Rienzi said. "The only purpose of this form and signature is to get contraceptives. If nothing happens, this whole thing is really bizarre. It can't be that the form is really, really important and meaningless."

"There's no need at all for them to take over the Little Sisters system," he said. "The government has its system . . . it just doesn't need the nuns."

BIRTHS

continued from page 6



refers to the term "success sequence," noting it's "easier to raise a child and maintain the middle class" if you are educated, working, and married.

Sturgeon notes millennials are still less likely to have kids and less likely to have been married than previous generations, however he says it's important to note the majority of millennials are going traditional in one particular way: When they have kids, they want to have them within wedlock.

ACTOR

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that kind of judging! That's evolved."

Rhys-Davies could not agree more, saying that people are currently living in an age where "we don't want to be judgmental" and "an age where politicians don't actually say what they believe. . . . Heaven forbid that we should criticize people who, after all, share a different value system."

Aside from the "Lord of the Rings" franchise, Rhys-Davies was also part of the "Indiana Jones" series, playing the charismatic Arab excavator named Sallah. He has two children and lives in Salisbury, England.

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■ EDDINGS

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Matthew Deans. "We have, in our hearts, forgiven the man who did this. It was not the easiest thing to do, but in some ways it was because we know – Hadley and I – that Jesus Christ has forgiven us our debt... So in some ways, it was very easy to forgive a man who made an accident," Gentry said at their children's funeral.

He asked those present to also forgive Deans, and "anyone in your life who you hold anything against".

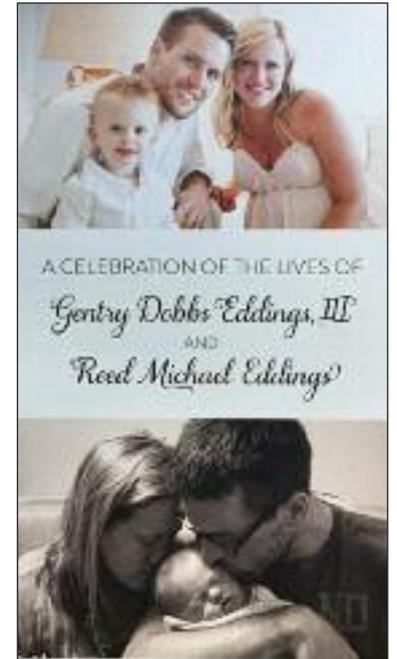
The grieving father shared sweet memories of Dobbs, telling the congregation of how the little boy loved to dance and clap, and spoke of the couple's time with Reed after he was delivered.

He told the congregation that he and Hadley had taught Dobbs words from the 46th Psalm: "Be still, and know that I am God."

He recalled that on the day before the accident, as was preparing to preside over his sister's beachside wedding and "things were a little hectic", "It was then that Dobbs's sweet voice spoke up with a timely reminder. He said, 'Be still. And know that I am God.'"

Speaking to WRAL-TV, the Eddings repeated this sentiment, saying that Deans must already be devastated enough. "I do get mad but I don't know who to be mad at. I am just mad that this happened," Hadley said.

"All I can think of is that I have driven distracted before."



DEANS

"I didn't know if I'd be able to forgive this guy and I asked God for help..."

— Gentry Eddings

"I remember being there in the hospital in the first 24 hours, I didn't even know the driver's name then," Gentry added. "I was trying to figure out all my own emotions. I didn't know if I'd be able to forgive this guy and I asked God for help. I said, 'God, you

know how'." The couple shared about the last few minutes with their newborn. "We were able to spend precious moments with him, holding him in our arms before he went to be with his brother in heaven," Gentry said. In his sermon, the couple's pastor, Dave

Chadwick, referenced the story found in John 11, in which Jesus wept at the death of his close friend Lazarus. "Jesus hated death," he said. "He hated what it had done to ransack his father's once-perfect world."

The pastor then offered words of encouragement, emphasizing that the couple can find comfort in the promise of heaven.

"I believe, Gentry and Hadley, with all my heart, that you'll see your boys again," their pastor said.

"I believe... that Reed and Dobbs Eddings have never been more alive than they are right now."

Hadley said the family is still grieving, and can't pretend to be perfect in the midst of tragedy. "We cry a lot. I don't want people to think we're great, you know 'God is good, we're great we're happy.' That's not what it's like, you know?"

"God is good and we know that but we are sad, we're mad, we're scared, we're frustrated. There's a million emotions just all at once sometimes."

Asked about how they cope with having survived the devastating incident, Hadley added: "The only thing I can think of is that if God left us here, he must just not be finished with us."

■ FERGUSON

continued from page 1

homes. "The look and feel of the city is the same," Joe Costephens said. "It is a stable North County city. We've seen a lot more transparency with all people and many businesses and not-for-profits have invested in the restoration of the town."

Passage has always invited mission teams to come in and help with the repairs in the community.

"We've definitely seen a downturn in the numbers of mission teams willing to come in," Costephens said. "They are hesitant because of the way the city has been portrayed. But, those groups who did come, had a blast and a safe, amazing trip."

"These groups did an excellent job," he continued, "and we've made some good connections with the homeowners."

Shaw said FBC Ferguson has served as a hub for the cooperation and partnering of many groups.

"Black and white have bonded together and we are accomplishing a lot," he said. "We are One' was a joint effort that was held at Faith Church in Earth City. Out of that meeting, church leaders signed the Ferguson Declaration."

The Ferguson Declaration was a Covenant of Reconciliation which outlined Christian doctrine and cooperative actions which were affirmed and pledged by the pastors of Ferguson and the metropolitan St. Louis area.

"We've also held monthly prayer meetings for all the community pastors," Shaw said.



John Childers, pastor of South County Baptist Church in St. Louis, prays during a Crossover St. Louis planning meeting Aug. 10 at First Baptist Church in Ferguson. — BP photo by John W. Phillips

"It gives an opportunity to pray together and to get to know each other. When people find out what the other is about, it builds acceptance and love."

FBC has become a training center for the community as well.

"We've hosted the training with the Billy Graham rapid response team and the Adopt-a-Block," Shaw said.

"Area Christians have also met at our church to study and plan the Adopt-a-School program taught by Tony Evans' group (The Urban Alternative)."

Petty's church has also reached

across denominational lines with another church to promote a concert in Ferguson with the radio station, JOY FM. "As Christians, we need to pray for our community," Petty said.

"We need to be the light. The community needs to witness the transforming power of the gospel. I am hopeful and encouraged by what I'm seeing."

Costephens agreed that people are making a conscious effort.

"People are showing more outward expressions of care and compassion," he said.

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