



The Time of My Life Tour  
featuring The Afters

Concerts & Events | PAGE 12



**'RISEN'**  
Bible-based  
detective  
story that  
will move  
you.  
**Review  
PAGE 17**

## Deaths spur youth to seek higher goals

YouthBuild is changing lives in Kansas City, KS

One trainee participating in the YouthBuild KCK program was 5 years old when he saw his first murder in Juniper Gardens, the area where the YouthBuild Kansas City, Kan. facility is located. After years of seeing such senseless violence, YouthBuild trainees show a range of emotions—apathy, defeat, depression, anger.



GOODSON

That was until their friend and fellow trainee, De'Andre Goodson, was fatally shot on Dec. 16, 2015. Immediately, feelings of sadness, worry and mourning took hold. Those feelings remain, more than two months later, but the trainees have turned that despair into a new purpose—the Goodson Leadership Fund.

After Goodson's death, the Youth-  
■ See **YOUTHBUILD** page 23

## THE DAY GOD DIED

BY CLINT DECKER

**The day God died. The statement itself sounds odd. How could He die? God's immortal, right? Yet, when we speak of the annual Easter celebration we are talking about remembering His death.**

**Jesus was considered by many of His followers to be the God of heaven and earth in human flesh. Then He died a scandalous, torturous death. No doubt it left His followers perplexed. How could someone who claimed to be God and did all sorts of miracles to verify it literally die before their very eyes?**

■ See **DECKER** page 10

## Woman cried out to God after daughter joined her in prison

Now she prays for imprisoned son, daughter and husband

by **Kayla Rinker**

Sandy Harrell had been imprisoned at the Chillicothe Correctional Center for a few months when a guard told her that her daughter would be there soon.

And not just to pay her mother a visit.

Harrell's youngest child, Casey, was about to join her in prison.

The chaotic life of using and selling methamphetamine had caught up with them—again.

"I'd been in jail before, but never with my daughter. That's when reality slapped me in the face," Harrell said.

"She and I were in our cell one morning and I was drinking coffee and watching her sleep. Soon she woke up and we were sitting there together and she said, 'Look Mom, isn't this great? It's the first time we haven't fought over a meth pipe even once!'"

Harrell's heart instantly broke. After her daughter left the cell to take a shower, Harrell remembers crying out to God for help. In that moment she realized that the life of drug abuse is the only life her daughter now 30, had ever known.

■ See **HARRELL** page 22

## KC to join worldwide march

Event will honor Holocaust survivors

Lori Roberts Wilson | Metro Voice

For the first time, Kansas City will participate in a worldwide event known as March of Remembrance in the United States and March of Life in Europe. The event is aimed at "honoring Holocaust survivors and their families in the Kansas City area," said Dwight Widaman. Metro Voice News owners Dwight and Anita Widaman are co-chairs of March of Remembrance Kansas City.

March of Remembrance Kansas City will be held on Sunday, May 1, 2016, which is near Yom HaShoah (Day of Holocaust Remembrance).

"We chose that day as a clear stance against anti-Semitism and as a powerful symbol of what happens when people remain silent about abuse, prejudice and righteousness," stated Anita Widaman.

The events of the day will be held at

■ See **REMEMBRANCE** page 23



Elhanan Glazer,  
former member  
of the Knesset



## Local LifeWay store among several closing

by Art Toalston

LifeWay Christian Stores has announced it is closing stores at three Southern Baptist seminary campuses.

A change in buying patterns among seminary students was cited as the reason for the closures at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

"LifeWay created our campus stores to help seminary students acquire the resources necessary for their academic studies. Over the last five years or so, students have been migrating more to digital, rental and online options for many

LifeWay will close its store on the Midwestern Baptist Campus.



of their textbook and scholarly resource needs," said Cossy Pachares, vice president of the retail division.

"This is not a bad thing. We know these new options are helpful to students, since they can be more cost effective and powerful.

"While we are excited about these new options for seminary students, the changes have unfortunately had a sig-

nificant impact on our ability to continue to operate these stores," Pachares said.

LifeWay has operated its bookstore at Midwestern since 1958. The store at Midwestern will close May 31. They operate several other popular stores across the Kansas City metro and 180 Christian stores in 29 states.

## TFC, MBCH LOOKING FOR FOR PARENTS

Do you have a heart for children that are hurting? Do you want to work from home while ministering to kids who need help?

Treatment Foster Care (TFC), offered by MBCH Children and Family Ministries, provides an opportunity to minister to children in the custody of the state who have emotional needs. These children are frequently in state custody after experiencing abuse or neglect.

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TFC families are one of the best answers to providing for these needs. These families are trained and supported by MBCH Children and Family Ministries Specialists to help children and youth heal and live life to the fullest. The families receive weekly visits from

their TFC specialists, as well as on call support to meet any challenges that might arise. On going training and mentoring are also provided to help TFC families work with the children.

TFC parents are independent contractors who receive a daily rate of pay for the care of the youth in their home. They also receive regular respite care monthly.

For more info please contact Chuck Phillips at Charles.Phillips@MBCH.org or call (816) 795-8878.



Two residents of Pittsburg, Kan. help pick up their signs.

## Atheists push the envelope at Kansas post office

Don't mess with Pittsburg, Kan. Residents of the town didn't respond with anger when local atheists forced the post office to take down a 9/11 banner, they responded with a city-wide effort that brought out over 1,500 similar signs.

If the Freedom from Religion Foundation didn't like one "God Bless America" sign, then 1,500 must have really made its blood boil. That's how many the small town posted on lawns, car windows, and in businesses after the anti-Christian organization forced the local post office to tear down its 9/11 banner. After standing for more than 14 years, the building sign was a casualty of FFRF's small-town war on the First Amendment.

"Employees are free to ask God to bless America all they want on their own time," Madeline Ziegler of the Freedom From Religion Foundation told KOAM-TV. "The problem comes when they ask their government employer to endorse their personal religious beliefs by plastering them on the side of the federal building."

She continued, "We're really excited that the post office decided to take the right action here."

And while Pittsburg may have lost the banner, they didn't lose the battle. A couple days later, Jake's Fireworks responded by printing 1,200 "God Bless America" yard signs and 300 similar banners. So passionate was the company's employees, they worked through the night printing the "God Bless America" signs. By the next morning at 11 a.m. they started handing them out and by 11:45 a.m., they had exhausted their newly printed stock.

"Obviously, we're among the majority that didn't agree with the decision to take the sign down (at the post office)," said Jason Marietta, retail

sales director at Jake's Fireworks.

Cars stretched over two blocks. Drivers were eventually met with rows of American flags and a digital sign saying "God Bless America" as they pulled into the company's driveway, where Marietta and other employees directed traffic and greeted the drivers.

"Thanks for doing this," one driver yelled out. Marietta responded, "Thank you for coming."

Local Twitter feeds started posting photos of the cars lined up to get a copy, as people honked and rolled down their windows to shout their thanks. "It's amazing," said Jason Marietta, who was part of the Jake's Fire-

**"I commend the Pittsburg community for rejecting this decision, and I stand with them. The constitution guarantees freedom of religion, not freedom from religion."**

Lynn Jenkins

works team handing out signs.

The story started catching fire in Kansas -- so much so that U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins (R-Kan.) and U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) both cheered the town's gumption.

"It's outrageous that some would aim to divide a community over a banner that has been proudly displayed since September 11. I

commend the Pittsburg community for rejecting this decision, and I stand with them. The constitution guarantees freedom of religion, not freedom from religion. Expressions of patriotism, faith, and community should be welcome in our society, and I have contacted USPS officials to express my concerns about their decision," stated Jenkins.

The incident and the response has brought the community together and made residents question the reasoning behind taking the sign down.

"It's sad, it's sad that they feel like that this is something that they understand when they don't," said Ed Hinde, a former postal worker.

The sign now adorns the wall of Senator Moran's local office.

Announcing a Day of Remembrance in the Spirit of Isaiah 40 Comfort to Israel.



**SUNDAY  
MAY 1**  
Overland Park  
Convention Center

### Day of Remembrance Activities

- 1:30 p.m. A pre-rally, focusing on education and remembering
- 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The prayer March, expressing to all passers-by, and particularly to the Holocaust survivors and their descendants, **"You are not forgotten. You are not alone. We will remember and we will not be silent for Zion's sake."**

Free registration and optional \$20 T-shirt purchase at <http://www.morkc.org/register>

- 4:30 to 6:30 dinner break
- 6:30 to 8:30 An Evening of Remembrance with Israeli recording artist and band, a choreographed Holocaust ballet presentation by Dramatic Truth, former Knesset [Israeli Parliament] member Elhanan Glazer, and more! <http://www.morkc.org/register>



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## DENOMINATION OFFERS MISSIONARIES OPTIONS AMID ZIKA VIRUS FEARS

by Paula Schlueter Ross

With the World Health Organization's announcement that the Zika Virus is "spreading explosively" in Central and South America — and the fear that it can cause serious birth defects in unborn children — the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Office of International Mission (OIM) is acting quickly to protect its missionary families.

The denomination says missionaries who are pregnant and serving in the Latin America region may take advantage of an OIM offer to relocate with their families to another country or return to the United States for the duration of their pregnancy. If a woman is pregnant and preparing to deploy, she and her family may have their call relocated to a Zika-free country within the same region, or even be placed within another region that is Zika-free.

Active transmission of the virus — spread by the same mosquito as dengue fever — has been documented in more than 20 countries since last year, primarily in Central and South America, according to the CDC.

The Latin America region is most affected by the Zika Virus, and currently has 36 LCMS missionaries, 17 spouses and 42 children.

"We wanted to be proactive — to calm our missionaries and to let them know that they do have options immediately," Grimenstein said. "This is totally up to the families. We are not at this point mandating that they come back, but we're affording them every oppor-



An LCMS missionary family in Latin America.

tunity [to relocate] if they want to."

Allowing missionaries to return to the United States to deliver their babies is nothing new, he noted, and more of a "standing practice for us." But now

those serving in Latin America will have the opportunity to come back to the States or live in another non-Zika country throughout their pregnancies.

## newsbriefs

### Human trafficking victims call national hotline in record numbers

(WNS)—Human trafficking victims are reaching out for help in record numbers, according to an advocacy group that operates a national 911 text and phone call center. More than 1,600 survivors of human trafficking reached out for help in 2015—a 24 percent increase over 2014, according to the annual report released by Polaris. The organization's hotline also takes calls from concerned friends, family, and bystanders who witness a suspected human trafficking event. "From the domestic servant forced to work for little pay who required emergency shelter to the young girl made to sell sex online against her will who texted us for crisis support, survivors of human trafficking are reaching out to the national hotline more than ever," said Polaris CEO Bradley Myles.

### Wheaton, Larycia Hawkins agree to part ways

(WNS)—Wheaton College and Larycia Hawkins, the political science professor who started a furor over theology and academic freedom after declaring on social media that Christians and Muslims serve the same God, announced on Feb. 5 they are amicably parting ways. The surprise announcement came just days before Hawkins was to go before a faculty panel at the evangelical university in Wheaton, Ill., to defend her comments.



HAWKINS

Several groups of faculty members had voiced support for Hawkins, who maintained throughout the conflict that Wheaton was treating her unfairly and had no reason to question her adherence to the evangelical college's statement of faith. Hawkins made her controversial comments in mid-December as part of a campaign to show solidarity with Muslims. She announced she also would wear a hijab, the traditional head covering for Muslim women, during Advent. Wheaton administrators quickly put her on paid leave pending an official review. Hawkins was a tenured professor who had worked at the school for about nine years.

### Boko Haram kills dozens in attack on refugee camp in northeastern Nigeria

(WNS)—Two female suicide bombers blew themselves up in a refugee camp in Dikwa, Nigeria on Feb. 9, killing at least 56 people.

The camp is northeast of Maiduguri, Boko Haram's birthplace. In the aftermath of the explosions, officials arrested a third female bomber, who gave information about other planned attacks, an official with the Borno State Emergency Management Agency told reporters. Health and rescue officials said more than 70 people who survived the attack are receiving medical treatment for their injuries. Lack of or poor cell phone service delayed news of the attack until the following day. The camp served as home to some 50,000 people displaced by the six-year insurgency that has left 2.5 million people homeless and parts of the country in ruins.

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## LIGHT House Gala

Armacost Museum  
4200 E. 135th St., Grandview, MO

April 9th, 2016

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

For more information  
contact Joann Britt at  
816-898-1094 or joann.britt@mbch.org

All Proceeds support the ministries of  
The LIGHT House, a pro-life affiliate of  
MBCH Children and Family Ministries.

# The LIGHT House ‘Revs Up’ for Gala

Event gives attendees rare look at some of world’s rarest autos in the Armacost Museum

by **Dwight Widaman**

The LIGHT House will hold a benefit “Gala” on April 9, 2016 from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Armacost Museum in Grandview in celebration of 30 years of support for pro-life ministries in our community. All proceeds from the event support The LIGHT House.

For over three decades, the organization has given hope to young women facing untimely pregnancies, by offering a variety of services to girls in need. The agency strives to provide the most comprehensive, Christ-centered service in the Kansas City metro area.

The event will feature an Italian meal catered by Garozzo’s Ristorante, a silent auction and a tour of the magnificent Armacost Museum where “Great Automobiles of the Past and Present Come Alive.” U.S. Representative Vicky Hartzler will serve as the Master of Ceremonies. Individual tickets for this Gala are \$100. Tables of ten are also available on a limited basis.

The museum’s collection is an eclectic one with cars ranging from a 1910 International to a Ferrari Testarossa. The premier mark in the collection 28 Studebakers ranging from a 1915 SD4 Touring car to a 1964 GT Hawk. There are many Studebakers from the 20’s and 30’s, considered the heyday for Studebaker. In addition to cars, there is an extensive collection of antique pedal cars, motorcycles, bicycles, automotive related art and a large collection of gas-powered toys. The museum encompasses two floors covering 44,000 square feet. The Armacost Museum is not open to the public, but is only available to select fund-raising and charitable organizations.

The LIGHT House is an iconic institution in Kansas

The LIGHT House is an iconic institution in Kansas City’s pro-life efforts.



Armacost Museum where “Great Automobiles of the Past and Present Come Alive.”

City’s pro-life efforts. The Maternity Home provides residential services for young ladies aged 12-21 who need a safe place to stay while pregnant. A young woman may come to The LIGHT House at any time in her pregnancy and a full array of services is provided for her to help ensure a healthy delivery for both mother and child. These include life skills courses, case management services, parenting and nutrition classes, Bible studies and daily devotions, counseling and after-care support. Services are also provided for expectant mothers who already have children younger than 18 months.

The Outreach Program provides services not only to the maternity home clients but also to young women and their small children who live in the community. This weekly gathering provides a time of fel-

lowship, life skills courses, parenting classes, Bible study and case management. By being involved in the Outreach Program, mothers are expected to learn parenting, nutrition, life and leadership skills to become self-sufficient. A typical week will have 20 to 25 young mothers in attendance.

Mothers who attend the Outreach Program and expectant mothers in the Maternity Home are able to earn coupons for participation, which they can use to “purchase” items in the Baby Boutique. They can “purchase” items like diapers, wipes, bottles, strollers, car seats, clothes and more.

The LIGHT House is an affiliate of MBCH Children and Family Ministries.

**i moreinformation**  
 For more information or to order tickets, contact Joann Britt at 816-898-1094 or email joann.britt@mbch.org

## BRITISH GOV’T MAY INSPECT CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOLS FOR IDEOLOGY

Effort lumps churches in with mosques linked to terrorism

(WNS)--Christian groups in the United Kingdom are recoiling at a government proposal to inspect youth groups, Sunday schools, and scout troops for “undesirable teaching” as part of a greater attempt to combat Islamic State (ISIS).

With at least 700 people from the U.K. having joined ISIS, some of whom have returned to British soil, concerns about combatting terrorist indoctrination are real. But groups such as the Christian Institute say oversight of Christian churches by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) goes too far. “The idea of having an Ofsted inspector sitting in on your church youth group or Sunday school to see if you are an extremist is, I have to say, highly offensive,” the institute’s president Colin Hart wrote. “Ofsted is hardly equipped to judge the intensely complex and sensitive issues of private religious instruction. . . . It is, most definitely, not the role of government to attempt such a task.”

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## newsbriefs

### Task force: America needs prisons that work

(WNS)—A bipartisan congressional task force on Jan. 26 recommended reforms to reduce the federal prison population by 60,000 and save taxpayers more than \$5 billion. "The system is failing those it incarcerates and the taxpayers who fund it," said former Rep. J.C. Watts Jr., R-Okla., the task force chairman. The Charles Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections launched in 2014 and was one of the final congressional efforts of Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., who retired last year. The panel included other former members of Congress, academic scholars, corrections department officials, and officers from Colson's Prison Fellowship ministry.

### Graham sets date for Kansas and Missouri visits

Franklin Graham, son of the renowned evangelist Billy Graham, will visit the Kansas State Capitol in Topeka March 28 from 12-1 and Jefferson City May 17 as part of his "Decision America Tour."



GRAHAM

During this nationwide tour, Graham—who serves as president and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA)—will visit every state capital in an effort to proclaim America's only hope, Jesus Christ.

"I want to challenge Christians to boldly live out their faith and to pray for our nation and its leaders," Graham said in a Facebook

post. "I want to encourage Christians to get out and vote, and to cast their ballots for candidates who uphold biblical principles."

### Missouri Senate keeps revolving door of lobbyists

After hours of debate the Senate has voted NOT to prevent legislators from becoming lobbyists immediately after leaving office. The bill that left the House proposing a 1-year "cooling off period" now only prevents lawmakers from becoming lobbyists until their term expires.



SCHAAF

Senator Rob Schaaf (R-St. Joseph) wanted that cooling off period.

"What we're trying to do here is to change the system so that good people don't do things even on a subconscious level that advantage special interests against the public policy," said Schaaf.

Senator Ed Emery (R-Lamar) thinks as long as lawmakers wait until their term expires, it's their choice where to work next.

"The process is certainly faulty. It has created crevices where weaknesses can be exploited," said Emery, "but the process isn't corrupt. The process is what it is."

Senators opposing the proposal said it would not have effected situations including the scandals that led to the resignations of former House speaker John Diehl, Junior, and former senator Paul LeVota last year.

The Senate is expected to keep working on ethics proposals, including those passed earlier by the House to ban gifts.

## ISIS sex slave survivor testifies it is 'more difficult than death'

by **Stoyan Zaimov**

A 21-year-old Iraqi woman whose family was massacred by the Islamic State terror group while she was kept as a sex slave before managing to escape, has testified about the horrific torture and abuse militants are inflicting on women and young girls.

Nadia Murad shared her story during a visit to London, where she revealed how ISIS fighters killed six of her brothers and her mother in Northern Iraq, according to *The Mirror* on Sunday. Murad herself was taken in as a sex slave, one of close to 5,000 Yazidi girls and women the terror group has kidnapped.

The sex slave survivor said that some of the things Islamic radicals are making women go through are "more difficult than death."

"A year and a half has passed and the genocide against the Yazidis is continuous. We die every day because we see the world silent in the face of our plight," she said.

"My mother saw them killing my brothers and then they took my mother and killed her. I was already orphaned as I didn't have a father, all I had in the war was my mother," Murad continued.

"But when they took me to Mosul and raped me, I forgot my mother and brothers. Because what they were doing to the women was more difficult than death," she added.



**Nadia Murad Basee, a 21-year-old Iraqi woman of the Yazidi faith, speaks to members of the Security Council during a meeting at the United Nations headquarters in New York, Dec. 16, 2015. (Photo: Reuters/Eduardo Munoz)**

"Imagine until now, for more than a year and a half, girls as young as 9 are being rented and sold out [for sex]."

Millions of people have been displaced and driven out of Iraq and Syria as refugees due to ISIS, which has also killed thousands of soldiers and civilians, and holds thousands of women and girls as sex slaves. Minorities such as Christians and Yazidis have been specifically targeted by the radicals.

A number of victims have managed to escape the clutches of the terror group to share their stories, and some have even formed all-female battalions to fight back against the terror group.

News organizations reported last week that hundreds of Yazidi women aged between 17 and 37 have been training as the "Sun Ladies" to launch an offensive on the IS stronghold of Mosul,

■ See ISIS page 9



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# Man strips in girls locker room, cites law

A man twice entered the changing room of a swimming pool and began disrobing, once in front of a young girls' swim team, saying transgender policies gave him the right to do so.

The unidentified man entered Evans pool in Seattle near Green Lake Feb. 8, and began undressing in front of female patrons.

When asked what he was doing, he said, "The law has changed, and I have a right to be here."

"Seeing this individual in the locker room, parents of the girls' swim team and women who had paid for lap swim became alarmed and alerted our front desk staff," said Seattle Parks spokesman David Takami in a statement. "In response, an Evans pool staff member entered the women's locker room and asked the man to leave."

They offered both the man and the girls the opportunity to use a family changing room.

He left, only to return during a later youth lap swim, Takami said.

Officials said he had made no attempt to present himself as a woman, nor to identify as transgender when he checked in. By all appearances, he was a man.

But appearances do not matter when it comes to "gender identity." LGBT theorists hold that biological sex is distinct from gender, which is determined solely by the person's mental self-identification.



Takami affirmed, "We have guidelines that allow transgender individuals to use restrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity."

"We want everyone to feel comfortable in our facilities," he said.

Some patrons feel the man, who has yet to be identified, exploited the law to see the women naked. "Either identify yourself as a transgender or you're not, and you're just taking advantage of a loophole," MaryAnne Sato, who visits the pool several times a week, told USA Today.

A similar incident occurred in Olympia in 2012, when a 45-year-old biological male who calls himself Colleen Francis lounged naked in a women's locker room, in an area frequented by girls as young as six. According to the police report an eyewitness stated, "There

were girls 6 to 18 years of age and they were not used to seeing individuals in situations like this."

But the facility gave him the right to continue using its facilities as he wished.

Those who oppose adding gender identity to non-discrimination ordinances and civil rights legislation have long warned the ordinances would be used specifically for that purpose.

But LGBT political activists dismissed such concerns, calling opponents' warnings that such a thing could occur overblown at best, entirely fictitious at worst.

Houston Mayor Annelise Parker said that opponents of that city's transgender ordinance waged a campaign of "fear mongering and deliberate lies" when voters repealed the so-called "HERO" ordinance in a landslide.

Some in the city felt the action was intended to stoke those unfounded fears. Gunner Scott, a transgender activist, told KIRO radio host Jason Rantz he felt "concern" that "this was a setup by opponents of LGBT equality to try to exploit the recent debate of basic rights of transgender youth."

But Aldan Shank, who regularly attends the pool, said he thought the man's actions were intended as statement in favor of transgender rights, albeit one that "sort of works against the point they're trying to make. They're causing people to feel exposed and vulnerable with the intention of reducing people feeling exposed and vulnerable."

-lifesitenews.com

**"Either identify yourself as a transgender or you're not, and you're just taking advantage of a loophole."**

## newsbriefs

### New treatment could help unborn babies with Down syndrome

(WNS)--Within a decade, parents may be able to find treatment for their unborn children with Down syndrome. NBC reports that Carol Tamminga and colleagues at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas plan to start in March a study in which unborn children with Down syndrome will receive Prozac, an anti-depressant, beginning as early as 18 weeks gestation, until they are 2 years old. Studies show mice that would have been born with cognitive impairment functioned normally when given Prozac. Those effects continued into adulthood. While many children have been safely exposed to antidepressants in the womb, such exposure is not without risk. Investigators have reported in JAMA Pediatrics an 87 percent increased risk of developing autism in children exposed to antidepressants like Prozac. The new study will attempt to calculate the success rate, effectiveness, and risk of using Prozac in preborn children.



TAMMINGA

### Top generals: Women should register for the draft

(WNS)--The top generals of both the Army and the Marine Corps testified on Feb. 2 that women should be required to register with Selective Service now that the Penta-

gon has lifted all exemptions for women from direct ground combat positions. In response to a question from Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., Marine Corps commandant Gen. Robert Neller and Army chief of staff Gen. Mark Milley both agreed that any eligible and qualified American should register for the draft, according to The Washington Post.



McCASKILL

### Survey: Prepubescent porn exposure has doubled in a generation

(WNS)--A new study shows childhood exposure to pornography has doubled in a generation, and porn usage and addiction reaches far into Christian churches. "Pornography is not relegated to any particular community, socio-economic class, or religion," said Haley Halverson, director of communications for the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE). "Thanks to the internet, it's really everywhere." On Jan. 19, Barna Group released preliminary findings from comprehensive research on American pornography consumption. Barna's research revealed 27 percent of millennials ages 25-30 reported seeing porn before reaching puberty. Compared with the Generation X cohort, early porn exposure has doubled in a generation.



HALVERSON



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## newsbriefs



### ACLU sues Kansas over citizenship documents for voting

A lawsuit has been filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kan.. It signals a new legal challenge based on a provision in the National Voter Registration Act that requires states to provide voter registration in conjunction with drivers' license applications at state division of motor vehicle offices.

Kansas has been at the forefront of efforts for more stringent registration laws ranging from proof-of-citizenship to requiring certain types of ID, and the state has been embroiled in several legal fights over the issues.

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach has championed laws that require documents such as a birth certificate, passport or naturalization papers as a way to prevent noncitizens from voting, particularly those living in the U.S. illegally.

The registration act, commonly known as the "Motor-Voter Law," is a federal law that aims to increase voter participation. In addition to requiring that registration be offered at the Division of Motor Vehicle offices, it also provides mechanisms such as an online registration form people can print out and mail and voter registration at social service agencies.

The ACLU's lawsuit contends federal law prohibits states from requiring additional information when people register to vote in conjunction with getting their driver's licenses.

Voting rights groups sued a federal elections official who decided that residents of Kansas, Alabama and Georgia could no longer register to vote using a federal form without proof of citizenship.

### The Bible is Mississippi's new state book?

Two Mississippi Democratic lawmakers want to make the Bible the official book of the state.

Mississippi State Reps. Michael Evans, D-Preston, and Tom Miles, D-Forest, proposed a bill in January that would make the Bible the official state book.

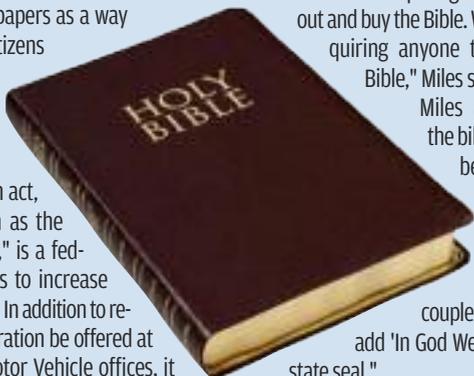
Evans told Alabama Local News the idea originated from a conversation he had had with his colleagues about how to combat the sobering events taking place around the world.

"The bill doesn't force anyone to read it," Evans, who is a Christian, said. He and Rep. Miles said instead it would only encourage residents to read the Bible.

"We're not requiring anyone to go out and buy the Bible. We're not requiring anyone to read the Bible," Miles said.

Miles also added the bill would "not be considered controversial given the legislature voted a couple years ago to add 'In God We Trust' to its state seal."

The American Civil Liberties Union in Mississippi charges that the effort violates the First Amendment.



## Tim Tebow Foundation "Night to Shine" prom for people with special needs is a hit



Blue Summit Baptist Church in Kansas City served as one of the more than 200 churches around the world that hosted the Tim Tebow Night on Feb. 12. For those with special needs, their families, friends and the thousands of volunteers, Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience. At Blue Valley, every guest entered their prom on a red carpet complete with welcoming friendly paparazzi. The evening included a photo booth, balloon drop, dancing and a lot of laughter. This year, the host churches saw more than 20,000 people with special needs at proms all at one time around the world. For more information on this worldwide movement and to support the continued growth of Night to Shine, visit [timtebowfoundation.org](http://timtebowfoundation.org).

## newsbriefs

### Atheists supporting effort to protect religious people

A national atheist group has joined the effort to convince President Barack Obama to designate the Islamic State's persecution of Christians and other minority groups in the Middle East as "genocide."

The Center for Inquiry, a national nonprofit atheist group, joined the International Religious Freedom Roundtable in asking the Obama administration to properly label the atrocities committed by the Islamic State.



Michael De Dora, director of public policy at the Center for Inquiry, says that there are several reasons why his group has chosen to support the International Religious Freedom Roundtable.

"As an organization driven by humanist values, CFI believes that the right to freedom of conscience is a fundamental and universal liberty – including the rights to freedom of religion, belief, thought, and expression.

We strive to protect these rights for all individuals and groups, especially those facing threats or violence," De Dora, who also serves as the United Nations representative for his group said.

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**“But when they took me to Mosul and raped me, I forgot my mother and brothers. Because what they were doing to the women was more difficult than death.”**

*Nadia Murad Basee*

the world community to stand up against the IS "criminals."

"When I speak I didn't speak just on my behalf, but on behalf of all the women and children affected in the war zone," she said.

"Two months have passed since I have been campaigning and people have been happy, not just Yazidis, about this message."

dren from the mountains and then jumping themselves because it was a faster way to die. Our hands were all tied. We couldn't do anything about it," she added, recalling the persecution of Yazidis.

In her statement, Murad said that the government has failed to protect the vulnerable populations, and called on

**ISIS**

continued from page 6

where many of them were forced to serve as sex slaves.

"Whenever a war wages, our women end up as the victims," said Capt. Khatoon Khider, a member of the battalion.

"Women were throwing their chil-

**newsbriefs**

**Medical marijuana bill again presented to Missouri House committee**

The Missouri House is again being asked to give its blessing to medical marijuana.

This year's version of legislation to allow the medical use of marijuana in Missouri would give the final say to voters.

Bill sponsor Representative Dave Hinson (R-St. Clair) says if his bill becomes law it will

be easier to address problems that come up, than if initiative petitions that would put medical marijuana in the constitution, are approved, because it is much harder to make changes to the constitution.

"Just like the puppy mill bill, Prop C, that's happened with the energy bill, congressional redistricting, [the legislature was] able to



come in and change and override those things," said Hinson. "Constitutional amendment, we're just stuck with it."

The bill is opposed by many law enforcement groups. Jason Grellner with the Missouri and National Narcotics Officers Associations says this would be the wrong way to approve a drug.

Other states have used medical marijuana as a first step towards full legalization of marijuana.

**3 SMART WAYS TO USE YOUR TAX REFUND**

by **Deborah Nayrocker**

Dear Deborah,  
My husband and I will get our tax refund soon. We decided that this year we aren't going to spend it all on a vacation. We're looking forward to having a little extra cash and we'd like to consider our options for smart ways to use our refund. – A Reader

When deciding how to use your refund, consider what would benefit you and your family most now. Have you been putting off an important financial move? Here are some options:

Pay down high-interest debt. Whenever possible, eliminate outstanding credit-card debt. A big factor in your total credit score is the amount you owe vs. your credit limit amount. Get to the point where you are able to pay off your balance each month.

Money managers say paying down on your credit-card balance that has a higher interest rate is like getting the same return on your money.

Add to your emergency fund. A general recommendation is that you

keep at least three months' worth of living expenses in liquid savings or a money-market account.

Also, considering that certain jobs may be in jeopardy, it's beneficial to have adequate funds set aside to cover the temporary loss of income.

**“When deciding how to use your refund, consider what would benefit you and your family most now.”**

Within the last few years we have seen more families take from their retirement accounts before they reached their intended retirement age. Already ill-prepared for retirement, families are placing themselves

in a worse long-term situation. Deposit your tax refund in a retirement account. First, check to see what your maximum contribution amount is for this year. Eligibility to contribute depends on your age, whether you are single or married, and your income.

Consider having your tax refund deposited directly into a Roth IRA account, as recommended by Kiplinger's Personal Finance. This will create future tax-free income.

–Deborah Nayrocker is the author of *The Art of Debt-Free Living* and the 12-lesson Bible study, *Living a Balanced Financial Life*.

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**Come and See!**

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# opinion

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## DO WE NEED MORE CHURCH PLANTS?

The answer may surprise you



**GREG STIER**

Founder, President of Dare 2 Share

**myopinion**

Right now, there are over 300,000 Protestant churches in America. Just do the division (300,000 divided by 50 states) and that's an average of 6,000 churches per state. Wow! That's a lot of churches!

Think about it this way: There are 12,000(ish) Starbucks and well over 300,000 churches! So Starbucks can saturate the United States with caffeine drinks, but almost 30 times more churches can't saturate the United States with the Living Water. Seriously???

According to church growth and discipleship multiplication expert Bill Hull, "It still takes 100 church attendees, a pastor and \$100,000 a year to win a convert. Among evangelicals it is a bit better, 1.7, this is an ugly fact that should grieve us all."

So our solution is planting more and more churches so that we can reach America for Jesus? Is that really the best

solution, or is a revitalization of the current churches the best solution?

My answer is a resounding "YES!"

YES we need more churches planted and YES we need to revitalize the current ones.

When I was a 23-year-old part-time youth leader at a church in Arvada, Colorado, I wanted to revitalize the congregation when it came to evangelism and outreach. This very traditional church was solid theologically, but not growing steadily due to disciples being made and multiplied.

I'll never forget presenting an 11-page document called "Operation Arvada" to the senior pastor and asking him to consider it. In those pages were ideas for infusing relational evangelism

into the lifeblood of the church. He said, "Let me pray about it" (which is a pastor's way of buying time so that he can think of a nice way to say "no" to your idea). Days turned to weeks and I finally realized that it wasn't going to happen.

It was then that I remembered the words of a former pastor who gave up trying to revitalize that same church to plant a new one. He told me, "It's easier to give birth than to resurrect the dead."

That's when my best friend and I decided to start a church ourselves,

**"It still takes 100 church attendees, a pastor and \$100,000 a year to win a convert."**

*Bill Hull*

## DECKER

continued from page 1



**CLINT DECKER**

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

**hopefortoday**

Every one of us is uniquely born for a purpose. Some totally miss it while others fulfill their destiny. Jesus was no different.

Before His birth it was spoken that "he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). This divine mission would bring hope to hundreds of thousands during His own generation and billions over the next two millennium.

However, this mission had a high cost. It required Jesus willingly lay down His life under the most inhuman

of circumstances. The provision of the forgiveness of sins mandated it.

Sin is many things. It is the pride, selfishness and rebelliousness of a person's heart.

It shows itself in practical ways through lying, sexual immorality or unforgiveness. Ultimately, it is a darkness that lay in each human heart that required the greatest force in the universe to advance against it - Jesus and His cross.

He humbly laid His life down on that cross and only He could have done it.

As God Himself, He was sinless, perfect, without any fault. One sinner could not provide forgiveness for another.

Only a perfect man could provide forgiveness for an imperfect one. Jesus was humanity's only hope. He lay Himself down to become mankind's sin-bearer. He who was without sin willingly bore the sin of the world.

Why did God, through Jesus, go to such lengths to provide forgiveness? Love. He saw where the path of sin led to. The destruction it created in this



Grace Church in Arvada. Through prayer, tons of mistakes and sheer perseverance, we were blessed to plant a church that grew deep and wide in some powerful ways.

Today, Grace Church is a thriving congregation with over 60 percent of the 3,000 or so who go there having come to Jesus as a result of this church's focused outreach efforts. What about the other church I was involved in? The new pastor and youth pastor are working hard to revitalize it so that it can be more effective in the community where it's located.

We need already existing churches to drop an evangelistic engine into their church chassis. We need new churches planted that grow primarily through new believers being added (as opposed to transfer growth).

So the real question is not how many churches do we have in North America, but how many Gospel-Advancing churches do we have? We need

to revitalize current ones and plant new ones until we reach everyone.

If you are in an established church, work with all your heart to get the people there making and multiplying disciples. Start with those who are willing and build from there. Pray for your church. Challenge your church. Equip your church.

If you feel led to plant a church, determine to build one that grows primarily through intercessory prayer, relational evangelism and discipleship multiplication.

Make intercessory prayer that engine and not the caboose of your efforts, and, over time, you will succeed...if you don't give up!

It's time to revitalize current churches and plant new ones that bleed the good news. Let's give birth and raise the dead!

—Greg Stier is the Founder and President of Dare 2 Share Ministries International. [www.dare2share.org](http://www.dare2share.org).



life and the eternal pain it brought in the next. Compelled by love, and seeing no other way, God died on that Good Friday.

On Saturday there He laid, lifeless, while His followers sat in dismay. But wait, something happened Sunday morning. The tombstone was mysteriously rolled back from His grave and it was empty. He was gone. Jesus had risen!

Soon His followers saw Him. They walked, talked and ate with Him. They

witnessed this miracle.

He was alive! He defeated the power of sin and secured forgiveness for all. Now everyone who calls on Him in simple belief and repentance can have their guilt and shame washed away.

Today, call upon the living Christ and let Him sweep clean your heart and bring new and everlasting life.

—Clint Decker is President & Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc. [cdecker@greatawakenings.org](http://cdecker@greatawakenings.org)

# Young people and the lure of socialism

As one presidential candidate makes socialism cool, society risks being torn apart



**THOMAS SOWELL**

Economist, social theorist, political philosopher, and author

## viewpoint

Many people of mature years are amazed at how many young people have voted for Senator Bernie Sanders, and are enthusiastic about the socialism he preaches.

Many of those older people have lived long enough to have seen socialism fail, time and again, in countries around the world. Venezuela, with all its rich oil resources, is currently on the verge of economic collapse, after its heady fling with socialism.

But, most of the young have missed all that, and their dumbed-down education is far more likely to present the inspiring rhetoric of socialism than to present its dismal track record.

Socialism is in fact a wonderful vision -- a world of the imagination far better than any place anywhere in the real world, at any time over the thousands of years of recorded history. Even many conservatives would probably prefer to live in such a world, if they

thought it was possible.

Who would not want to live in a world where college was free, along with many other things, and where government protected us from the shocks of life and guaranteed our happiness? It would be Disneyland for adults!

Free college of course has an appeal to the young, especially those who have never studied economics. But college cannot possibly be free. It would not be free even if there was no such thing as money.

Consider the costs of just one professor teaching just one course. He or she has probably spent more than 20 years being educated, from kindergarten to the Ph.D., before ending up standing in front of a class and trying to convey some of the knowledge picked up in all those years. That means being fed, clothed and housed all those years, along with other expenses.

All the people who grew the food, manufactured the clothing and built the housing used by this one professor, for at least two decades, had to be compen-

sated for their efforts, or those efforts would not continue.

And of course someone has to produce food, clothing and shelter for all the students in this one course, as well as books, computers and other requirements or amenities.

Add up all these costs -- and multiply by a hundred or so -- and you have a rough idea of what going to college costs.

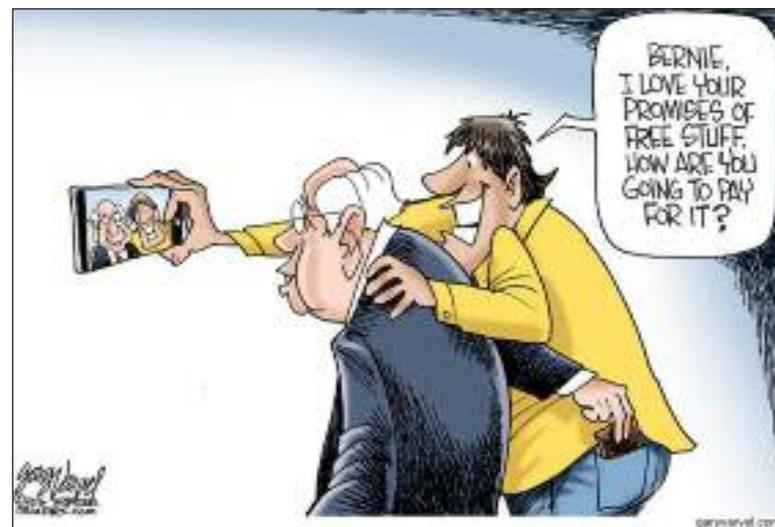
Whether these costs are paid by using money in a capitalist economy or by some other mechanism in a feudal economy, a socialist economy, or whatever, there are heavy costs to pay.

Moreover, under any economic system, those costs are either going to be paid or there are not going to be any colleges.

Money is just an artificial device for getting real things done.

Those young people who understand this, whether clearly or vaguely, are not likely to be deterred from wanting socialism. Because what they really want is for somebody else to pay for their deci-

**“Socialism is in fact a wonderful vision -- a world of the imagination far better than any place anywhere in the real world, at any time over the thousands of years of recorded history.”**



Socialism is coming under scrutiny as the media, including cartoonists, focus on the Sanders campaign.

sion to go to college.

A market economy is one in which whomever makes a decision is the one who pays for that decision. It forces people to be sure that what they want to do is really worth what it is going to cost.

Even the existing subsidies of college have led many people to go to college who have very little interest in, or benefit from, going to college, except for enjoying the social scene while postponing adult responsibilities for a few years.

Whether judging by test results, by number of hours per week devoted to studying or by on-campus interviews, it is clear that today's college students learn a lot less than college students once did.

If college becomes "free," even more people can attend college without both-

ering to become educated and without acquiring any economically meaningful skills.

More fundamentally, making all sorts of other things "free" means more of those things being wasted as well. Even worse, it means putting more and more of the decisions that shape our lives into the hands of politicians and bureaucrats who control the purse strings.

Worst of all, government giveaways polarize society into segments, each trying to get what it wants at somebody else's expense, creating mutual bitterness that can tear a society apart. Some seem to blithely assume that "the rich" can be taxed to pay for what they want -- as if "the rich" don't see what is coming and take their wealth elsewhere.

## Join us in the Father's House on Easter Morning



**LARRY OLSON**

Kansas City, MO

## mythoughts

Jesus says in John 14, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

How many funerals have you heard John 14:1-3 read? Do we have to die to enter the Father's house to live? Now, let me propose to you that we do not die to get in to the Father's house to be where Jesus is, we enter the Father's house the moment we ask Jesus into our hearts to wash away our sins as far as the west is from the east. Is not this the point that we are with Jesus in the Father's house? Does not

Revelation 3:20 say? "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." Do we not dine together with Jesus in the Father's house?

As we dwell in the Father's house here on this earth, Jesus prepared the way through His death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave. It is time leave our room in the Father's house and go down the hallway and see who else is in the Father's House. There are many "treasures" in the Father's house just waiting for us to find them.

Think about when you were growing up and you went to your grandparent's house. Their whole house was yours to explore and find what "treasures" were in the basement or upstairs or even in the attic. There was no place that was off limits for you to explore.

This is the same way with God's house - it is time to go exploring and find the "treasures" that our Father has in His house just for us? It is time to see who is living in the rooms down the hallway from our room in the Father's house.

Is the person living in the room down the hallway from the church down the street, from your church,



**“The Solemn Assembly of the Body of Kansas City, planned for Easter morning on March 27, is an opportunity for "all the churches in Kansas City" to come together because we are all living in the Father's house.”**

from the church in the inner city, or from a church in one of the suburbs? What is stopping us from fellowshiping with the other "treasures" that are in the Father's house? Is it not time that all that are in the Father's house dine together with Jesus?

The Solemn Assembly of the Body of Kansas City, planned for Easter Morning on March 27, is an opportu-

nity for all the churches in Kansas City" to come together because we are all living in The Father's House (only in different rooms). It is time to come out of our individual rooms in the Father's House and to gather in the large dining room of the Father's House and enjoy a time of worship and a meal together.

This will be the ninth year for The Easter Sunrise Extravaganza to be held

from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the Kansas City Power and Light District at 13th and Gand Boulevard, which is in the heart (inner city) of Kansas City. God always deals with the heart first, so is it not appropriate that God deals with the Heart of Kansas City first? Blood flows from the heart out to the extremities of the Body. So as God deals with the heart of Kansas City the extremities (suburbs) of Kansas City will also be blessed.

Now when the Father speaks, all in the House will hear what He has to say. There will be no division. And when it is time for the "family" to go speak to the Mayor of Kansas City, ALL in the HOUSE will go.

WOW, won't the Mayor be surprised!

**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!**

**EASTER**

**PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH FUNDRAISER & THRIFT STORE'S SILENT AUCTION.** March 20, 9-12:30. Avondale United Methodist Church, 3101 NE Winn Road, Kansas City, MO 64117. 816-522-1023

**Easter Services:** Join us Good Friday at 7pm, with Communion, and celebrate the resurrection on Easter morning at 10am. Westbrooke Church, 9777 Antioch Road, OP KS 66212

**EXPERIENCE THE ROAD TO RESURRECTION.** March 26. Reserved tours beginning at 5:00. Colonial Presbyterian Church, EPC, Overland Park, 12501 W. 137th St., OPKS. Before Easter take part in this special family activity. Follow in Jesus' footsteps, learning more about his life, death, and the empty tomb. [EASTER.COLONIALKC.ORG](http://EASTER.COLONIALKC.ORG)

**TOPEKA EASTER PARADE & FUN FAIR -**



Mar. 26, 9am-5pm, Gage Park. Topeka's third annual Easter parade will move around inside Gage Park at 9:15am. Egg Hunt begins at 9am in AnimalLand playground. Family Fun Fair at

Big Gage Shelter House will include vendor booths, children's games, food, facepainting, and more between 9am & 5pm. Praise bands and school bands will perform nearby. For info: [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org) or 640-6399.

**JOURNEY TO THE CROSS.** March 26, 1:00 pm. Blue Ridge Bible Church, 8524 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. Free and open to the public. This family program invites children and adults to walk the path that Jesus walked. Small groups of people walk to 13 sites for activities that relate to the Passion event. At each station, their senses are engaged through experience-focused activity that teaches the biblical Passion account. 816-942-3301.

**COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT.** March 26, 11:00 am. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. All-Community Easter Egg Hunt & Resurrection Egg Story! Meet on the parking lot for great fun on this day! Free Lunch & Lots of candy! 816-796-5879.

**EGG HUNT.** March 26, 9:30 am. St. Paul's Church of the Nazarene, 8500 E 80th Terrace, Kansas City, MO. Lots of eggs, refreshments, and fun. We invite the community to join us. For more details: 816-806-1263.

**EASTER CANTATA, "BLESSED DAWN."** March 26, 7 pm and March 27, 10:15 am. Pisgah Baptist Church, 112 Pisgah Drive, Excelsior Springs, MO, 64024. (816) 630-5121. [www.pisgahbc.org](http://www.pisgahbc.org)

**EASTER SERVICES.** March 27, 8:30 & 10:50. Avondale United Methodist Church, 3101 NE Winn Road, Kansas City, MO 64117. 816-522-1023

**EASTER SERVICES.** March 27. Colonial Presbyterian Church, EPC, Overland Park, 12501 W. 137th St., OPKS • 6:30\*, 8:00, 9:15, and 11:00 a.m. \*Outdoor Sunrise Services. [EASTER.COLONIALKC.ORG](http://EASTER.COLONIALKC.ORG)

**EASTER SERVICES.** March 27. Colonial Presbyterian Church, EPC, Kansas City, 9500 Wornall Rd., KCMO. 6:30\*, 9:15, and 11:00 a.m. \*Outdoor Sunrise Services. [EASTER.COLONIALKC.ORG](http://EASTER.COLONIALKC.ORG)

**"HE IS RISEN!"** March 27, 10 am. St. Paul's Church of the Nazarene, 8500 E 80th Terrace, Kansas City, MO. Resurrection Sunday service with Cantata. 816-806-1263.

**EASTER SUNRISE EXTRAVAGANZA!** March 27, 6:30-8:30 am. KC Power & Light District, 13th & Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO. All the Churches in Kansas City are cordially invited to attend a Solemn Assembly of the Body of Kansas City. Come together as we put on the garment of Praise-Jesus is Risen. 816-215-5826.

**EASTER SERVICES.** March 27, 7:00 am. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. Easter Sunrise. 816-796-5879.

**CONCERTS**

**ALL THE EARTH IS HOLY GROUND SPRING TOUR.** March 3, 7:00 pm. Victory Ministry & Sports Complex, 3405 S. Hammons Blvd., Joplin, MO 64804. Tenth Avenue North, Hawk Nelson & I Am They. 417-206-6886.

**DAVID C. SMART.** March 4. Homer's Coffee

House, 7126 W 80th St., Overland Park, KS 66204. 913-381-6022.

**REND COLLECTIVE-AS FAMILY WE GO-USA TOUR.** March 5, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO 64138. \$20 General admission and \$40 deluxe. [www.echoconcerts.com](http://www.echoconcerts.com).

**GUITARIST DAVID SMART IN CONCERT.** March 13, 6:00 PM College Church of the Nazarene 2020 E. Sheridan, Olathe, Kansas. (913) 764-4575

**BEAUTIFUL OFFERINGS TOUR.** March 17, 7:00 pm. Victory Ministry & Sports Complex, 3405 S Hammons Blvd., Joplin, MO 64804. Big Daddy Weave, Plumb, & Jordan Feliz. 471-206-6886



APR 16 **TIME OF MY LIFE TOUR FEATURING CHRIS AUGUST, OTHERS.**

**THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY.** March 19, 6:00 pm. Kansas City Christian College, Cowen Memorial Auditorium, 7020 W. 74th St., Overland Park, KS 66226. 913-722-0272.

**TOBYMAC.** March 19, 7:00 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106. 816-949-7100.

**PHIL AND PAM MORGAN.** March 20, 10:30 am. First Assembly of God, 1050 W 19th St., Higginsville, MO. 660-584-2225.

**TIM HAWKINS LIVE.** April 3, 6:30 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO 64138. 816-353-1994.

**HARPIST GREG BUCHANAN IN CONCERT.** April 3, 6:00 PM. College Church of the Nazarene 2020 E. Sheridan, Olathe, Kansas. (913) 764-4575

**SANDI PATTY-THE FAREWELL TOUR.** April 7, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO 64138. 816-353-1994.

**TIME OF MY LIFE TOUR FEATURING THE AFTERS, CHRIS AUGUST, UNSPOKEN AND SPECIAL GUEST, AMONG THE THIRSTY.** April 16, 7:00 p.m. Word of Life Church, 3902 N. Riverside Road, St. Joseph, MO 64505. Tickets available on [itickets.com](http://itickets.com). Compassion International. GA \$17.50 \* VIP \$30. After April 10th: GA \$20 \* VIP \$35. Concert brought to you by Outreach Productions, LLC. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Cold Weather Shelter for homeless men in St. Joseph.

**SOUTHERN GOSPEL**

(Call for groups)

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

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



**MAR 20 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SEMINAR**

**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**

**HER CHOICE TO HEAL CLASS.** Starting in March. If Not For Grace Ministries. Join us for a 9 week class. Are you looking for spiritual and emotional peace after experiencing abortion? For more information contact Jama at jedlund@infg.org. or 816-847-2911.

**WORLD VISION PRESENTS: FIGHT NIGHT WITH DRS. LES AND LESLIE PARROTT.** March 4, 7:00 pm. College Church of the Nazarene, 2020 E. Sheridan St., Olathe, KS. A fun date night for couples of any age or stage. Filled with humor, fresh insight, and practical, new strategies for

turning conflict into a means for deeper intimacy. **"MINISTERING TO THE HURTING."** March 4 -5, Friday 6-9pm; Saturday 9am-5pm. Heart Of America Bible College & Theological Seminary, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64138. A course designed to equip counselors to minister to the hurting. Continuing Education Seminar. Call 816-356-6380 or go online and visit www.heartofamericaministries.com

**GROUP PUBLISHING VBS FUN SHOP.** March 5, 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 5901 E. 135th St., Grandview, MO 64030. Advance registration one week prior \$20, after that \$28. Bring your Vacation Bible School Team! At an Egypt FunShop, discover time-saving and

budget-stretching tips from Group's VBS veterans. This hands-on training gives practical pointers to all things VBS, including fundraising, volunteer recruiting, decorating and family follow-up. Get an energizing jump start! For more information/questions/etc.: Call Katrina 816-520-8975.

**AVOID PROBATE.** March 8, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center. 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

**HOMESCHOOL 101.** March 10, 7:00 pm. Country Meadows Baptist Church, 4901 S. Lee's Summit Rd., Kansas City, MO 64136. Families for Home Education offers this free class for families con-

■ calendar continued on next page

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**WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!**

**EASTER SERVICES, MARCH 27**

**Overland Park, KS** • 6:30\*, 8:00, 9:15, and 11:00 a.m.  
**Kansas City, MO** • 6:30\*, 9:15, and 11:00 a.m.

\*Outdoor Sunrise Services

**BEFORE EASTER TAKE PART IN THIS SPECIAL FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

Follow in Jesus' footsteps, learning more about his life, death, and the empty tomb.

Experience the *Road to Resurrection* at our Overland Park Campus **Saturday, March 26.** Reserved tours beginning at 5:00 p.m.

DETAILS AT **EASTER.COLONIALKC.ORG**

**Colony Presbyterian Church, EPC**  
Encounter God · Grow With Others · Impact People

**Overland Park, KS**  
12501 W. 137th St., OPKS  
Sundays 8:00, 9:15, 10:45 a.m.

**Kansas City, MO**  
9500 Wornall Road, KCMO  
Sundays 10:45 a.m.

CELEBRATE HOPE AT COLONIAL

sidering home education in Missouri. MO law and record-keeping requirements are presented, as well as curriculum ideas and area homeschooling activities. 877-696-6343

**WEEKEND TO REMEMBER MARRIAGE GET-AWAY.** March 11-March 13. Overland Park Marriott, 10800 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66210. Special getaway room rate: \$106.00/night. Event price \$149.99 per person registration. Sponsored by Family Life.

**WOMEN OF FAITH INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES.** March 12, 7:00-9:00 pm. Revival of Hope Church, 6002 Anderson Ave., Kansas City, MO 64123. Free and open to public. Speaker - Dr. Margaret Wright.

**IF NOT FOR GRACE MINISTRIES VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION.** March 12, 9 a.m. Crown Pointe Church, 5950 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. For RSVP rbitterman@infq.org.

**JESUS CENTERED & FORWARD FOCUS 2016.** March 12 & 13: Sat. 7 p.m., Sunday 10 am & 7 pm. Faith Ministries Community Church, 12222 Blue Ridge Blvd, Grandview, MO 64030. Join with us for timely & relevant sessions with Dr. Jim Richards!

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SEMINAR.** March 20. Kansas City Central Seventh-day Adventist Church - Jody Dichaut, Director of V.O.A.D. for the state of Missouri will be holding an all-day seminar for training on how we can assist the state agency in relief operations after a major natural disaster. Participants that complete the course, will be certified to help in times of need. To register, & for more information, call 563-271-0476.

**SOUTH KANSAS CITY AGLOW.** March 23, 9:30 am. Grandview Assembly of God, 1605 Lexington,



**APR. 8-9 MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY. ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF NAZARENE**

Pleasant Hill, MO 64080. Speaker: Lucille Lightfoot. God has empowered her with discernment, wisdom and boldness to speak of spiritual issues and knowledge to teach the word. Worship with the Warriors Come Home Ministries.

**AVOID PROBATE.** March 24, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center. 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

**SACRED & SECULAR AND POWER & JUSTICE SOCIETY.** March 31, 7:30 pm. William Jewell, Yates-Gill College Union 221, Liberty, MO 64068. Free; no registration needed. Speaker: Ambassador Mark Lagon, President of Freedom House.

**RESTORE 2016-SMITHTON OUTPOURING 20th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE.** March 31-April 3. World Revival Church, 9900 View High Drive, Kansas City, MO 64134. Join Pastor Steve & Kathy Gray, along with their special guest, Dr. Michael Brown, as World Revival Church cele-

brates the 20th anniversary of the "Smithton Outpouring" and anticipates a new season of global revival. In addition to Dr. Michael Brown, other key revival leaders will be speaking such Integrity Artist and Worship Leader Dustin Smith, Pastor Brent Rudoski from Faith Alive Family Church, and many others. 816-763-0708.

**MIDWEST PARENT EDUCATORS HOME-SCHOOL CONFERENCE AND CURRICULUM FAIR.** Apr. 21 - 23. Apr. 21, Keynote session, Emmanuel Baptist Church. Apr. 21 & 22 KCI Expo Center, 11730 N. Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO. 913-599-0311

**UNEXPECTED PLACES WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.** April 23, 8:30 am. Olathe Community Center, 1205 E Kansas City Rd., Olathe, KS 66062. \$40 includes Conference, light breakfast and lunch. Through worship, prayer, teaching, and inspiring stories you will...Connect with God and others, Discover the opportunity God has for you in this season, Receive the Lord's power and provision for unique purpose, Learn about the give and take of transformation, Find inspiration and encouragement through the stories of women like you. www.unexpectedplaces.me e-mail: unexpectedplacesteam@gmail.com

**CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN ACTION 2016.** April 26 (evening) at Blue Ridge Church, Kansas City, MO (Jr. CYIA). May 6 (evening) - May 7 at CEF Headquarters in Warrenton, MO (Jr. CYIA). June 4 at Blue Ridge Church, Kansas City, MO. June 12-25 at Genesis Bible Church, Hannibal, MO. Christian Youth in Action (CYIA) is a short-term, summer ministry (and mission trip) dedicated to the training and development of committed Christians (ages 14-18) who want to be equipped to reach children for Christ. Jr. CYIA is specialized training for ages 12-13. www.cefonline.com/CYIA 816-358-

1138.

**WATCHMEN ON THE WALL 2016 CHAMPIONING PASTORS TO TRANSFORM AMERICA.** May 25-27. Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. Pastors only \$249, includes two nights' lodging and meals. Limited time to senior pastor-space is limited. Will you impact our nation for Christ? Sponsored by Family Research Council. To register or for info., call 1-800-225-4008.

**SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS**

**DUNCAN ROAD CHURCH NEW LOCATION AND NAME.** We are excited to announce some changes that God is bringing. Beginning February 28th, 2016, Duncan Road Church will become The Road Church and will begin meeting for worship services at 1721 Burdett Crossing, Blue Springs, MO 64015. Our church offices will be at 1713 Burdett Crossing, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE.** Through March 20, 7:00 am-5:00 pm every day. Center for Women's Health Abortion Center, 4840 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211. 40 Days for Life is a peaceful pro-life effort... and 675,000 volunteers in 607 cities across 32 nations have taken part. With God's help, 40 Days for Life has seen 11,165 babies saved from abortion, 127 abortion workers conversions, and 64 closed abortion centers. Pray and get involved, and YOU can help save lives. Contact Sally Kutney, 913-609-9635. fortydayskc@gmail.com

**DISCOVER MARANATHA.** March 3, 6:00-8:00 pm. Maranatha Christian Academy, 15000 W. 63rd St., Shawnee, KS 66216. Parents will have

opportunity to see both campuses, if they desire. Open to the public. 913-631-0637 ext. 300.

**MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE OUTREACH.** March 5, 9:30 am. Colonial Presbyterian, 9500 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. Increase public awareness of your school/education service and provide information. 816-353-4113.

**18TH ANNUAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & COLLEGE EXPO.** March 5, 9:30 am-2:00 pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, Kansas City, MO. Free seminars: K-12 options-Parent Panel Discussion, Homeschooling 101; Preparing for the College ACT and more; Finding the Most Financial Aid with FAFSA. 20 K-12 Schools, Homeschool, 50 Colleges from 17 States. 816-524-4522. MetroVoiceNews.com

**SCOUTING MINISTRIES SUNDAY.** March 6, 10:50 a.m. Worship Service. Avondale United Methodist Church, 3101 NE Winn Road, Kansas City, MO 64117. 816-522-1023

**NORTHLAND K-12 OPEN HOUSE.** March 7, 6:30 pm. Gladstone Community Center, 6901 N. Holmes St., Gladstone, MO 64118. Visit with K-12 Christian schools North of the River. Sponsored by Metro Voice Newspaper. www.metrovoicenews.com 816-524-4522.

**POTATO BAKE.** March 9, 6 p.m. Lone Jack Christian Church, 200 W. Lone Jack-Lee's Summit Rd., Lone Jack, MO 64070. Fundraiser. 816-697-2370.

**POWER OF THE PURSE.** March 12, 10:30 am. First United Methodist Church of Blue Springs, 301 SW Woods Chapel Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64015. Purse Auction to benefit Truman Heritage Habitat Women Build Initiative. Putting God's love into action, seeking people to build homes

■ calendar continued on next page

**BALLET MAGNIFICAT!**  
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ADVANCED TICKETS:  
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**April 10th - 7pm**  
OLATHE, KS

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Advanced Master Class  
April 9 - 4-5:30pm  
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**Tuesday, March 8  
Thursday, March 24**

Bill Lewis

**Lewis Living Trust Center**

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communities and hope for Eastern Jackson County MO. 816-679-1761.

**55TH ANNUAL KANSAS PRAYER BREAK-FAST** - Mar. 16, 6am, Ramada Inn, downtown Topeka. Guest speaker Doug Burleigh of Leadership Development Foundation, with leaders in government, business, education and industry. \$18 each or tables of 10 for \$180. For info and RSVP: francisbartley@cox.net or 234-6204

**HARVESTER'S FOOD DISTRIBUTION.** March 17, 4:00 pm. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. Food Bank local distribution through our parking lot available to anyone in need. 816-796-5879.

**CELEBRATE PURIM WITH OR HAOLAM.** March 20, 3:00-7:00 pm. Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation, 7029 W. 74th St., Overland Park, KS. What would the Purim story have looked like had it taken place in a different long ago era? Say, out late 60's-early 70's? Just for fun, we tried to imagine the story set to some familiar & fun "oldies" tunes. So come expecting an outta sight time. Wear a costume, young and old! Bring your kids, grandkids, neighborhood kids, kids at heart! 3:00-4:30: Games!! All ages. 4:30-5:00: Costume Parade, all ages. 5:00-5:45: Feelin' Groovy in a Far-out Blast with Ester & Mordiel! For those who remember; for those who've only heard tales! 5:45ish-Let's Eat! 913-383-8448.

**BOTT RADIO NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER: SHOW ME YOUR GLORY LORD.** March 30. Missouri State Capital, First Floor Rotunda, Jefferson City, MO.

**PRO-LIFE ACTION DAY.** April 5, 10:30 am Reg-

istration. 12:00-12:30 pm Rally. Missouri State Capital, Jefferson City, MO. Sponsored by Missouri Right to Life. Hope to see many pro-lifers there. Lobby your legislators concerning Legislation on Pro-life issue. 816-353-4113.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY.** April 8 and 9, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, St. Paul's Church of the Nazarene, 8500 E 80th Terrace, Kansas City, MO will give away free clothes, coats, bedding, and shoes. Larger household items will be offered for donations. The church is accepting contributions Wednesdays from 7 to 8 pm. Pick up is available, 816-509-7130.

**LIGHT HOUSE GALA.** April 9, 6:00 pm-10:00 pm. Armacost Museum, 4200 E. 135th St., Grandview, MO 64030. All proceeds go to support the ministries of the LIGHT House. 816-898-1094.

**HILLCREST HERO BUBBLE SOCCER TOURNAMENT.** Apr. 9, 8:30 a.m. Shawnee Mission East HS, 738 N 31st Street, Kansas City, KS, 66102. Join us for Bumper Cars meets soccer for a 34 team, double elimination game of Bubble Soccer. Prizes to winners. Concessions, Kids area, Raffle prizes valued at over \$2500. Benefits us as we minister to homeless families and youth in KC. (816) 588-0349.

**EAGLE EGG 5K.** April 16, 9:00 am. Summit Christian Academy, 1500 SW Jefferson, Lee's Summit, MO 64081.

**A TASTE FOR LIFE.** April 23. The Midland Theatre, Kansas City, MO. Benefits Rachel House.

**MARCH OF REMEMBRANCE - WALK.** May 1, 1:30-5:00 pm. Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211. Join us for the pre-rally at 1:30 pm as we start



MARCH 10-13 THINGS WE COULDN'T SAY LIBERTY CHAPEL

the "Day of Remembrance". The March of Remembrance Prayer Walk begins at 3:00 pm. The walk will be 1.2 miles with the possibility to only go half the distance. The pre-walk rally in the courtyard of the facility will be lead by local leaders who will lead us in prayer. You will get to participate in learning more about the Holocaust and Righteous Among the Nations and participate in a moving opportunity to choose a "blessing or curse". The walk will begin at 3:00 pm rain or shine! www.morkc.org

**EVENING OF REMEMBRANCE.** May 1, 6:30-

8:30 pm (doors will open at 5:30 pm.). Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211. Join us as we honor, educate, remember and engage. This is a historic event you won't want to miss! Limited number of seats available. Program will have speaker and Holocaust testimony. www.morkc.org

**CROSSROADS RODEO BIBLE CAMP** - Jul. 8-11 & 12-16, Leavenworth Co. Fairgrounds, Tonganoxie, KS. Grades 5-8: Jul 8-11; Grades 9-12: Jul 12-16. Camp activities: meals & snacks, skill building, music, Bible study, rodeo participation. Register at CrossroadsCowboy-Church.net. Facebook: Crossroads Rodeo Bible Camp. For info: C3RBC@yahoo.com.

**FINE ARTS**

**BALLET MAGNIFICAT PRESENTS STRATAGEM WITH DRAMATIC TRUTH PRESENTING PASSIONATE PURSUIT.** Apr. 10, 7 p.m. Bell Center, Olathe, KS. The premier Christian ballet company in America is returning to Kansas City in one of its most compelling, original ballets to date. www.dramatictruth.org

**HELLO DOLLY!** March 10, 11 and 12 at 7pm. Plaza Heights Christian Academy, 1500 SW Clark Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015. Presented by the Plaza Heights Christian Academy Drama Department. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. \$7 for Adults. \$5 for children ages 3 - 12th grade. Call (816) 228-0670 for ticket info.

**LEGALLY BLONDE: THE MUSICAL.** Through March 13. The Barn Players, 6219 Martway, Mission, KS 66202. Tickets are \$18.

**REFLECTING CLASS IN THE AGE OF REMBRANDT AND VERMEER.** Through May 29, Wednesday 10:00 am-5:00 pm.; Thursday/Friday 10:00 am-9:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Sunday 10:00 am -5:00 pm. Nelson-Atkins Museum, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64111. The exhibit explores 17th-century Dutch painting through the lens of social class. 816-751-1278.

**AN EVENING WITH COLE PORTER.** March 3-13, Sunday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday; 7:00-9:00 pm. Musical Theater Heritage, Crown Center, 2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. If you enjoyed "Bernstein's Broadway" and "Wouldn't It Be Lovely" then you are sure to enjoy "An Evening with Cole Porter". 816-221-6987.

**SING OUT, SISTER!** March 4-April 3, 7:30 pm Tuesday-Saturday; 3:00 pm Sunday. Quality Hill Playhouse, 303 W 10th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. Since the Songbook began, women composers and lyricists have made significant contributions to American popular song. We celebrate these songwriters and more in this salute to women in music. 816-421-1700.

**LIFE IN A JAR: THE IRENA SENDLER PROJECT.** March 5, 8:00 pm. White Theatre, The Jewish Community Center, 5801 W. 115th St.,

■ calendar continued on next page

**Celebrate Purim with Or HaOlam!**

Sunday, March 20, 3-7 P.M.

What would the Purim story have looked like had it taken place in a different long ago era? Say, our late 60's-early 70's? Just for fun, we tried to imagine the story set to some familiar & fun "oldies" tunes. So come expecting an outta sight time. Wear a costume, young and old! Bring your kids, grandkids, neighborhood kids, kids at heart!

**And don't forget to bring the Hamantaschen!**

3-4:30 - **Games!!** Fun! Fun! Fun! for all ages  
 4:30-5 - **Costume Parade** Also for all ages  
 5-5:45 - **Feelin' Groovy in a Far-out Blast with Ester & Mordiel!**  
 For those who remember; for those who've only heard tales!  
 5:45ish - **Let's Eat!!**

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www.adoptKSkids.org • 877-457-5430

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

**18th Annual**

**Christian EDUCATION EXPO**

Saturday, March 5 • 9:30am – 2pm

At Colonial Presbyterian Church • 9500 Wornall, KCMO  
 Just north of I-435 at 95th and Wornall Rd. in South Kansas City

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Overland Park, KS 66211. As a social worker, she risked her own life to rescue more than 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto during the Nazi occupation of Poland in World War II. Then a group of students in rural Kansas discovered her while working on a project. They were so intrigued that, with the support of their teacher, Norma Conrad, they created Life in a Jar. Rated G. 913-327-8054.

**THINGS WE COULDN'T SAY.** March 10, 10:30 am; March 11, 6:45 pm; March 12, 6:45 pm; March 13, 2:00 pm. Liberty Chapel, 15790 Elmwood, Kansas City, MO 64147. All audience members are invited for a pre-show talk at 10:30 am on Thursday, March 10 and 6:45 pm on Saturday, March 12. Dr. Teddy Bitner (Academic Dean and history professor), Mr. Steve Dussetschleger (WWII living historian and re-enactor), Patricia Freeman (adaptor and director), and Dr. Terri Stricker (Learning Center Director and English professor) in a Q & A and discussion regarding the impact of the themes of this play.

**CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG.** March 10, 10:00 am & March 11, 10:00 am School Day Performances; March 10, 7:00 pm; March 11, 7:00 pm; March 12, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; March 13, 2:00 pm. Goppert Theater, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64145. Sponsored by CYT. www.cytkc.org.

**THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR & OTHER EPIC CARLE FAVORITES.** March 10, 10:00 am

& 11:30 am. Folly Theater, 300 W. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64106. 816-474-4444

**STRING FLING.** March 12. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO 64052. Marionettes tunefully welcome Spring. 816-833-9777.

**THE PIANO GUY.** March 16, 8:00 pm. Arvest Bank Theatre at The Midland, 1228 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64105. \$29.50-\$149.50. 816-283-9921.

**SWEET SPIRIT & FRIENDS MUSIC OUTREACH.** March 19, 6:00 pm (food) 7:00 pm (music). Moment of Truth Bible Baptist Church, 310 S. Randolph Rd., Claycomo, MO 64119. Come on by, bring a friend and enjoy an evening of great food and music. We'll fill you up right down to your Soul! 816-591-9303.

**IRVING BERLIN'S ANNIE GET YOUR GUN.** March 31- April 24. Musical Theater Heritage at Crown Center, 2450 Grand, Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-221-6987.

**SHREK THE MUSICAL.** April 7, 7:00 pm; April 8, 10:00 am & 7:00 pm; April 9, 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm. Northland Mission Auditorium, 600 NW 110th Terr., Kansas City, MO 64155. Presented by Act One.

**FAMILY OUTINGS**

**DA VINCI: THE EXHIBITION.** Through May 1, 2016. Tuesday-Thursday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Fri-



day-Saturday, 10:00 am-6:00 pm; Sunday, 12:00-5:00 pm. Union Station, 30 W. Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Featuring more than 65 fully built life-size inventions, more than 20 fine art studies and dozens of stunning displays, guests will learn the complex beginnings and lifetime achievements of Da Vinci through his discoveries in art, engineering, flight, hydraulics, music, light and more.

**THE WIZARD OF PAWS.** Through May 7. Crown Center, 2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Presented by The Martin City Melodrama's. 913-642-7576.

**GREATER KANSAS CITY INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW.** March 2-6. Kansas City Convention & Entertainment Facilities, 301 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO 64105.

**FRESH BITES WITH BARB THE GARDENER: WE DIG POTATOES!** March 12, 2:00 pm. Powell Gardens, 1609 NW US Hwy. 50, Kingsville, MO 64061. It's time to plant potatoes! Stop by the Missouri Barn from 2-3 pm and Barb the Gardner will show you how easy it is to grow a crop of tasty tubers. 816-697-2600.

**29th ANNUAL SPRING FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON.** March 12. Bingham-Waggoner Estate, Independence, MO. As you and your friends enjoy a wonderful meal, watch as the models display fashions and accessories from the unique offerings of the Carriage House Boutique. www.bwestate.org 816-461-3491.

**GREATER KANSAS CITY HOME SHOW.** March 18, 12:00-8:00 pm; March 19, 10:00am-8:00 pm; March 20, 10:00 am-5:00 pm.. Kansas City Convention Center, Bartle Hall, Kansas City, MO.

**MEET CAPTIAN AMERICA, IRON MAN, SPIDER-MAN AND THOR.** March 19 & 20, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Kansas City Zoo, 6800 Zoo Drive, Kansas City, MO 64132. 816-595-1234.

**DISNEY ON ICE: 100 YEARS OF MAGIC.** March 24-27. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106. Be charmed by a cast of over 50, with Mouse-ter of Ceremonies Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy and Disney Princesses. Sing-along to over 30 songs.

**SHENYUN PERFORMING ART SHOW.** April 1-3, 7:20 pm. Kauffman Center, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-994-7200.

**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.

**DIVORCECARE AND DIVORCECARE4KIDS.** 6:00-7:30 pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW RD Mize Road, Blue Springs, MO. Help for those going through or having gone through divorce. 816-228-5300.

**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.**

**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.** 3:00-6:00 pm. Healing Rooms of Olathe, 1548 E Spruce, Olathe, KS 66061. M-F-W by appointment. www.healingroomsfolathe.com 913-563-2413.

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

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

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

**TUESDAY - FEAR NOT SUPPORT GROUP.** 7pm. Lakeland Community Church, 913 NW Colbern Rd., 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 program for anyone with a hurt, hang-up, or addiction. Contact Craig Hauser, 913-449-7265.

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

**1ST TUESDAY - CHRISTIAN NIGHT.** 6 - 8 pm. Skate World, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Parkway, Mission, KS. 913-262-0711.

**1ST TUESDAY - CREATION SCIENCE ASSOCIATION FOR MID-AMERICA.** 7 p.m., Westbrooke Church, 9777 Antioch, Overland Park, KS. Presentation followed by Q&A; Answers to your questions regarding Science and the Bible; "Creation Safaris" (Res. Req'd); www.csama.org (includes link to FB page) 816-246-4517.

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# Kansas City's Home for Christian Music

# entertainment

MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE!

## 'RISEN' A BIBLE-BASED DETECTIVE STORY

by **Michael Foust**

Some of the best discussions I've ever had in church small groups have revolved around what the Bible doesn't tell us. For example:

Who did Cain marry? Why did God get so angry at Moses for striking that rock? And who wrote the book of Hebrews?

Then there's this one: How would Roman officials — and specifically Pilate — have reacted had they learned of the empty tomb? We know that the guards were paid to tell

everyone that Jesus' body was stolen as they supposedly slept (Matthews 28:13), and that the chief priests thought they could appease Pilate if he learned of the resurrection (Matthew 28:14). Scripture, though, has little else to say.

But let's suppose Pilate did find out about the empty tomb. What would he have done?

That's the theme of the new movie *Risen* (PG-13) which opens in theaters this weekend and posits that Pilate would have ordered his military to search for the body of Christ. What follows is a detective-type story that is

■ See MOVIE page 19

**'Risen' is historical fiction, but it's largely harmonious with the Gospel story, incredibly well-done, and not much different from those Sunday School discussions many of us take part in week to week."**



Joseph Fiennes and Tom Felton in a scene from the movie "Risen." (CNS photo/Columbia Pictures)

## HIGH HOPES FOR FAITH-BASED SEQUEL

### entertainment

by **Bill Bumpas**

David White, founding partner in Pure Flix Entertainment, said they were amazed by the impact of the first film after the opening weekend almost two years ago. Box office receipts for that weekend totaled in excess of \$9 million.

"All of Hollywood ended up calling that following Monday and saying First of all, who is Pure Flix? And what is 'God's Not Dead,'" White recalls with a laugh. He also shares that God shined favor on the movie that was the highest grossing faith film of 2014 (\$60 million, according to IMDB.com).

White tells OneNewsNow that Pure Flix is now ready to roll out *God's Not Dead 2*, starring Melissa Joan Hart.

"She plays this public school teacher who is being sued for her Christian faith after she inadvertently answers a student's question about Jesus in the classroom," he summarizes.

"And so in *God's Not Dead* — the first one — it was about defending your faith in a college setting," White continues, "and this brings us into the public setting, [into] the public forum .... So I think it opens up the story even larger, and I think people will feel like it still has the same heart that the first one has —



Melissa Joan Hart and Jesse Metcalfe star in *GND2*.

but it's definitely a fresh take on all of it."

The veteran Christian actor grew up in the Mennonite Church and saw only one movie in the theater by the time he was 18. But White says at an early age God put a dream in his heart to go into

the entertainment industry.

That led to him going to Hollywood when he was 19 where he began working in mainstream TV. Then God opened a door for him to be involved in Christian movies.

"... I actually think the Lord has given me a greater freedom [than if I'd stayed in TV] — and I think this is so true in our lives: when we give God our life, when we bend our knee before him, when we follow him, he gives us a greater freedom creatively," he shares.

"I feel like I've had a much greater freedom as an artist to be able to do the action films, to be able to do the comedies within this genre; and it's been incredibly rewarding to see how the Lord uses it for his glory."

*God's Not Dead 2* (PG) will be in theaters beginning April 1.

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# C.S LEWIS NOVEL INSPIRES GROUND-BREAKING PRODUCTION

## Two ballet companies unite to explore passionate pursuits and spiritual battles

Internationally known ballet touring company, Ballet Magnificat!, unites with local Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre to perform a joint concert. Excerpts from Stratagem by Ballet Magnificat! will be performed and Passionate Pursuit by Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre will be presented at the Bell Center Theater, 2030 E. College Way, Olathe, Kan., for one night only, Sunday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.dramatictruth.org](http://www.dramatictruth.org) for \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door with a student price of \$15 in advance.

Stratagem is Ballet Magnificat!'s newest ballet, inspired by C.S. Lewis' well-known novel "Screwtape Letters", depicts the spiritual battle from the villain's perspective. "My hope for this ballet is to give people a glimpse of the

unseen strategy that we encounter in our daily lives while on this earth," said Tara Thibodeaux Drew, Choreographer of Stratagem.

Ballet Magnificat! is America's premier Christian ballet company. The Jackson, Miss. based company was founded in 1986 by International Ballet Competition silver-medalist Kathy Thibodeaux and her husband Keith Thibodeaux, best known as "Little Ricky" from the I Love Lucy television show. Dramatic Truth Ballet Theater was established in 1988 in Nashville by Kansas City natives Doug and Liz Dimmel. The Dramatic Truth vision migrated to the Kansas City area in 1991. Dramatic Truth School of the Arts, home to the DT Ballet Theatre, is located in Grand-



The Thibodeauxs and Dimmels met while in Nashville in the late 80's and had a lot in common, as both wives were ballet dancers and instructors and both Keith and Doug were drummers. Keith was touring with "David and The Giants" and Doug Dimmel was touring with Barbara Mandrell. They all shared a desire to see dance and music go beyond a popular expression to a spiritually life-changing event. DT Artistic Director Liz Dimmel recalls, "There was a time that Doug and I had some discussion with the Thibodeauxs about relocating to Jackson and joining their staff."

Keith Thibodeaux states, "When the

Dimmels established Dramatic Truth in KC, we stayed in touch. This will be the first time we have ever performed together."

Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre's half of the program is a visual expression of what most people are searching for... a real relationship. Passionate Pursuit is a search not for a relationship based on looks or wealth, but the ultimate relationship with the eternal God. "God seems to be on trial in much of today's discussion," states choreographer Liz Dimmel, "but not to those who know Him. Passionate Pursuit is an expression of that journey."



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# SHEN YUN RETURNS TO KANSAS CITY

Dwight Widaman | Metro Voice

The 2016 production of Shen Yun, the magnificent production featuring Chinese dance, music and art in a magical celebration of their 5,000-year-old culture, has added a live symphony orchestra for its 30 country world tour. The production features many aspects of Chinese culture that are disappearing in China today, as the communist government continues to erase an semblance of the proud nation's spiritual past and proud traditions.

The touring production of Shen Yun has given hundreds of thousands around the world the opportunity to appreciate one of the world's oldest cultures and has, since its first appearance in Kansas City several years ago, significantly grown its local fan base.

Through a universal language of music and dance, Shen Yun weaves a wondrous tapestry of heavenly realms, ancient legends, and modern heroic tales, taking you on a journey through 5,000 years of Chinese culture. Its stunning beauty and tremendous energy leave audiences uplifted and inspired.

A Shen Yun performance features



the world's foremost classically trained dancers, a unique orchestra blending East and West, and dazzling animated backdrops — together creating one spectacular performance. Shen Yun cannot be seen in China today, where traditional culture has been nearly lost. Yet Shen Yun has become an international phenomenon, bringing the wonders of ancient Chinese culture to millions across the globe.

Though Shen Yun focuses on a spirituality outside of Christianity, it offers an insight into the Chinese as a spiritually hungry people, which has tremendous implications for Christi-

anity itself and partly explains why Christianity is growing in China despite persecution of it and other minority faiths.

Shen Yun is a visual feast that you should not miss.

It will be at the Kauffman Center in Kansas City April 1-3. Tickets are available at [www.shenyun.com/KC](http://www.shenyun.com/KC) or by calling 816-994-7222.

## more information

Visit [Metrovoicenews.com](http://Metrovoicenews.com) to watch a trailer of the production.

## MOVIE

continued from page 17

have ordered his military to search for the body of Christ. What follows is a detective-type story that is inspiring and moving — even if we assume we know how it all will end.

"You will track down each and every one of these disciples," Pilate tells a military tribune named Clavius (played by Joseph Fiennes), a brutal leader who had taken part in the killing of Jesus and who has little use for the story of His resurrection. Clavius, after all, prays to the Roman god Mars.

Clavius and his men find Mary Magdalene, demanding to know where they put Jesus.

"He's right here," she answers, tears in her eyes. "... Open your heart and see."

He interrogates a joyful Bartholomew, asking him the same question.

"God is not at my beck and call," Bartholomew responds.

Clavius finds one of the men who had guarded the tomb, demanding he explain what truly happened. At first, the guard tells him they were asleep, but when pressed, he acknowledges the truth: There was a bright flash and the huge stone flew open "like a leaf." Then they saw the risen Christ.

"Never have I witnessed a moment [like that,]" the guard, still terrified, says.

Clavius seems frightened by the story, too, but nonetheless orders his men to continue combing the streets and buildings of Jerusalem in search of Jesus' other disciples.

Finally, Clavius does find the disciples — and the living Christ, too. Now face-to-face with the most shocking event of his life and seeing his entire worldview turned upside down, Clavius must de-

cide if Christ is truly the Messiah, the Son of God. It's among the most powerful scenes I've witnessed in any film.

Yes, "Risen" is historical fiction, but it's largely harmonious with the Gospel story, incredibly well-done, and not much different from those Sunday School discussions many of us take part in week to week.

And even though Clavius is a fictional character, he represents every single person on the planet. Each person at one point or another searches for the Truth, and each of us — once confronted with the claims of Scripture — must decide whether we believe or reject the Gospel.

Fiennes, not surprisingly, stands out in his performance, and acting in the movie is a strength.

"I would love to see an auditorium

with a mixed spectrum of spectators that enjoy the Scripture and the creativity together, and feel moved," he told me.

One final word: As with all films of historical fiction — and particularly one involving biblical characters — we must be careful to separate fact from fiction. No doubt, many Christians and unbelievers alike will walk out of Risen assuming the story was taken directly from the pages of Scripture. It wasn't — even if it is quite good.

But that doesn't mean Risen can't be used to share the Gospel with unbelievers, as well as to encourage, motivate and inspire Christians.

— Michael Foust has covered the film industry for more than a decade.

# 2016 Grammy Award winners

Some of Christian music's biggest names won at the 2016 Grammys, including TobyMac and Israel Houghton in the Gospel and Christian music categories.

Taking home the award for the Best Contemporary Christian Music Album was Christian music pioneer TobyMac for *This is Not a Test*. Other nominees in the category included Chris Tomlin for *Love Ran Red*, Matt Maher for *Saints and Sinners*, Lauren Daigle for *How Can it Be* and Jason Crabb for *Whatever the Road*.

This win marks the 51-year-old's third career Grammy Award. His album *Alive and Transported* won for Best Rock Gospel Album in 2009 and *Eye on It* was also named as the Best Contemporary Christian Music Album of 2013.

*This Is Not a Test* is the seventh studio album by TobyMac. It debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard 200. Produced by Christopher Stevens, David Garcia, TobyMac, Capital Kings and Solomon Olds, *This is Not a Test* finds TobyMac collaborating with a diverse group of artists, including for the first time in a decade, his former DC Talk bandmates Kevin Max and Michael Tait.

The singer took to Facebook to express his gratitude: "So honored, so grateful, so humbled and soooo thank-

ful for all who labored with me on this project. To God be the glory," he wrote about his win.

TobyMac's song "Feel It" was also nominated for a Grammy for Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song, but it was singer Francesca Battistelli who was named winner for her single "Holy Spirit." Battistelli received her first Grammy Award nomination in 2009, for Best Gospel Performance with her single "Free to Be Me."



TOBYMAC



DAIGLE



HOUGHTON

Joining the night of winners was worship leader Israel Houghton, who won the award in the Best Gospel Album category for *Israel & New Breed's* live album *Covered: Alive in Asia*. Houghton was also nominated in the Best Gospel Performance/Song for the live rendition of the song "How Awesome is Our God," which featured Yolanda Adams.

Gospel music's trailblazer Kirk Franklin took home the award for Best Gospel Performance/Song for the single "Wanna Be Happy?"

This win marks Franklin's eighth Grammy Award. Along with *Israel & NewBreed*, those who went up against Franklin in the same category included Anthony Brown & Group Therapy, Travis Greene, and Brian Courtney Wilson.

See WINNERS page 22



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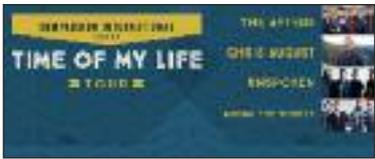
 

# SPRING INTO WARMER CONCERT SEASON

Is it spring yet? With all of the concerts being announced and coming to a venue near you, I'm starting to wonder...

Compassion International Presents Time of My Life Tour, featuring The Afters, Chris August, and Unspoken, with Special Guest, Among the Thirsty. The show will be presented at Word of Life Church, April 16 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Joseph. The concert is brought to you by Outreach Productions, LLC, and a portion of the proceeds will go to the Cold Weather Shelter for homeless men in St. Joseph. Tickets are available on iTickets.com, and fans get an extra discount if they purchase tickets before April 10.

"Inspired by a series of life-altering events," Jeremy Camp will be coming to Joplin in April, to promote his I Will Follow Tour. The platinum-selling recording artist will also be joined by



**D.C. JEANES**  
Metro Voice  
music critic

## musicscene

Mandisa and special guest Finding Favour. They will be performing at Calvary Joplin

A brand new Hits Deep Tour headlined by TobyMac and featuring Britt Nicole, Building 429, Colton Dixon, Capital Kings, Finding Favour and Hollyn hit the road in February and head west following a few shows in the south. They will be stopping in Kansas City on March 19. The tour is brought to you by KLOVE and Air1 radio in conjunction with Awakening Events and sponsored by Food for the Hungry. For more information and tickets, please visit toby-



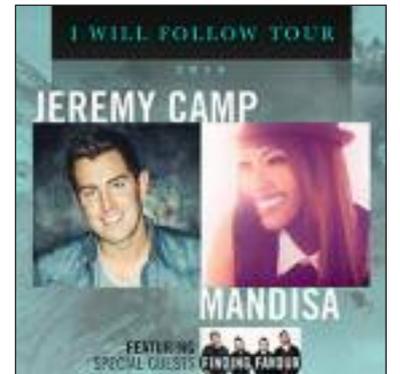
mac.com

In other news, if you hadn't heard, Stryper has been making a big comeback in the heavy music industry. Having released two new albums in the last three years, their message of hope and redemption through Christ Jesus, as well as their hard-rocking style, has not been tampered with. Their most recent release, *Fallen*, sold over 10,000 copies during the first week of release landing at #2 on the Top Hard Music Albums chart, #2 on the Top Contemporary Christian Albums chart, #2 on Bill-



board's Top Christian/Gospel Albums, #5 on the Top Current Rock Albums chart, #20 on the Top Current Physical Albums chart, #26 on the Top Current Albums chart, #29 on the Top Current Digital Albums chart and #44 on the Billboard Top 200. This is their ninth album in their decades-long career, and well worth checking out!

Another well-known, although much younger, hard Christian music artist, Lacey Sturm, has released her first solo album since leaving her band Flyleaf. Since leaving the band, Flyleaf released



a new album, with a new singer, to disappointing results. But Sturm's new release, co-written with her husband, Joshua, has gotten some very high praise. Following a stint working with Billy Graham and releasing a memoir, *The Reason*, Lacey has returned to her hard rock roots with a collection of songs focused on God's great creation, as well as the miracle of life. If you are a fan of hard rock or interested in hearing some louder tunes with a hard Christian message, check out Lacey's newest offering.

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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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## Spring is such a blessing

My wife is from Hawaii, and we go back every year. People always ask me if it is tough to come back. Of course it is! However, I grew up in the Midwest living with the seasons, and I absolutely love the creativity of God in each of these four distinct seasons.

And spring is my favorite! Why?

Spring speaks of growth, renewal and a fresh start. We see green shooting through everywhere as life comes forth from hibernation. Spring is also a great time for cleansing and for healing. After a few months of cabin fever, we have the glorious opportunity to go outside again. Spring is the expression of God

in its finest form, LIFE!

God is a living God, and He wants personal connection with each of us. I know many people, myself included, who strongly connect to God through nature. Why is that? Remember Genesis 2:7, that God formed us from dust of the earth. We are intimately connected to God's creation and all that grows in this earth He designed for us. And we have lost touch. Native people always honored and appreciated the earth. We



have built cities, synthetic materials, fake food and we exercise in gyms on machines.

If you haven't experienced it, I am telling you that God will encounter you in nature! Nature embodies the essence of who He is. Our message at Spirit of Health has never changed, "We must choose God's creations over the things of man." How do we do that? We begin to say no to television, treadmills, cell phones (yes I have one too ), video games, petro-chemical pharmaceutical drugs, chemotherapy, processed junk foods, fast food and the like. And we begin to say YES to trees, sunshine, herbs for medicine, allowing your child to watch a spider build a web over playing video games, exercising outside on the grass, waking in nature, camping, lighting candles at night and turning off all electronics, and real food that actually grows out of the ground in its purest form.

Have you ever dealt with stress or anxiety? It is a HUGE cultural problem. Close your eyes and imagine. You are outside by a beautiful gently flowing river, your bare feet in the grass, with the power of the sun warming your face and body. You have a bird chirping in the distance as you feel the cool breeze touching your face. Are you still stressed? God is the answer to our stress problem. So relax, get outside, get wet, get dirty and enjoy all that God has to offer this spring.

But the reality is that we have lost touch with God in many ways. And being connected to the earth is a big one! So get outside. Get your bare feet on the earth, sunshine on your face, a nice walk in the woods, a refreshing dip in a river, and start a garden! An old ancient proverb says "The key to longevity is having a garden."

We plant a garden every year. There is power in watching life spring forth before your eyes. It is the power of God. There is no power of God in a Twizzler or Coca-Cola. Your body doesn't understand processed chemicals, which is why they damage the body. The power of God is found in His creation! So bless yourself and your children this year by planting a garden and learning how food really grows. I am not and never have been a great gardener. You don't have to be. You will have some successful plants and some failures. Just go for it!

Choose God, choose LIFE! God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He hasn't changed, we have! We have chosen man-made creations that have separated us from the living God. This year is your year to re-connect!

—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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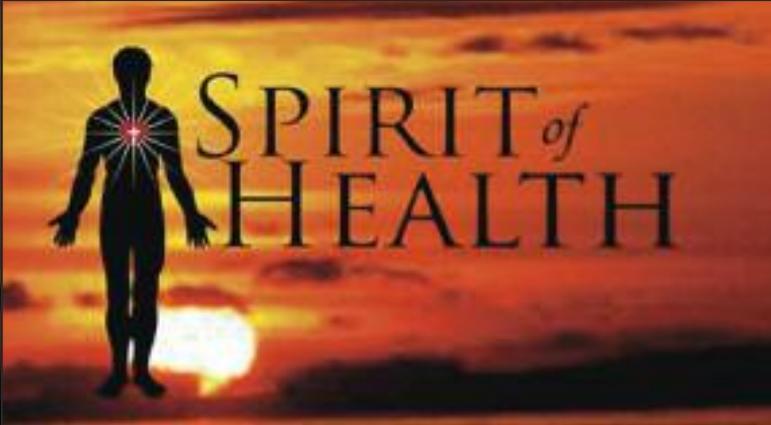


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## bookshelf

### Heavy Lifting: Grow up, get a job, raise a family, and other manly advice

BY JIM GERAGHTY & CAM EDWARDS  
PUBLISHER: REGNERY PUBLISHING, 2015:  
The days of rugged individualism and virtuous manly men are gone. Pajama Boy? Say it ain't so!

Whether you're a young woman seeking out a boyfriend or husband or a contractor seeking out a prospective worker, good luck with convincing most Millennial men to abandon adolescence. This new age of man buns, metrosexuality and meekness in men portends bad news.

One can't help but think, Where have all the real men disappeared to? Are they mythical creatures who are just figments of our imaginations?

Although most Millennial guys might appear to be a lost cause, a new book suggests they can be saved after all – and it couldn't be more timely! In *Heavy Lifting: Grow Up, Get a Job, Raise a Family and Other Manly Advice*, Jim Geraghty of National Review and Cameron Edwards of NRANews offer some sound advice for young men who are dispirited by our culture or who are eager to repudiate their Peter Pan ways.

This book is chock-full of sage advice young guys can easily grasp and implement into their lives. Using their experiences as husbands and fathers, Geraghty and Edwards advise their charges on how to take the initiative, or how to succeed in the domestic sphere.

*Heavy Lifting* encourages young men to become independent – to leave their parents' basements, to put away the video games, to dress well, to find work, to be assertive, and to start families.

Readers will appreciate the first-hand testimonies and hilarious anecdotes provided by the authors.

For example, in "Asking Her Out", Geraghty writes an important piece about how young men should handle pursuing women, facing rejection, and preparing for "the right girl". He counsels that "There's a sting that comes with rejection. But it shouldn't be crippling, and the fear of rejection shouldn't cripple us either."

In the chapter entitled "Settling Down," Cam makes a great case for young men to discover the beauty of settling down, saying "Settling down with a wife and kids that you love isn't settling for less. In fact, it could be more than you ever thought possible."

An intersection of the Art of Manliness and The Good Men Project, *Heavy Lifting* does an adequate job of encouraging Millennials guys to aspire to be men. Geraghty

and Edwards seek to improve their younger male counterparts, and their book certainly achieves this goal.

*Heavy Lifting* is a blueprint all Americans can use to cultivate the next generation of men. Read it – and encourage the young men in your life to read it as well.

### The Hundred-Year Marathon: China's secret strategy to replace America as the global superpower

BY MICHAEL PILLSBURY, 336 PAGES  
PUBLISHER: HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY  
One of the U.S. government's leading China experts reveals the hidden strategy fueling that country's rise – and how Americans have been seduced into helping China overtake us as the world's leading superpower.

For more than forty years, the United States has played an indispensable role helping the Chinese government build a booming economy, develop its scientific and military capabilities, and take its place on the world stage, in the belief that China's rise will bring us cooperation, diplomacy, and free trade. But what if the "China Dream" is to replace us, just as America replaced the British Empire, without firing a shot?

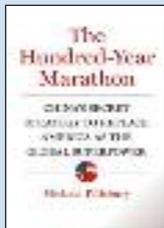
Based on interviews with Chinese defectors and newly declassified, previously undisclosed national security documents,

The Hundred-Year Marathon reveals China's secret strategy to supplant the United States as the world's dominant power, and to do so by 2049, the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic.

Michael Pillsbury, a fluent Mandarin speaker who has served in senior national security positions since the days of Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, draws on his decades of contact with the "hawks" in China's military and intelligence agencies and translates their documents, speeches, and books to show how the teachings of traditional Chinese statecraft underpin their actions.

He offers an inside look at how the Chinese really view America and its leaders – as barbarians who will be the architects of their own demise.

Pillsbury also explains how the U.S. government has helped – sometimes unwittingly and sometimes deliberately – to make this "China Dream" come true, and he calls for the United States to implement a new, more competitive strategy toward China as it really is, and not as we might wish it to be. The Hundred-Year Marathon is a wake-up call as we face the greatest national security challenge of the twenty-first century.



## WINNERS

continued from page 19

Rounding out the winners for the Gospel and Christian categories for the 2016 Grammy Awards were The Fairfield Four. The group won the category Best Roots Gospel Album with their album *Still Rockin' My Soul*. With a lasting career

in the music industry, The Fairfield Four have existed for over 90 years.

They started as a trio in Nashville, Tennessee's Fairfield Baptist Church in 1921, but the first time they received a Grammy Award was in 1997 for the song "I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray," and won again in 1998 for Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album.

## HARRELL

continued from page 1

"I was raised in a good home; I just wish I could say the same for my own children," Harrell said.

A single mom of three kids, Harrell started doing meth after having her second son, Chad. She started using it as a means to lose some weight after having a baby, but it turned into years of drug abuse. Harrell said she even used meth while she was pregnant with Casey.

"Because of my drug use with Casey, I didn't even discover I was pregnant until I was seven months along," she said. "I didn't stop using even then. My baby ... my youngest child had never seen me clean."

Though Harrell always believed in God, she never believed she was worthy of His love. But she knows God saved her at the Chillicothe Correctional Center. However, Harrell had no idea how to live a different life than the one she had been living for the last 34 years.

Then she had to do one of the most difficult things she's ever done.

"I had to leave my daughter in the prison when I was released on July 2, 2014," Harrell said.

Then she was on her own. Harrell only had one friend who was "clean" and living a godly life, but that friend lived in another town.

At first she stayed with her son, Chad, who miraculously escaped the life of drugs and crime that was normal to the rest of the family. But it wasn't long before she moved to her own apartment. For the first time in her life, Harrell was alone.

"I was worried," she said. "I didn't have a church or any clean friends yet, so I read my Bible and prayed—a lot. I checked out a couple of churches, but I couldn't find a place where I fit in."

Then she received a phone call from her cousin, Barry Agee, and he asked her if she had been doing any meth since she got out of prison.

"I told him I didn't want to get high any more," Harrell said.

Agee then invited her to a Saturday night at Freeway Ministries, a ministry funded in part by Crossway Baptist



Freeway Ministries serves hundreds of people weekly

Church and founded by a church member. Freeway Ministries focuses on assisting the local church with hard-to-reach men and women by explaining the gospel in a way they can relate to people who have been in the same circumstances.

"It was exactly what I was looking for. I loved it," Harrell said.

Harrell started a 20-week discipleship class at Freeway that she said answered many of the questions she had about God. She also met women who showed her how to live a life without drug abuse.

"I always went to church with my mom, but I never had a relationship with Jesus Christ," Harrell said. "With Jesus even the worst days I have now are better than the best days of my old life."

Since first walking through the doors at Freeway more than a year ago, Harrell has been baptized, she has become a member, and she volunteers at both Freeway and Clarity Recovery and Wellness, a drug addiction treatment center.

"I have been able to get involved and see lives changed every week at Freeway," Harrell said. "God always shows up on Saturday nights."

"Sandy is a bright light," said John Stroup, ministry planter and evangelist for Freeway Ministries. "God has done

a great work in her heart and life."

But there is still pain and consequence to sin. Right now, Harrell's daughter, her oldest son and her husband are all in prison. She prays for them daily and writes letters to them, sharing with them her newfound faith and knowledge.

And God is working. Recently her husband, Gary, who has never read a Bible since Harrell's known him, was saved in prison and has been reading his Bible every day.

"God restores families and I am waiting on that day that we are all together again," she said. "In the meantime, God has filled the void in my life with an awesome church family."

And when Harrell thinks back to her past and some of the dark and dangerous situations her choices led her to, she is always reminded of Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

"My former chaotic lifestyle led me to houses where there were gun fights and where people were stabbed ... when I should have been home with my kids," Harrell said. "God protected me through it all. He always provided a way for me to get out; I see that now. I am so excited to see what His plans are for me. I just have to be obedient."

For more info on Freeway, visit [www.freeway-ministries.com](http://www.freeway-ministries.com)

### "God restores families, and I am waiting on that day that we are all together again."

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## ■ YOUTHBUILD

continued from page 1

Build trainees had a two hour discussion that took on a tone of such seriousness, the YouthBuild staff simply listened and added support when necessary.

On that day, the trainees decided that they were community leaders. That the responsibility to end senseless violence in the community was largely their own. It became another mission of YouthBuild KCK—a program for low-income young people between the ages of 16-24 to work full-time for 9-12 months toward their GED or high school diploma while learning job skills by building affordable housing. The program's vision is to educate and employ under-served young adults, positively engaging them in the rebuilding of their own lives and the communities around them.

"We own this community," one trainee said. "The violence needs to stop."

With all other trainees in agreement, the big question hanging in the air was "What can we do?" Because many of the young women and men suffer from the challenges of not completing their high school education in the traditional school setting, the discussion shifted to education, primarily the education of those younger than they are (ages 10-13).

"If we could work with these kids before they start making bad decisions like we did, I believe it'll make all the difference in the world," one trainee expressed. Another trainee quickly added,



"They'll listen to us faster than they will listen to you (referring to the staff members present)."

Thus, after encouragement from the YouthBuild KCK staff, the Goodson Leadership Fund was created.

The trainees determined the fund would initially assist with the immediate needs of Goodson's family, to help pay for a proper burial for their friend. With contributions to the fund from 12 selfless individuals, the Goodson Leadership Fund was able to cover all the costs of the funeral.

Now it's time to take the trainees' vision to the next level.

The trainees decided the best way to honor Goodson was to establish an after school tutoring program, completely run by the trainees of YouthBuild KCK, to serve the young residents of Juniper

## ■ sidenote About YouthBuild

YouthBuild KCK is administered by United Way of Wyandotte County and operates from a KCK Housing Authority facility, with 80% (\$1,100,000) of its funding from the Department of Labor.

For more information visit [unit-edway-wyco.org](http://unit-edway-wyco.org)

Gardens and the surrounding community. The trainees sought and received logistical and other technical assistance in setting up their program from the YouthBuild KCK staff.

Conceptually, the tutoring program would meet once or twice per week, and young participants would receive supplemental support from trainees in basic content areas as reading, writing, and math. In addition, the trainees will serve as mentors and coaches for the young participants. YouthBuild KCK staffers will volunteer their time to supervise the program.

If these trainees' commitment to this project is sign of what is to come, it will mean both security and safety for this community, as well as the preservation of Goodson's memory.



Marches across Europe, including Hungary above, annually draw tens of thousands of people.

## ■ REMEMBRANCE

continued from page 1

Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Boulevard, Overland Park, Kan.

Anita described the purpose of March of Remembrance Kansas City is to "honor, educate, remember and engage."

The March of Remembrance seeks to:

- Honor Holocaust survivors and their families
- Educate the public about the reality of the Holocaust
- Remember the tragic consequences of silence
- Engage people in battling indifference and prejudice

The day will begin with a pre-rally in the courtyard of Overland Park Convention center at 1:30 p.m., with the prayer walk beginning at 3 p.m. The walk will be 1.2 miles, with the possibility to only go half that distance. The event will be held rain or shine. Both the pre-rally and prayer walk are free, however, donations will be accepted to defray the event costs.

The event will continue with An Evening of Remembrance, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the convention center, featuring Hebrew-themed music. The keynote speaker will be Elhanan Glazer, a former member of the Knesset, the legislative body of Israel.

A professionally choreographed dance portraying the Holocaust will be performed by Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre. A limited number of \$25 tickets are available for An Evening of Remembrance at [www.morkc.org](http://www.morkc.org). T-shirts are available as well for an additional fee.

"We were honored with the invitation to help lead this event," said Dwight Widaman. "It is important for all of us to take the lessons of the Holocaust to break the silence of fear, pain and shame caused by prejudice and indifference."

"Our family trip to Israel in 2015 cemented our intent to demonstrate to Holocaust survivors and their descendants in the Kansas City area, 'You are not forgotten. You are not alone,'" stated Anita. "We will remember and we will not be silent for Zion's sake."

March of Remembrance Kansas City is a sister event to the March of Life in Europe. March of Life began in 2007 and has occurred on or near Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) annually since then. The event has grown to include dozens of cities worldwide.

## i moreinformation

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