The Tabernacle Experience returns to KC
“Emotional” interaction brings many to tears

Dwight Widaman | Metro Voice

Building on the successful 2016 stop in the area, The Tabernacle Experience returns to Kansas City April 21 through April 30 at Oakwood Baptist Church on the border of Kansas City and Lee’s Summit. It is being hosted by Oakwood and manned by volunteers from both Oakwood and Country Meadows Baptist Churches.

It is rare that the popular interactive experience would come to the same city within eight months but the overwhelming response of the public to last fall’s exhibit in Eastern Jackson County proves why this is one of the most anticipated traveling exhibits currently touring North America.

See TABERNACLE page 22

Remembering the Holocaust motivates May 7 event

by Lori (Roberts) Wilson

...it’s your child’s daycare. The calm but measured voice says your child is all right, but your faith falters when all you retain from the next sentence is “bomb threat.”

“This can’t be happening!” you gasp, half to yourself and half to anyone within earshot.

This may not be your reality, but it has been for other fathers and mothers in the United States already in 2017. Many Jewish parents have received phone calls that their children are all right, but have been evacuated from their daycare as a bomb threat.

See THE PHONE RINGS page 10

Get the kids ready for summer!

Stephanie Boothe | Metro Voice

There’s more to summer than insect repellant and sunscreen—though those items are a staple for families preparing to send their children to camp this summer.

Summer camp is a tradition for children that has been passed down for generations, and there are several camps in the area that help keep that tradition alive. From theater camps to 4-H camps, there’s a little something for everyone.

Nicolette Unruh, sales director for Rock Springs in Junction City, Kan., said summer camps provide an opportunity for campers to truly connect to one another.

“You can unplug and truly enjoy connecting with each other through hands-on activities and one on one interactions,” Unruh said. “An essential component of 21st century youth development is offering young people experiences where they have the freedom to learn by doing, grow from failure, express their ideas and use their influence to drive positive outcomes.”

Rock Springs offers a 4-H camp coordinated by the Kansas State University.

See CAMPS page 5

Ranchers coming together after crippling wildfires

by Jill Nelson

(WNS)—As 58-year-old Greg Gardiner surveyed the devastation from March’s deadly fires, he described an eerie scene across the Gardiner Angus Ranch north of Ashland, Kan. Friends pitched in to help shoot the last of the fatty maimed cattle over the weekend, drones surveyed the breaks to confirm none were missed, and corn

See WILDFIRES page 22

GET 50% OFF YOUR ADVERTISING! CALL 816-524-4522 OR EMAIL DWIGHT@METROVOICENEWS.COM
KS legislator unhappy with donations

Kansas Planned Parenthood supporters, who have been donating money to the organization in the name of Kansas State Senator Steve Fitzgerald got some push back recently when the senator used some strong language. After he learned of the fundraising campaign, in a letter to the organization Fitzgerald compared Planned Parenthood to a Nazi concentration camp. The Kansas City Star reported that Fitzgerald was outraged after the donations were made in his name.

“I figured, I don’t want my name associated as a donation to Planned Parenthood, in my name, to go on undenounced by me,” he said in an interview, arguing that the donations in his name are ‘harassment.’

“What I’m saying is, they’re both exterminating innocent human life.”

Boney Lee-Gilmore, spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood Great Plains, said that even more pro-abortion individuals are now donating money to the group in Fitzgerald’s name.

“It’s this kind of inflammatory language that adds to the shame and stigma of safe legal abortion,” Lee-Gilmore said. “The state of Kansas has much bigger issues to be dealing with, and this is just an unacceptable attack on women’s right to choose.”

Planned Parenthood recently clashed with President Donald Trump’s administration, declaring that abortion is “vital to our mission” in response to a rumored offer that would have allowed it to maintain its hundreds of millions of dollars in annual federal funding.

Trump’s offer, which has not formally been issued, apparently would provide Planned Parenthood with federal assistance, if the organization decides to put an end to the 300,000 annual abortions it carries out.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List, said that she would not have a problem with Trump’s offer, if it was made, since her issue with Planned Parenthood is that the organization performs abortions.

Effort organizing to reach every home in KC for Christ

An international initiative to mobilize believers to share the Gospel with those near them, Global Outreach Day, has been set for May 27.

For the past four years, millions of individuals around the world have made decisions for Christ because of the one-on-one evangelization effort. The initiative brings together churches and individuals in an all-out mobilization to reach their neighborhoods and communities with the Gospel.

This year a unique focus on Kansas City has been announced – ReachKC.

“It will also launch May 27 and continue until every home in the metro area is reached with the Good News of Jesus,” stated Kevin Stark, local director of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) and Team Xtreme. On those days, two eight-hour outreaches will disperse throughout the Kansas City metro area, bringing light to the darkest places.

“Our strategy is to network with existing ministries and prayer groups to cover the city in prayer,” Stark said. “From there, we seek to connect with local people passionate for the harvest in our city.”

Local and national observances of National Day of Prayer

National Day of Prayer will take place May 4. This year’s theme is “For Your Great Name’s Sake, Hear us…Forgive us…Heal us!”, which is taken from Daniel 9:19.

The Greater Kansas City event will assemble at noon on the south side of City Hall, 414 E. 12th Street, to honor the Lord and seek His mercy for the city, state and nation. Corporate prayers will be led by civic leaders for their areas of service.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.

The NDP Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America’s leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

Presidents going back to our Founding Fathers have expressed the importance of prayer. In 1808, Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline.”

Thomas Jefferson

The NDP Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America’s leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

Presidents going back to our Founding Fathers have expressed the importance of prayer. In 1808, Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline.”

Thomas Jefferson

The NDP Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America’s leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

Presidents going back to our Founding Fathers have expressed the importance of prayer. In 1808, Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline.”

Thomas Jefferson

The NDP Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America’s leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

Presidents going back to our Founding Fathers have expressed the importance of prayer. In 1808, Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline.”

Thomas Jefferson

The NDP Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America’s leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

Presidents going back to our Founding Fathers have expressed the importance of prayer. In 1808, Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline.”

Thomas Jefferson

The NDP Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America’s leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

Presidents going back to our Founding Fathers have expressed the importance of prayer. In 1808, Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline.”

Thomas Jefferson

The NDP Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America’s leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.
MORE THAN 20 MILLION IN AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST AT RISK OF STARVATION

(WSJ)—Aid groups and government officials in famine-hit parts of Africa and the Middle East are calling for more global attention to a crisis that has left more than 20 million people at risk of starvation.

The United Nations announced the world is facing its worst humanitarian crisis since the end of World War II. More than 20 million people across conflict-hit regions in South Sudan, Somalia, northeastern Nigeria, and Yemen are at risk of famine and starvation. The rising needs and worsening conditions have left several aid groups and government officials scrambling for resources.

Benoit Munsch, a regional humanitarian coordinator at U.S.-based Care International, said the nonprofit provides aid to about 600,000 people in Somalia and South Sudan. Munsch said Care’s center in the South Sudanese town of Bantiu has seen an increase in recent weeks in families seeking aid and mothers so malnourished they cannot breastfeed their babies. Some regions of the Unity State in South Sudan have already declared famine, and many people are fleeing for neighboring Bantiu.

The South Sudanese conflict began in 2013 when a civil war broke out between President Salva Kiir and his former deputy, Riek Machar. The crisis left tens of thousands dead and displaced more than 2 million people.

Resurgings clashes in July 2016 resulted in even more people fleeing the country and blocked aid groups from access to people remaining in the war-torn region.

Those areas have now declared famine, Munsch said. The United Nations said some 100,000 South Sudanese are already enduring hunger and another million people are on the verge of famine.

The Ugandan government on March 23 said the country is at a “breaking point,” with some 3,000 refugees coming in daily from neighboring South Sudan. More than 570,000 refugees have arrived in the country since July, and the number will likely climb to more than 1 million this year, the Ugandan government said in a joint statement with the UN.

“We continue to welcome our neighbors in their time of need, but we urgently need the international community to assist as the situation is becoming increasingly critical,” said Ugandan Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda.

In Yemen, some 18 million people—two-thirds of the country’s population—are in need of aid.

“There is a closing window of opportunity to avert full-blown catastrophe and raise the money needed to save millions of lives,” said Gerald Anderson, an associate vice president with Save the Children. “With no action, people may run out of food as early as next month and the crisis will escalate relentlessly.”
Trump admin actions to protect religious freedom

by Samuel Smith

WASHINGTON — Respected religious freedom scholars have released a list of recommendations that the Donald Trump administration and the U.S. Congress should take seriously in order to better equip the government to combat rising threats to international religious liberties through diplomacy.

The D.C.-based Religious Freedom Institute (RFI) and the Center on Faith & International Affairs at the Institute for Global Engagement recently held a briefing on Capitol Hill for congressional staffs in which they rolled out a new policy brief titled “U.S. Foreign Policy and International Religious Freedom: Recommendations for the Trump Administration and the U.S. Congress.”

The brief was authored by RFI President and Georgetown University professor Thomas Farr and IGE Vice President for Research and Communications Dennis Hoover. The briefing included remarks by Republican Sens. Bob Corker of Tennessee and Cory Gardner of Colorado. Additionally, Republican Reps. Trent Franks of Arizona, Bill Flores of Texas and former U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See Francis Rooney, who is now a congressman from Florida, also spoke about the importance of using U.S. foreign relations to pressure other nations to protect the rights of religious minorities.

The brief comes as 75 percent of the world’s population lives in countries where there is virtually no freedom of religion. Included in the brief are recommendations for the Trump White House, National Security Council, Department of Defense and State Department to consider.

1. Trump should set “clear policy priority” for international religious freedom and commit the institutional and financial resources necessary to succeed.

The brief asserts that the president should “state clearly” to the world that religious freedom is “vital” to U.S. interests and the interests of all nations, “especially those in which religious violence and persecution are destroying societies, uprooting minorities and stunting economic growth.”

The brief calls on the president to publicly assert that international religious freedom policies will be updated with his administration and that human rights issues will be “raised regularly” in bilateral discussions, even in discussions with U.S. allies, such as Pakistan or Saudi Arabia, where blasphemy laws and other laws targeting religious minorities are on the books.

The brief wants international religious freedom to be integrated into U.S. strategies in order to “reduce religious persecution, protect minorities, counter violent religious extremism and conflict,” and stabilize post-conflict societies.

2. Establish an inter-agency task force to create an international religious freedom policy strategy.

The brief’s second set of recommendations calls for Trump to produce a “presidential directive” on international religious freedom.

But before issuing the directive, the brief explains that McMaster should announce an inter-agency task force focusing on international religious freedom, which would be co-chaired by the State Department’s ambassador at-large for international religious freedom and the aforementioned National Security Council advisor on international religious freedom.

3. State Department should give greater authority and resources to the Office of International Religious Freedom.

Farr said that one of the most important recommendations in the brief is for Trump to quickly nominate and secure a Senate confirmation of a highly qualified ambassador at-large for international religious freedom.

Under President Barack Obama, that post was vacant for the first 845 days of his presidency. Farr is optimistic that Trump will make that nomination this spring or early summer.

4. Develop a mandatory international religious freedom training curriculum for “all American diplomats.”

The brief calls on the State Department to immediately implement a component of the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Act passed last December that requires it to provide “mandatory training on religious freedom for all Foreign Service officers.”

“I would argue that still, the Department of State is still highly skeptical on the issue of [religious freedom]. ... They are skeptical of thinking in religious categories. They may be anti-religious or they may be not anti-religious,” Farr said. “It is almost in the DNA not to think about religion, particularly about religious freedom. I know this is changing but it is not changing fast enough.”

Andrew Bennett, the first and only Canadian Ambassador for Religious Freedom, spoke at the briefing and said that there tends to be a misunderstanding in Western intelligence communities that religion should be pushed to the “private sphere.”

“Those of us who have gone through secular universities, or secular education system, for a very long period of time, we have seen ideas of religion, faith literacy, religious literacy pushed squarely to the private sphere,” he said. “The absolute privatization of religion in Western democracies has had a number of impacts. One of the impacts is that when it comes to the formation of liberal beliefs ... there is a lack of knowledge about why the people of faith act the way they do.”

“We have to combat indifference and ignorance around the role of religion in our own countries if we are going to advance religious freedom internationally,” he said.
How to benefit the most from summer camp

by Children’s Ministry Magazine

Plan now to make your kids’ summer camp experience life-changing — before and after the fun. Every summer churches everywhere send kids off to camp for life-altering experiences. Kids meet friends, mentors, and most important, God. But when camp is just one more thing in a long list of summer programming events, its potential as an awe-inspiring God experience may dwindle like the dying embers of a campfire.

A recent survey of churches participating in camp and asked them to identify best practices for making camp a truly unforgettable, faith-filled experience for kids.

What we learned is that by planning far ahead and being intentional in how you approach camp before and after, your kids will get an experience far more valuable than the cost of a camp reservation. Let’s unpack these great ideas and our timeline.

PREPARE RESOURCES
Camp creeps up on you exactly when a million other things are vying for your attention. Before you realize it, dates aren’t on the calendar and money isn’t saved. Plan and prepare today to build support and foster a focus on experiences—not logistics.

- People are relationship resources.

Plan to attend camp with your kids, and recruit enough people from your church who’ll go so the connections kids make and confidences they gain don’t get lost when they come back home. Our survey found that one of the most effective ways to keep the camp experience alive is for campers to bring a piece of it home—in the form of their counselors!

- Money makes it happen.

Finances should never prevent a child from attending camp. Camp is something that can change kids’ lives so promote it and do whatever’s necessary to get kids there. Here’s how some churches do it.

Offer savings options. One children’s pastor encourages parents to open a

Camps
continued from page 1

Camps

City Extension office. It also offers a family camp, that allows families to understand the experience children will have at summer camp.

Building relationships is a common theme among most camps in the area — whether it is relationships with other campers or to strengthen relationships with God. And while Rock Springs isn’t a faith-based camp, Unruh said there is an element of spirituality.

“We do have an indoor chapel and two formal outdoor chapels,” Unruh said. “However, connecting to nature happens all over the grounds, and I believe allows people to feel a dose- ness to their faith and spirituality.”

A focus on faith is one that Tricia Melton, communications director for Christian Youth Theater, believes stands out about the CYT camps.

“We offer a huge variety of camps,” Melton said. “We have day camps — drama camps — and overnight camps. All with a Christian foundation, in a safe Christian environment.”

CYT camps range from half-day camps for children age 4 to 7, full-day camps for ages 7-12. Non-musical extreme camps for ages 10-16 and overnight camps for ages 12-19 are also offered. Each camp has a different theme and concludes with a full-length performance at the Bell Center, Mid-America Nazarene.

Meltzer, the mom of two former campers, said the CYT camp is a perfect opportunity for both children who love the spotlight and children who are a bit more reserved.

“For kids who love to be on stage, they get a chance to shine,” Meltzer said. “For a (more shy) kid, it builds confidence.”

All camps, Meltzer said, provide a positive experience for children because it helps them learn and grow.

“Studies repeatedly show that drama, music and dance raise achievement levels in reading, writing and math, but your kids will be having too much fun to notice,” states the CYT summer camp flyer.

But beyond expanding their education, connecting with other like-minded students cannot be understated.

“The kids are going to have a great time,” Meltzer said. “They’re going to be in a safe, caring environment. They’re going to make great friends.”

And it’s the connections with others that B.J. Murray, senior operations director for Camp Wood YMCA, said is the most important lesson to take away from this YMCA-sponsored camp.

Murray said that connection to others is a quality of life that is becoming more rare with the continued advances in technology (though he promises there is a place for technology to help maintain those new connections and friendships).

Camp Wood YMCA is based on

See CAMPS page 7
“savings account” through the church in January. Parents put $5 (or another small amount) per week in the account, so by the time kids sign up for camp the financial burden is gone or greatly lessened. This option is especially helpful for families with multiple campers and those facing financial hardship.

• Award scholarships. If people in your church are willing to send kids to camp, ask them to consider funding a camp scholarship account. Offer the option to donate in a lump sum or on a weekly basis. Estimate the number of kids who’ll need financial help using the number of kids needing help the previous year and multiply it by 20 percent. You may wish to pad this amount to purchase needed camp supplies for kids who are financially challenged as well. Then create a poster to chart the total donations weekly and hang it in a central location.

• Time: Keep it on your side. Communicate early with your church families. Give them as much information up front as possible—camp details, schedules, cost, special requirements, and so on. Emphasize the dates so parents can arrange vacations/schedules accordingly.

PREPARE CAMPERS

Experienced camp counselors know most kids aren’t freely willing to jump into camp programs or services on the first day of camp. Most kids need to warm up to the idea of camp itself and the array of new faces. But you can prepare kids’ hearts by gradually “warming them up”—long before they arrive at camp.

• Awaken kids’ desire for God. Intentionally prepare kids spiritually for their camp experience, say leaders who are committed to camp. Build kids’ anticipation by training them to think about what God has planned for their lives. Pump them up for the camp’s theme. Encourage kids to talk about their hopes and dreams. Use lessons that focus on God’s plan for us and on unforgettable Bible heroes who did amazing things and that tie into the camp’s theme.

vite guest speakers whose lives have been changed because of camp experiences.

• Prep kids’ suitcases. Before you meet kids’ spiritual needs, it may be necessary to meet their physical needs. Practically speaking, if kids aren’t prepared with the appropriate supplies for camp, they’ll be miserable, embarrased, frustrated, and inhibited in their openness when it comes to God experiences. Don’t stop at providing a recommended supplies list, check with all parents—especially those struggling with the financial costs of camp—to ensure their kids will have everything they need. Help those who need it.

• Get spirit. Many camps have a theme and are team-oriented. Stoke your campers’ excitement about the fun to come by encouraging them to dress in their team colors on certain days and by advertising the camp’s theme in your ministry. Play team-oriented games and encourage kids to cheer for each other.

• Prepare kids for worship. Kids will most likely have many hands-on experiences, which lead to experiential learning and worship. If the camp your kids attend has prolonged times of worship and prayer, prepare your kids to engage in worship and prayer so they won’t be disoriented or disengaged.

PARTICIPATION—Gradually lengthen and emphasize worship and prayer times in your children’s services as camp approaches. Talk to kids in sermons or small group lessons about what worship looks, sounds, and feels like.

PBJS—One pastor says he did a series on “PBJS” to help his kids prepare for camp. The spiritual focus was to remind kids to have daily “Prayer, Bible reading, Journaling, and Solitude with God.” He used this approach to stir kids’ hearts for what God would do at camp. During each installment of the series, the pastor had kids eat a peanut-butter-and jelly sandwich as a physical reminder of what they committed to do spiritually.

KEEP THE FIRES BURNING

Eric Jensen, author of Teaching With the Brain in Mind, says that for the brain to truly comprehend new information, kids must have “settling time.” This means kids get an opportunity to process what they’ve learned and experienced at camp, without being immediately inundated with new material or lessons upon their return. Settling time is so valuable for kids to absorb camp experiences that churches should optimally plan on giving kids “space” at least a one-week period with no new lessons or topics as a part of the follow-up camp experience. Here are more ways to maximize camp once kids come home.

• Bring camp home. While campers are away changing their perspective on life, things at home haven’t changed. Coach campers to keep their zeal for God alive. Remind them that their openness to worship and prayer and their determination to stand up for what’s right doesn’t have to stop just because they’re back home. It’s normal for their initial excitement to wane; what’s important is that they keep the experiences close to their heart.

• Share the change. Have kids share with someone important in their lives the changes they made with God. If the camper kept a journal, challenge the camper to share parts of it with someone trustworthy who’ll be excited about what he or she experienced.

• Find a friend. Have campers find a friend from camp who’ll help them be accountable to the choices and commitments they made.

• Keep the connection. One counselor got a camper’s address and sent him a card once a month for the following year. The camper couldn’t remember the special speaker at camp, but he did remember the year that his counselor prayed for and believed in him.

• Partner with parents. Inform parents by sharing what kids experienced individually. It’s easy to follow through on what God has done in a child’s life if parents have an idea what happened. Give parents a “talk sheet” with questions to ask their kids to extend faith growth. And don’t forget to post kids’ camp photos on your Web site while they’re at camp so parents can see what their kids are doing.

• Build on what kids learned. If campers learned how important it is to regularly read their Bibles and pray, give kids opportunities to do these things in your ministry. Create an accountability program that involves parents.

• Let kids share their stories. Many churches we talked to said they didn’t place great importance on small group time—even if they slotted time specifically for these relational interactions. Provide opportunities for campers to share stories with others in small groups.

See SUCCESSFUL CAMP page 8
“Hello, Muddah”: Still worth the bumps, mosquitoes

Why send your kids to Christian summer camps?

Editor’s note: The 1963 Grammy Award-winning song “Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah” by Allan Sherman, tells of the trials of a summer camp plagued by disease, bugs and rain until, in the end, the sun comes out and the camper retraces his plea to return home. It’s a funny reflection that many can empathize with. But today, summer camps remain one of the most popular activities for kids during the summer.

There are many horror stories of snakebites, bullies, and bad food, but not all camp experiences are so awful. Many adults look back to an early summer with grand appreciation, noting it as one of the most important points of their development. For some, camp just means overcoming homesickness and learning how to swim, but there are other reasons to send your kids to a Christian summer camp.

Since God created it, evidence of Him can be found all throughout nature. City dwellers and suburbanites don’t get to experience much more than grackles and the occasional squirrel, so the opportunity to spend a week in the woods or beside a lake can be an important spiritual experience. Witnessing true wilderness is becoming more rare every day with modern development, so kids should get to see it while they still can.

Youth group is only once or twice a week, and the atmosphere of school and sports teams is hardly focused on God, so the majority of your children’s community is secular. It’s a reality of life, but it can be complimented with a few summer weeks among fellow Christians. Learning about God with a hundred peers can be an encouraging and instilling time of faith, and it’s an opportunity for growth that very few get to have.

If you’ve been taking your son or daughter to church since they were born, it’s easy for them to think of it as just something their parents believe. Most youngsters don’t make such a statement until high school or college, but it remains a “family faith” rather than a personal one. Summer camp can be one of the first opportunities for kids to make belief their own—when God exists in daily talks and conversation but no authority forces them to believe. Not every kid will come to such a critical development in their faith, but camp at least affords them the opportunity for it. And if they do so, they’ll certainly think back to that summer as one of the most important periods of their life.

**Camps**

continued from page 5

Christian values, but is not a church camp, and staff members believe it offers something for everyone. While there are no altar calls or formal sermons, the camp offers some programs that are Christian focused and there is a large cross in the center of camp.

“All in all, faith is very important to us through connection to one another, love of your fellow individual and a connection to something bigger than yourself,” Murray said.

Murray said Camp Wood YMCA is the all-American summer camp experience. It is the only YMCA overnight camp in Kansas and is based on the core values of caring, honesty and respect. The camp operates and teaches the core belief “I’m third” (faith first, others second and self third). Some of the popular activities at Camp Wood YMCA include archery, horse riding and canoeing.

Murray enjoys watching the children learn and grow.

“They stand differently, see the world differently, and they have a post-camp ‘ glow,’ “ Murray said. “When they walk to their parents and are in tears because they don’t want to leave, and watch them on the last nights’ campfire, it’s like their feet don’t touch the ground.”
SUCCESSFUL CAMP
continued from page 6

• Make time for play. What helps the kids bond with their camp counselors? A common quote among the children’s pastors I hang with is, “If you play with them, you earn the right to pray with them.” Fun and play breaks down barriers at camp—and it works at home, too.

• Integrate new ideas. If your kids really enjoyed a certain style of teaching or tool for learning at camp, try to fit it into your ministry and incorporate it into weekly services or lessons. Seeing how others do ministry and learning from kids’ reactions is a huge part of any children’s minister’s education.

• Partner with your church. If you want your congregation to back camp financially or to support it as a meaningful experience, have campers share stories of how God changed their lives. Show video. Share scholarship information (numbers, not names). You will highlight the benefits of camp and give campers an opportunity to solidify their experiences.

STINK THE FIRES
To prepare kids for camp, take steps to make it an experience—not just an event.

• Assemble a team. The best approach to anything worthwhile in ministry is a team approach. Find trustworthy people to do what you can’t. Recruit “influencers” who can create a marketing timeline and generate growing excitement.

• Review curriculum. Evaluate your curriculum to determine whether it supports your goals for the skills kids will walk away with from camp. Pay particular attention to the calendar just before and after camp. Look for connections between what kids will experience and everyday life transformation.

• Recruit early. Which leaders or parents should you talk to now about going to camp, so they can arrange their schedules?

• Talk to your current leaders to start with, since they already have a relationship with campers and will be engaged in their lives after camp is over. Choose people who are relational rather than task-oriented. Those who are relationally gifted will enhance campers’ relationships with God and others.

• Aim high. Make efforts early on to get your pastor, board members, or other known influencers to commit to visiting camp. These individuals can become some of your most vocal advocates for the camp experience.

CAMP WOOD YMCA
For over 100 years, Kansas families have trusted Camp Wood YMCA for summer camps that are more than just fun. At Y camp, children of all ages learn new skills, build character and make friends.

In addition to summer camps, we offer Family Camps designed to build strong families through shared adventures and time spent together outdoors.

Choose your adventure at campwood.org.

Join us for a FREE Open House on May 6, 2017 from 1-5 p.m. at camp!
The Phone Rings ...  

KANSAS CITY DAY OF REMEMBRANCE HONORS HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

What is the Kansas City Day of Remembrance?

The purpose is to honor Holocaust survivors and their families. For the second year in a row, Kansas City will participate in this worldwide event known as March of Remembrance – in the United States and March of Life in Europe. We are becoming a remembering community in Kansas City to say to the Holocaust survivors and their descendants, “You are not forgotten. You are not alone. You will remember and we will not be silent for Zion’s sake.”

Everyone is invited to participate in the event. We are especially reaching out to the believing community of Kansas City – those who know and understand the importance of the Holocaust as well as the importance of the Jewish people being given in the Old Testament, throughout history and now in their place in modern times. We also prayerfully hope that Holocaust survivors and their families will feel welcome to join us.

How to participate:

1. Visit website: www.morkc.org
2. Register prior to Sunday, May 7
3. Encourage your family, friends, church, youth group, Sunday School class, Bible study group to attend as well
4. Attend the free educational segment beginning at 1 pm.
5. Walk in the March for Remembrance prayer walk beginning at 3 pm, which is also free.
6. Attend the Evening of Remembrance beginning at 6 pm. This event is $15 per person and tickets are available by registering at www.morkc.org.

The Holocaust – why we remember

by Lori (Roberts) Wilson

Some think the Holocaust began and ended with Adolf Hitler during World War II.

Some know little about this war, which began in 1939 and ended in 1945.

Some say the Holocaust never happened at all.

Seeds of hate planted thousands of years ago

Others say, with historical proof, seeds of the Holocaust were planted in Pharaoh’s pride.

As he refused God’s demands through Moses to “let my people go,” Pharaoh and his Egyptian citizens suffered through plague after plague until their land was devastated (see Exodus 1:1–14).

Today Moses’ people, the Israelites, survive and thrive on a tiny scrap of land that in some places is only 9 miles wide – less than a trip from Lee’s Summit to Blue Springs, or from Overland Park to Olathe.

Israel was re-established after the Holocaust, on May 14, 1948, as a homeland for the Jews. The seeds of hate sprung up the next day as Arab armies from neighboring countries attacked.

In the centuries between Moses and modern-day Israel, Jews have been targeted from harassment to murder, in Israel and throughout the world. The phrase associated with the Holocaust, “Never Again,” we hope is true, but the seeds of the Holocaust are planted daily.

Some choose to remember

As history repeats itself, we ask you to join us to become a remembering community. See details in article below.

Some choose to stand with others

The owners of Metro Voice, for the second year, have chosen to become part of this remembering community. “We invite pastors to attend and to encourage members of their congregation to attend as well,” said Anita Widman, Metro Voice publisher. Anita and Dwight Widman, Metro Voice editor, are continuing as co-chairs of March of Remembrance Kansas City.

Anita was named to the event’s board of directors last September. “We invite Christians and others to make a statement together, supporting and honoring Holocaust victims and their descendants.”

A remembering community is biblical

Even before Moses boldly went before Pharaoh, God established His covenant with Abraham (when he was still known as Abram), in Genesis 12:1–3 (NIV):

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

1 “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse, and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Isaiah 62:1–7 states, in part, “For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet ... You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.”

And in six simple words, “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.” Psalm 122:6

A young volunteer cleans a Jewish headstone after hundreds were toppled in a St. Louis cemetery.

Metro Voice — metrovoicenews.com — facebook.com/metrovoicenews — April 2017 • 9

has been called into community center. Not only toddlers have been affected, but school children, adults working out in the fitness center, employees – literally thousands of Jews and friends who are welcome members and guests of Jewish community centers. According to data from the Jewish Community Center Association of North America (and as of this writing) more than 164 bomb threats have targeted 87 locations across 36 states and two provinces in Canada.

Even in Kansas City?

Yes, the local JCC in Overland Park had a bomb threat in January. So far, in all of these incidents, no bombs have been found, no property destroyed, no people injured, no lives lost.

The living and the dead are victims

A phone call also could mean something else. The cemetery superintendent informs you that vaults have knocked over your grandmother’s headstone. Again, this probably and thankfully will never be your reality.

However for hundreds of families, vaults in two Jewish cemeteries (as of this writing) since January 2017 have broken headstones and shattered hearts. Emotions and reactions vary. After a St. Louis-area cemetery was vandalized, Ellen R. Portnoy wrote in a guest column published in The Kansas City Jewish Chronicle, “I think my anger is intensified because so many of my family have no graves. Their remains are included in the ashes of the concentration camps and destroyed Jewish communities in Europe.”

Emily Ford owns and operates Oak and Laurel Cemetery Preservation, LLC, a New Orleans-based cemetery preservation company. In her report “The Year in Cemetery Vandalism 2016,” she brought up thoughts well known in her industry but relatively unknown outside the cemetery business: “There is a frequently used and oft-misattributed quote among cemetery people, to the effect of ‘Show me a civilization’s cemeteries and I will show you how civilized they actually are.’

“The quote,” explained Ford, “is usually utilized when discussing the cost of funerals or the frequency of maintenance. But it has an alternate relevance in the sphere of criminology – political vandalism, hate crimes, and other identity-targeted cemetery crime is itself a barometer for larger socio-political trends. Show someone a graffitied 9/11 memorial, a broken police memorial, or a defaced Jewish cemetery, and they will see the evidence of something much larger.”

Ford continued, noting specific anti-Semitic swipes. “The perception of the cemetery as manifestation of cultural identity is especially pertinent in the case of Jewish cemeteries. Cemeteries, along with places of worship, are symbolic of the community itself and are targeted by anti-Semitic vandalism in a nearly pathological manner.”

Ford’s report noted, “In 2016, three Jewish cemeteries in the United States were subject to this type of hate crime. Within one week in February” there was vandalism at two cemeteries in Hartford, Connecticut, as well as an October incident days before Yom Kippur in Warsaw, New York. Yom
Is that all? Probably not. “Many other incidents likely occurred but were not reported, or were not pursued as hate crimes,” according to Ford.

But that’s just the Jews, right?

A researcher implores us to think again. “People in general should be worried right now. Jews have been described as the miner’s canaries. That means everybody else has better watch out, because there’s more trouble coming,” said Aaron Breitbart, a researcher at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Breitbart continued, “Whenever there is an upsurge in bigotry against any group of people, others generally get caught up in it. It’s a warning not simply to Jews but to society that there is a certain sickness, a certain rottenness that is rearing its ugly head once again. It may be the Jews one time, but it’ll be others as well. That’s why all forms of bigotry are dangerous, even if you aren’t the target at the particular time.”

So, what are we doing about all this?

The newly elected US president began a recent speech addressing these anti-Semitic incidents in our nation. “Recent threats targeting Jewish community centers and vandalism of Jewish cemeteries … remind us that while we may be a nation divided on policies, we are a country that stands united in condemning hate and evil in all of its very ugly forms,” said President Donald J. Trump in his first joint address to Congress on February 28.

Later in his speech, Trump addressed global terrorism against other religions, including Christianity. “As promised, I directed the Department of Defense to develop a plan to demolish and destroy ISIS — a network of lawless savages that have slaughtered Muslims and Christians, and men, and women, and children of all faiths and all beliefs. We will work with our allies, including our friends and allies in the Muslim world, to extinguish this vile enemy from our planet.”

Underscoring the United States’ renewed commitment to the only democracy in the Middle East, President Trump continued, “I have also imposed new sanctions on entities and individuals who support Iran’s ballistic missile program, and reaffirmed our unbreakable alliance with the State of Israel.”

Hate crimes are increasing – possibly more than reported

According to a November 2016 report on the website ProPublica, the US government is not keeping accurate data on the increasing number of hate crimes. In November, the FBI released its hate crimes report, but it’s incomplete. It doesn’t reflect state and local law enforcement numbers – because more than 3,000 don’t report them to the FBI. Although the FBI is legally bound to collect this data, state and local agencies do not share the same legal mandate.

“A lot of agencies just submit a piece of paper saying they had no hate crimes,” said Professor Brian Levin, who heads the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino. According to an unnamed FBI source, as many as 20 percent of state and local agencies choose not to participate at all.

And on college and university campuses, statistics from the U.S. Department of Education may be double the number of incidents counted by the FBI.

While law enforcement organizes itself for accurate data collection, ProPublica is choosing to forge ahead. ProPublica describes itself as “an independent, nonprofit newsroom that produces investigative journalism in the public interest.” They describe their new project, Documenting Hate, to become a “database of reported hate crimes and bias incidents.”

**For a look at modern Israel, and the perspective from a Jewish writer, visit metrovoice.com**
RESTORE
CONFERENCE
APRIL 21-23, 2017
WORLD REVIVAL CHURCH
OF KANSAS CITY

JOIN PASTORS STEVE & KATHY GRAY
and gifted guests

Matt Hooper
Singer/songwriter at LIFE Church UK,
the author of 'We Believe' and
'Dance Again'

Isaiah Saldivar
Preaching with a prophetic edge
focused on seeing a great
awakening in America.

Steve & Kathy Gray
Senior Pastors, World Revival Church

Special Guest
Matt Hooper

Special Guest
Isaiah Saldivar

Be Restored to God’s
- Healing Mantle
- Prophetic Mantle
- Apostolic Mantle
- Worship Mantle
- Preaching Mantle

This is the year of opportunity.
Don’t miss yours!
Register today at
restore.worldrevivalchurch.com
World Revival Church of Kansas City
9900 View High Drive, Kansas City, MO 64134
EASTER & PASSOVER
EASTER COLORING BOOK CONTEST. April 1 & 8, 3-6 pm. Grace and Truth Church, 19004 E. 23rd Street South, Independence, MO 64055. gtcic.org. 816-721-5967.

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS. April 8, 1:30 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. Tours begin every 15 minutes. Each tour lasts approx. one hour. 816-933-8553.

EASTER FOR KIDS. April 8, 9:00 am. Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 9514 Perry Lane, Overland Park, KS 66222. Please join us for a fun filled morning of crafts, snacks, Bible stories, games, music and an Easter egg hunt. To register please go to mtowlcweb.com. 913-375-5842.

PALM SUNDAY. April 9, 10:00 am. Pointe of Hope Church, 2215 NW 7 Hwy, Blue Springs, MO 64014. 816-220-2609.

LEE’S SUMMIT’S GREATEST EASTER EGG HUNT & PAGEANT. April 9, 10:30 am. Church On The Rock Outreach Center, 2700 SW Market Street, Lee’s Summit, MO 64062. Pageant and Free Easter Egg Hunt with lots of candy and surprises. Public is welcome. 816-246-3762.

SEDER MEAL. April 12, 5:00 pm. KC First Church of the Nazarene, 18111 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. This special meal together commemorates the Passover meal and the Israelites’ freedom from Egypt. 816-942-9022.

HOLY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE WITH COMMUNION. April 13, 7:00 pm. Pointe of Hope Church, 2215 NW 7 Hwy, Blue Springs, MO 64014. 816-220-2609.

GOOD FRIDAY. April 14, 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Hillcrest Covenant Church, 88th & Nall, Prairie Village, KS. This Good Friday event is come and stay times of worship and prayer. 913-340-1059.

I’NAI YESHURUN. April 14, 6:30 pm. I’Nai Yeshurun Messianic Jewish Congregation, 357 6th Ave., S., Greenwood, MO 64034.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT. April 15, 11:00 am. Fort Oglethorpe Church of the Nazarene, 3933 E. 34 Hwy, Independence, MO 64055. 6060 Egg Easter Egg Hunt! Come join in on appropriate areas for finding East Eggs! 816-796-5870.

COMMUNITY EGG HUNT. April 15, 10:00 am-11:30 am. Aschasia Baptist Church, 1408 N. Main St., Kansas City, MO 64155. Free Event.

EASTER EGG HUNT AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST. April 15, 10:00 am. Woods Chapel Church, 3609 SW State Route 7, Blue Springs, MO 64014. This is a FREE family friendly event. Everyone is invited to join us for an egg hunting. We’ll also enjoy a pancake breakfast together, fun games for all ages, and you can help pack kits for children in Nicaragua. 816-795-8848.


EASTER CANTATA, “BECAUSE HE LIVES.” April 15, 7:00 pm & April 16, 10:35 am. Psalm Baptist Church, 112 Psalm Drive, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. 816-633-5221.

CELEBRATE EASTER. Apr. 16. Colonial Presbyterian Church, OP Campus, ISU W. 137th St., Overland Park, KS 66221. 6:30 AM Youth led outdoor sunrise service in the Pavilion located east of the church building. 6:00, 9:30 and 11:00 AM Celebration of Jesus’ resurrection, main sanctuary. Easter shuttle bus service available from the Price Chopper parking lot (35th & Quivira) between 6:30 AM and 1:00 PM.

CELEBRATE EASTER. Apr. 16. Colonial Presbyterian Church, KC Campus, 9500 Wornall Rd, Kansas City, MO 64114. 6:30 AM–Youth led outdoor sunrise service held at the Student Center, 9:30, and 11:00 AM–Choir, soloists and worship band lead a celebration of the empty tomb through classic hymns and new songs of praise. “Indicates change in regular service times. Programming provided for infants through Kindergarten. No reservations required.


EASTER CELEBRATION WORSHIP SERVICE. April 16, 10:00 am. Pointe of Hope Church, 125 W 7 Hwy, Blue Springs, MO 64014. Easter “Branch a Munch” begins at 9:45 am. 816-220-2609.

EASTER AT EVANGEL. April 16, 9:00 am. Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103rd St., Kansas City, MO 64133. Join us for a powerful morning of music, media, & a message of God’s love & grace. 816-942-6441.

EGG HUNT-BLAST UPS-PRIZES. April 16, 9:00 am-11:00 am (service times). Cornerstone Church, 301 SE AA Hwy, Blue Springs, MO 64014. Egg Hunt at 10:30 am (children 5th grade and under). 816-226-9799.

THE MIRACLE OF EASTER. April 16, 10:30 am. Church On The Rock Outreach Center, 3700 SW Market Street, Lee’s Summit, MO 64082. A message of hope and inspiration. Everyone is welcome. 816-246-7625.

EASTER SUNRISE ESTRAVAGANZA. April 16, 6:30-8:00 am. All Churches in Kansas City are cordially invited to attend a Solemn Assembly of the Body of Kansas City.

CONCERTS
KANSAS CITY MEN’S CHORUS. April 2, 7:30 pm. Avondale United Methodist Church, 3021 NE Worn Road, Kansas City, MO 64114. Care of Food will be collected for the Avondale Food Pantry, offering will be taken for the Synergy Children’s Center.

CARROLLTON ‘TELL ME TOUR’. Thurs. Apr. 6-7. 2500 Deerbrook Church, 200 NE Tudor Road, Lees Summit MO 64066. 816-246-9337. www.deerbrookchurch.com

DANIEL BRYNESS’ NIGHT OF WORSHIP. April 6, 9, 23, 6:30-7:30 pm. Hillcrest Cox Church, 88th & Nall, Prairie Village, KS. 913-341-9399.

GREATER VISION IN CONCERT. April 8, 6:00 pm. Cornerstone and Memorial Auditorium, 74th and Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS. Kansaschrist-ians.com. 913-772-0272.

CHRIS TOMLIN’S WORSHIP NIGHT IN AMER-ICA. April 8, 7:30 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64105. 888-929-7489.

PHIL AND PAM MORGAN. April 8, 7:00 pm. Pleasant Hill United Methodist, 1300 Lenexa, Pleasant Hill, MO 64080. 816-501-2072.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA. April 8, 8:00 PM. Grace Christian Fellowship Church 7230 Quivira Road, Shawnee, KS. Children’s Ministry is hosting their annual Easter Eggstravaganza! There will be games, prizes, crafts, and of course the hunt! 0-1stys. (913) 268-6300.

PAM & PHIL MORGAN. April 13, 7:00 pm. Tent Revival at Frontier Village, 1st St. and Hwy 71, Adrian, MO 64110-9708.

THE NEW DOVE BROTHERS. April 12, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church Kearney, 251 S. Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-5583.

SWEET SPIRIT & FRIENDS MUSIC OUT-REACH. April 22, 7:00 PM. Location of Truth, 310 Randolph Road, Claycomo, MO 64119.

WORSHIP IN THE ROUND TOUR WITH BUILING 429, JOSH WILSON, AND CHRIS AUGUST. April 24, 7:00 pm. Word of Life Church, 1900 N. Riverside Road, St. Joseph, MO 64505. iTickets.com 816-390-6666.

THE EVENTS CALENDAR
Submit Your Events Online for FREE! Visit www.metrovoicesend.com

FREE LISTINGS in the Metro Voice Calendar!
Metro Voice, PO Box 1114
Lee’s Summit, MO 64063
metrovoicecalendar@gmail.com

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!

Compiled by Anita Widaman

12 • April 2017 • metrovoiceend.com ■ facebook.com/metrovoiceend — Metro Voice
CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES
KANSAS CITY EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP.
Thursdays, 10:00 am and 6:45 pm. IHOP, 1925 E.
Red Bridge Rd., Kansas City, MO 64137. Be en-
couraged by other evangelists in the city.
www.kcfellowship.org; 470-589-277.
UNAWERING: WOMEN’S GATHERING.
Through April 11. Foreunner Christian Fellow-
ship, 344 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO
64073. Speakers Mike & Diane Biddle, Heidi
Baker, Lisa Wemore, Laura Hartlett Park, Jane
& Nayomi Thomas, and others. 816-763-0017
DIVORCE CARE. Through May 21, 9:00 am.
Christ The Rock Church, 1300 E. Roland Court,
Independence, MO 64055. 816-352-463.
SKILL BUILDERS. Through May 19, 9:30 am.
Coffee & 9:45 am Program. The Palmer Center,
Craft Room, 218 & North Pleasant, Independence,
MO 64050. Also classes are designed for
widowed persons, anyone may attend.
www.widowedpersons.org; 913-648-1520.
SKILL BUILDERS. Through May 25, 9:45 am.
Coffee & 10:30 a.m. program, Tomahawk Ridge
Community Center, 10522 Lowell Blvd.,
Overland Park, KS 66212. Although classes are
designed for widowed persons, anyone may attend.
www.widowedpersons.org; 913-648-1520.
11TH MEN OF VALOR, WOMEN OF VIRTUE
CONFERENCE, LIVING A PURE LIFE IN AN
IMPURE WORLD. April 1, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. St.
Thomas More Church, 1622 Holmes Road,
Kansas City, MO. Six breakout sessions with
twelve national experts. www.kclvalor.com; 816-
742-2373.
AVOID PROBATE. April 4, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living
Tract Center, 700 NE Lansing, Lee’s Summit,
MO 64062. 816-524-2300.
ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES BRIGADIER GEN-
ERAL GAL HIRSCH. April 5. Adat Yeshua Mes-
sianic Congregation, 8520 Starns Avenue,
Overland Park, KS 66214. Author of “Defense
Shield: The Unique Story of an IDF General on
the Front Lines of Counterterrorism” 913-888-
7277.
EMPOWERED TO CONNECT CONFERENCE.
April 7-8. Northland Christian Church, 620 NE
48th Street, Kansas City, MO 66218. Free 2-day
simulcast. This is a great resource for parents,
ministers, teachers, social workers, doctors,
therapists, and anybody else who is around lod-
dos in any capacity to hone their skills in serving
children who came from rough backgrounds.
Safe Families for Children Specialist; 785-783-
457.
BOB MENDELSON. April 8, 10:00 am. Dr Ha-
jam, 9958 W. 99th Street, Overland Park, KS.
Leader of Jews for Jesus in Sydney, Australia.
EVANGELIST: RON MILLS. April 9, 10:45 am &
6:30 pm, Calvary Baptist Church, 900 NW 22nd
Street, Blue Spring, MO 64025. 816-228-5540.
AVOID PROBATE. April 20, 7:00 pm. Lewis Liv-
calendar continued on next page
7th Place: Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd, 1201 N. 12th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a candle lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9404.

Night of Worship: April 4, 4:00 pm. Fort Hays State University, 15101 Ave. K, Salina, Kansas, 67401. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a candle lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9404.

Night of Worship: April 10, 4:00 pm. Fort Hays State University, 15101 Ave. K, Salina, Kansas, 67401. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a candle lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9404.

Night of Worship: April 15, 4:00 pm. Fort Hays State University, 15101 Ave. K, Salina, Kansas, 67401. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a candle lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9404.

Night of Worship: April 20, 4:00 pm. Fort Hays State University, 15101 Ave. K, Salina, Kansas, 67401. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a candle lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9404.

Night of Worship: April 25, 4:00 pm. Fort Hays State University, 15101 Ave. K, Salina, Kansas, 67401. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a candle lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9404.

Night of Worship: April 30, 4:00 pm. Fort Hays State University, 15101 Ave. K, Salina, Kansas, 67401. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a candle lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9404.

Night of Worship: May 5, 4:00 pm. Fort Hays State University, 15101 Ave. K, Salina, Kansas, 67401. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a candle lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9404.

Night of Worship: May 10, 4:00 pm. Fort Hays State University, 15101 Ave. K, Salina, Kansas, 67401. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a candle lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9404.

Night of Worship: May 15, 4:00 pm. Fort Hays State University, 15101 Ave. K, Salina, Kansas, 67401. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a candle lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9404.

Night of Worship: May 20, 4:00 pm. Fort Hays State University, 15101 Ave. K, Salina, Kansas, 67401. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a candle lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9404.

Night of Worship: May 25, 4:00 pm. Fort Hays State University, 15101 Ave. K, Salina, Kansas, 67401. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a candle lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9404.

Night of Worship: May 30, 4:00 pm. Fort Hays State University, 15101 Ave. K, Salina, Kansas, 67401. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a candle lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9404.
A FULL REPLICA OF THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES, OAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, 7600 LEE’S SUMMIT ROAD, KANSAS CITY, MO.

ANNE WARRICKS. May 12, 7:00 pm; May 13, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; May 14, 7:00 pm. Bell Culture Event Center, MidAmerica Nazarene, 2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS 66062-913-688-3188.

SNOWPIECE THE MUSICAL. May 18, 7:00 pm (Family Day); May 19, 7:00 pm; May 20, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; May 21, 2:00 pm. Bell Culture Event Center, MidAmerica Nazarene, 2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS 66062-913-688-3188.

NORTHLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT. May 21, 7:00 pm. Staley High School, 30th & 57th Street, Kansas City, MO 64156. Will be performing a variety of pieces from some of the world’s most famous Broadway musicals.

WEST SIDE STORY. May 25, 7:00 pm (Family Day); May 26, 7:00 pm; May 27, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; May 28, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm. Bell Culture Event Center, MidAmerica Nazarene, 2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS 66062-913-688-3188.

FAMILY OUTINGS


LAYERS OF TIME: LONGVIEW FARM MEMO-

REIS. April 1-29. Kansas City Museum at Conner Hall, 5228 Gladstone Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Features photographs of Longview Farm, built in 1894 known as “The World’s Most Beautiful Farm.” 816-513-0726.

AUSTISM AWARENESS DAY. April 2, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Kansas City Zoo, 2200 Zoo Drive, Kansas City, MO. The Zoo will provide FREE admission to people with Autism and reduced admission of $6 per person for those accompanying them at the Zoo. 816-595-1234.

PASSPORT TO INDIA FESTIVAL. April 2, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Travel to India with a celebration of Indian art, culture, music, dance, fashion and food. 816-751-2708.

NATIONAL DANCE WEEK KANSAS CITY. April 8, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Ironwoods Park, 1400 Mission Road, Leawood, KS 66224. A full day of free dance performances for the public. www.nationaldanceweek.com.

HORSE FUN DAY. April 11, 2:00 pm. Horses of Hope, 7611 E. 130 Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64134. Face painting, horse painting contest, mini-races, and much, much, more. 816-516-6035.

EASTER BUNNY. April 19, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Powell Garden, 1619 NW Highway 50, Kingsville, MO. Enjoy a Chris Cakes pancake breakfast followed by our famous fun egg hunt on the lawn. 816-697-3600.

FLOWING THROUGH HISTORY: KANSAS CITY, THE CITY OF FOUNTAINS. April 27, 7:00 pm. Mid-Continent Public Library-Parkville, 3835 Tom Watson Pkwy., Parkville, MO 64152. Hear the back-story of some of the city’s most iconic fountains. 816-741-4721.

CHIP IN CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT. June 19, 8:00 am. Creekmoor Golf Course, 1112 East 168th Street, Raymore, MO 64083. $400 per team or $100 per individual. All proceeds will support the mental and emotional wellness of Cass County children, individuals and families through Pathways Community Health, your local community mental health partner. 660-890-8216.
MONTHLY MEETINGS
BUILDING BETTER MOMS. The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 15720 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. 913-897-0220.

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 913-389-9933 or visit www.kansasmiaa.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, 10608 E 79th Street, Raytown, MO. 64133. Connect with others who share your journey; you are not alone. 816-351-7447.

MONDAY - MOPS AND TOTS COMMUNITY. 10:00-11:00 am. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7651 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS. A different activity each week - story time, play time, Mom’s bible studies and fellowship, or special outing. A great way to connect with other moms and young children. Contact amyvaets@holycrosselca.org for more info.


MONDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 4:00-6:00 pm. Hope City, 501 E. 24th St., Kansas City, MO 64108.

2ND & 4TH MONDAY - MOPS. 9:30 a.m.

FLOWING THROUGH HISTORY: KANSAS CITY, THE CITY OF FOUNTAINS. 7:00 PM. MID-CENTURY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 885 TOM WATSON PKWY., PARKVILLE, MO

Unplanned Pregnancy? The LIGHT House Offers Christ-Centered

- Housing
- Parenting/Life Skills Education
- Assistance and Support for Those Considering Adoption

Where every human heart is cherished... within the words and within strong families

24/7 HOPE LINE: 816-916-4434
WWW.LIGHTHOUSEKC.ORG


TUESDAY - 13 WEEK PROGRAM, DIVORCE CARE AND Divorcecare4KIDS. 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW 88th St., Overland Park, KS. Participants become part of a small support group of people who are also experiencing separation and divorce. A program for children whose parents are separated or divorced, children between the ages of 5 and 12. 816-228-5300.

TUESDAY - INTERNATIONAL DANCE. 7:00 pm. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS. This 12-step Christ centered program. Drop in any Tuesday! Contact Craig Hauer, 913-449-2285 for more info.

TUESDAY - HEARTLAND HEALING ROOMS. 7:00-9:00 pm. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 NE Chipman Rd., Lee’s Summit, MO. www.heartlandhealingrooms.org.

TUESDAY - ISRAELI FOLK DANCE. 7:00 pm. The Jewish Community Center, Studio 3, 5851 W. 115th St., Leawood, KS. $3 Adults and Teens welcome. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Beginning/Intermediate Dance, 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Advanced Dance, 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm.

IST TUESDAY - CREATION SCIENCE ASSOCIATION FOR MID-AMERICA. 7 p.m. Northwest Church, 9777 North, Overland Park, KS. Presentation followed by Q&A. Answers to your questions regarding Science and the Bible: “Creation Safaris” (Ten Receipts, www.csrama.org) includes link to FB page 816-346-4237.

IST & 3RD TUESDAY - FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS. 7:00 pm. Life Springs Church, 11206 E 185th Street, Spring Hill, KS. Contact Kim (fibropeachhealing@yahoo.com or 337-976-5052.

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

2ND TUESDAY - EQUIPPING BELIEVERS MIDWEST. 7:00 p.m. Blue Springs Hampton Inn. 120 SW 99th St., Blue Springs, MO. 64015. Free Prayer for healing and freedom from addiction, family training to heal the sick, evangelize the lost, set the oppressed free. 913-488-6470.

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY - “WINGS OF HOPE.” Blue Springs Christian Church, 7805 S. 7 Hwy., Blue Springs, MO. A Christian based ministry to provide support for families grieving loss through miscarriage or infant death, because every life matters. Email: wingsofhope@bscc.org.

For more events visit metrovoicenews.com

HEART OF AMERICA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE & THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Akkredited Degrees: Associate - Doctorate; Bible: Pastoral Studies; Christian Counseling, Church Administration, Christian Education
www.heartofamericaministries.com
Email: info@heartofamericaministries.com

Be Crowned
A DAY OF PAMPERING FOR SINGLE MOMS
MAY 6, 2017 / 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM / ECHO CHURCH PELEANT HILL
IT IS FREE BUT YOU MUST REGISTER AT https://orleansccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=15

Kansas City’s Home for Christian Music
88.5

life

peace
FAMILY
Fun
Listener Supported Community Joy Relationship
New Community
New Community
New Community
As her name suggests, Belle is indeed lovely. She’s also sweet, kind, gentle and as bright as the stars on a moonless night. She adores her father, and she simply loves to read good books and dreams of being part of the adventures those printed pages depict.

There’s only one problem: Belle’s long list of terrific character qualities make her something of a misfit in her little provincial town. In fact, the townspeople see her as flat-out peculiar. Why would anyone bother with all that reading and dream- ing and the like, they say, when she could just settle down and be happy? Or at least make some guy happy?

Like Gaston, for instance.

Gaston is a lantern-jawed brute who’s regularly fawned over by all the other young women in town. And in his mind, deservedly so. Why, just look at his smile, those muscles, those twinkling eyes. Even Gaston’s old army companion, LeFou, can’t help but sing Gaston’s praises. And he’s a guy.

Of course, the most handsome and desirable man in town naturally gravitates toward the most beautiful and desirable woman. And that would be Belle. Gaston is determined to take her as his wife. And once they’re married, well, he’ll cure Belle of her passion for reading and dreaming and all that silly stuff. Belle, however, isn’t interested. She’d rather care for her loving Papa, the town’s clocksmith, and wait to see what possibilities the future might hold for her rather than take up with an empty-headed lug like Gaston.

But none of that matters much, it would seem, in light of recent events. While her father was off trying to sell his mechanical devices in the nearest city, some wickedness must have befallen him: His horse returned without him.

In a panic, Belle goes Papa’s old-but-smart horse to take her to her father, wherever he may be. And the animal carries her to the gates of a gloomy, obviously forgotten castle. What could have happened to this overgrown old place? And why doesn’t anyone in the village even know it’s there?

Inside the strange, crumbling fortress she finds a cell. And inside that cell she finds her father. “Go away, Belle!” the old gent cries. “Forget about me. I’m lost to you.” But Belle could never just walk away from her beloved Papa. “Everything I am is because of you,” she tells him. Besides, it’s too late.

The surly owner of this enchanted castle has heard the commotion and storms into the shadow-cloaked dungeon. With bare teeth and an angry roar, he makes the facts clear: Papa has trespassed and unwisely tried to pluck a rose from his property, and a price must be paid. If Belle wants to take his place, so be it. But someone will be the lifelong prisoner of the Beast!

The Beast, it turns out, is a cursed prince who must find someone to love him in his current monster-like form in order to break the spell condemning him to that state. Of course, Belle doesn’t know any of that. She simply shows great love and bravery in her willingness to take her father’s place. She is willing to set all her dreams aside to ensure her father’s well-being and freedom. (And her father is willing to do the same for his daughter.)

This live-action rejuvenation of Disney’s classic 1991 animated musical is in many respects a thing of sumptuous beauty. In fact, some of the scenes in this new Beauty and the Beast—such as the famous welcome-to-the-feast number, “Be Our Guest”—are nothing short of magical. On top of that, this fairy tale fantasy’s encouragements to choose kindness and compassion, and to look beyond surface beauty, all ring as clear and true.

That’s the good news here.

But then there’s all that other stuff that we have to deal with as well. What are we to make of director Bill Condon’s claims that his Beauty and the Beast features Disney’s first “gay moment” (as described above)?

Adults will likely notice the film’s obvious homosexual innuendos and recognize them for what they are. But will kids? In a different, more innocent time, I wonder if these scenes would have been viewed by youngsters as little more than silliness. Alas, however, we live in this activist age. A day when actors and directors and studios feel it necessary to insert such things in an attempt to normalize…
ubica saw a necessary niche. “The need for trustworthy facts on the de-
tails and frequency of hate crimes and other incidents born of prejudice has
never been more urgent.” Document-
ing Hate will include anti-Semitic in-
cidents.

What difference could I make?

Stand up, speak up and become part of our remembering community.
The Holocaust devastated the Jews
and the world. Today’s continuing and
growing anti-Semitism defies “Never
again” and “Never forget.” Help us
speak for others, as Martin Niemöller
learned … the hard, painful and guilt-
filled way.

Niemöller (1892–1984) was a
prominent Protestant pastor who
emerged as an outspoken public foe
of Adolf Hitler and spent the last
seven years of Nazi rule in concentra-
tion camps. He is perhaps best re-
membered for the quotation:

First they came for the Socialists, and
I did not speak out —
Because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the Trade Uni-
ions, and I did not speak out —
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I
did not speak out —
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me — and there
was no one left to speak for me.

BOYCOTT

continued from page 17

with it,” she says. Instead of ignor-
ing a culture that celebrates homo-
sexuality, Wallace argues that
Christians should send their chil-
dren out into the world with strong
knowledge of what the Bible says.

“We must raise alien
children who are not surprised
by or afraid of this cul-
ture, and know how to
impact it for the
worship,” Wallace

Christian Blogger

and writer Luke Aylen
agrees and argues that
some parent’s reac-
tions could even hurt
their Christian wit-
tness.

“Boycotting this
film suggests Chris-
tians are offended by
the existence of gay
people – even if that’s
not how the boycotter intends it,”
Aylen writes.

Aylen is a fierce defender of tra-
ditional marriage, but he is open
about his life-long struggle with
same-sex attraction. He recalls the
painful experience of having Chris-
tian friends who cut him off after
finding out about his struggle with
homosexuality. He says most of
these children had parents who re-
fused to even talk to them about
the reality of homosexuality in their

“We must raise alien
children –
children who
are not
surprised by
or afraid of
this culture,
but know
how to
impact it for
the gospel”
Sarah Wallace

movie

and elevate certain sexual choices. And,
unfortunately, they’ve chosen to do so
this time in a movie aimed at children.

Both director Bill Condon and actor
Josh Gad seem to be trying to walk back
their comments about this deliberate,
pro-homosexual agenda—perhaps in
light of calls from some prominent
Christians to boycott it. Gad told USA
Today, “Too much has probably been
made of this entire thing. At a certain
point what I want to be talking about is
how wonderful, how entertaining, how
amazing this movie is for all audiences.”

Likewise, Condon told
scenecrush.com, “It’s all been
overblown,” and then added, “Why is it
a big deal?”

But the fact that Condon doesn’t un-
derstand why this could be such a big
deal to many who don’t believe homo-
sexuality is normative is telling indeed.
The result? Families that don’t embrace
Beauty and the Beast’s pro-gay mo-
ments will be forced to grapple with
how best to respond to them. And for
those who were looking forward to re-
visiting this beloved tale as old as time
with a younger generation, that’s a dis-
appointing and difficult decision to have
to make.

Dentistry For the Family
Eugene F. Anderson, D.D.S.
13010 Fuller Ave.
Grandview, MO 64030
816-966-0202
www.efadds.com
8:00 - 5:00 • Closed Fridays
Serving the S. Metro area for 32 years.

Metro Voice
GOODBYES AND NEW BEGINNINGS

D.C. JEANES
Metro Voice music critic

Wow, this is my last music column for Metro Voice, and I'm at a loss. Not something I usually struggle with, as I'm probably more free with my thoughts and opinions than may be considered appropriate, but this is tough. I started writing for the paper in 2010, so I was getting ready to graduate from Park University. Since then, I have been given the opportunity to interview some pretty big names in the music industry, including Building 429, Jim Brickman, Tenth Avenue North, and Brandon Heath, as well as some amazing local talent including Lori Harris, Dre T, and Grandeur.

I have had the unique opportunity to share my experiences going to Sierra Leone, both as a missionary and a father, and what our family has gone through to finally bring our children home from the orphanage there. We are in the last months before welcoming Ibrahim and Isha into the Jeanes Clan, and we are excited and grateful to God for His divine guidance and grace!

However, these final stages of the adoption are also a part of the reason I am stepping down from my position here. I will miss the monthly research and learning about new artists before writing about them.

It has been a powerful experience, and I want to give a huge shout-out to our publisher Dwight Widaman for the chance to be part of a great paper and ministry. I hope to meet you in person someday, brother, but our phone conversations these last seven years have been great, too. Haha!

Okay, now to the music news!

Award-winning rockers Building 429 is headlining the “Worship in the Round” Tour, with Josh Wilson and Chris August. The tour will be coming to Word of Life Church in Saint Joseph on Saturday, April 29th. Word of Life Church is located at 3902 N. Riverside Road, St. Joseph, MO 64505, and the doors open at 7pm. More information and tickets are available on iTickets.com. Recently, Building 429 received RIAA®-Gold certification for their single “Where I Belong,” while the single sales surpassed 1 million in 2015. Josh Wilson has achieved over 200,000 career album sales and over 300,000 career track sales to date, as well as being awarded the 2012 ASCAP Christian Songwriter of the Year.

Multi-platinum selling and GRAMMY winning Casting Crowns will also be stopping by in May. Performing at The Silverstein Eye Centers Arena on May 4, Casting Crowns will be continuing on their The Very Next Thing Tour, joined by K-LOVE Radio’s Male Artist of the Year Danny Gokey and special guests Unspoken. The tour supports their newest album of the same name; their fifth in their career. This is a great opportunity to see some incredible Christian artists for a good price and at a fun location.

Lastly, singer, author, and speaker Kathy Troccoli is also coming, May 5, to Tiffany Fellowship, on her popular Comfort By Candlelight tour. Described as “inspiring…breathtaking…reviving…healing,” the Candlelight tour is presented for anyone and everyone who could use an evening of worship and comfort. Located at 7315 NW Barry Rd, Kansas City, MO, Tiffany Fellowship will open its doors at 6pm with the performance slated to start at 7.

Let me make the best of your time.
Alan R. Jones, CPA
414 Remington Plaza Court
Raymore, MO
816-331-2232
alanjonescpa@hotmail.com

Ascension Lutheran Church
4800 Blue Ridge Blvd
Kansas City, MO
Phone: 385-1919

Join us for worship each week.
Sunday Morning Worship 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
The church is hosting walkers: 7:00 - 10:00 am, Monday through Friday.

Let us help you plan for your future.

Are you on track to meet your life goals?
Bacon Financial Advisors wants to help get you there. The differences in our clients’ lives drive the personalized financial plans we create for each and every one.

Schedule a FREE, NO OBLIGATION financial review.

600 SW Jefferson, Suite 208
Lee’s Summit, MO 64063
Office 816-246-8450
www.BaconFA.com

*Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/ SIPC.
DVDS WORTH RENTING

Drama gives voice to trafficking victims

Caged No More tells the story of Aggie (Loretta Devine), an elderly woman looking for two teenage girls she cared for as children. She discovers the girls have been sold into slavery by their own reprobate father (Kevin Sorbo). He sets up his youngest to meet the man who will trick her into a most unfortunate fate by promising her money for modeling.

Aggie learns both youngsters have been taken overseas to be sold into the sex trade. Determined to rescue them, she enlists the help of the girls’ uncle and his son, a former special-forces commando.

At the end of this taut action film, we learn another person becomes a victim of human trafficking every 30 seconds.

Caged No More shows the heroes gallantly fighting the evildoers. Though some characters have a happy ending, the film will leave you feeling uneasy, not triumphant.

Caged No More has good production values and an absorbing story. It’s a pleasure to see a woman of faith have a positive effect on the lives of others, but it’s a sad reality that men and women in this world traffic other human beings to make money or to satisfy some kind of twisted desire. Whatever the reason, the industry is thriving.

The film is available on DVD from Word Distributors. It doesn’t have objectionable language or exploitative sexuality, but it receives a PG-13 rating mainly for the subject matter.

—Michael Feist

Movies with language that is not just clean, but good

Nowadays, theaters are overloaded with films composed of CGI effects, bathroom humor, and gore galore. But throughout the years, the best moviemakers have found the truest special effect is dialogue.

Two films from Britain, both produced in the 1990s, mesmerize viewers with their use of language. The Winslow Boy, from 1999, is based on a true story about a successful banker who risks his fortune and the family’s good name to defend his son from an accusation of theft. After being dismissed from a prestigious prep school, a disgrace that could cause early 1900s British society to shun the entire family, the boy proclaims his innocence despite the evidence.

The family’s subsequent stand takes them to court. The patriarch makes personal and financial sacrifices to hire the best lawyer, or, as the British say, solicitor.

Renowned playwright and director David Mamet, who is recognized normally for his dialogue, has sensitively adapted Terence Rattigan’s play. This gentle look at a father’s determination to see justice done—and to see his son vindicated—offers filmgoers a superb screenplay, proving that a story can be told without bombarding the viewer with profane and offensive material. It’s rated G, and stars Nigel Hawthorne and Rebecca Pidgeon.

Next, the Academy Award-winner for best picture in 1995, Sense and Sensibility, stars Emma Thompson, the late Alan Rickman, Kate Winslet, and Hugh Grant. Thompson also wrote the screenplay for this film adapted from the Jane Austen novel about two sisters discovering the joys and tribulations of young love. Sense and Sensibility is rated PG. Set in prim and proper 18th-century Britain, the beautifully photographed and splendidly acted melodrama is full of humor, wit, and passion. There’s no profanity, no sexual situations, no violence—just great storytelling.

[Editor’s Note: Sadly, while Sense and Sensibility is available for rent on Amazon, none of the movies are available for free on Netflix or Amazon Prime]

—by Phil Boatwright

Loretta Devine stars as a housekeeper on a mission to find the child she cared for who was sold into slavery by the girl’s father, played by Kevin Sorbo.
THREE FAITH-BASED SHOWS SET TO PREMIER ON PRIME-TIME TELEVISION THIS SPRING

by Charity Gibson

Three faith-based TV pilots will go head-to-head with others for a chance to get picked up for the 2017-18 television season premiere.

If primetime television decides to take a page out of Hollywood’s faith-based films success, we might be seeing a lot more Christian content on the small screen.

Now that spring is under way, scripts have been pitched to ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and The CW for a chance among hundreds to move forward in a bid to find the next breakout TV shows.

Discovered in the listings of pilots up for grabs were three faith-based television shows that a Christian audience might consider watching.

1. "The Gospel of Kevin"
   Those behind ABC’s Marvel drama "Agent Carter" returned to the network with a pilot for "The Gospel of Kevin." According to the Hollywood Reporter, the Disney-owned American Broadcasting Company network recruited Jason Ritter to play the lead role in the “Light” ABC drama. "The Gospel of Kevin" will follow a man “down-on-his-luck who’s tasked by God with a mission to save the world.” The series will also feature Cristela Alonzo, JoAnna Garcia Swisher and J. August Richards.

2. "Living Biblically"
   This CBS comedy stars Ian Gomez as a “modern man who, at a crossroads in his life, decides to live life according to the Bible.” The pilot is based on the best-selling book The Year of Living Biblically: One Man’s Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible by A.J. Jacobs. Although the description reads as a faith-based series, it is difficult to judge for certain since the author described himself as an “agnostic Jew” to Christianity Today. However, the book did receive positive reaction from Christian media.

3. "For God and Country"
   Lastly, “For God and Country” stars the actor from the “The Case for Christ,” Mike Vogel. This NBC dramatic series was filmed in Morocco and is a “heart-pounding look into the complex world of the country’s bravest military heroes who make personal sacrifices while executing the most challenging and dangerous missions behind enemy lines.”

Greater Pentecostal Temple

SERVICES

Wednesday

Intercessory Prayer 5:00 PM
Evangetic (Wesper) Service 6:00 PM
Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM
Youth Department Meeting 7:00 PM

Sunday

Intercessory Prayer 8:00 AM
Sunday School
Relationship Class 9:00 AM
Praise & Worship 10:00 AM

864 Splittog Avenue • Kansas City, Kansas 66101 • (913) 371-4667

Conception Abbey

The Benedictine Monks of Conception Abbey welcome over 10,000 guests each year. Whether you come for a personal retreat, directed retreat, workshop, or just to get away we hope that after one visit, you’ll never be a stranger to Conception Abbey.

The Abbey Guest Center
Conception Abbey
P.O. Box 501
37174 State Hwy V V
Conception, MO 64433
(660) 944-2809
guests@conception.edu
www.conceptionabbey.org

Quality Christian Talk Radio

92.3FM 760AM 101.5FM

Bott Radio Network

BottRadioNetwork.com

The Gift of Legacy

...passing on your values, not just your valuables

LET US HELP YOU:
• Protect that which means most to you – Your Family!
• Save you and your beneficiaries Time, Money and Inconveniences of death and/or guardianship probate.
• Have peace of mind.

William A. Lewis
“Over 40 Years of Experience”

816-524-3200 • www.LewisLivingTrust.com
700 NE Langsford Rd. Lee’s Summit
Developed by Jeanne Whittaker, a California woman who got the idea while praying on a trip to Israel some twenty years ago, her vision quickly grew into reality with the help of her own church. The Tabernacle Experience is now a detailed and historically accurate full-scale replica of Moses’ shrine that was carried by the Israelites across the Sinai Desert after they were freed from Egypt, as told in the book of Exodus. To date, over 220,000 people across the United States and Canada have traveled back 2,500 years ago when two million Israelites, set free from Egypt, banded together on the promise of a new land they could call their own with a promise to follow the one true God.

That trip back in time, and the effect it has on a person, is one of the motivating factors in bringing it back. Russ Taylor, pastor of Oakwood Baptist Church says seeing it last fall in Lone Jack, Mo. was an experience he will never forget.

“It was a tremendously moving experience,” says Taylor, reflecting on when he and members of his congregation saw it. “Seeing all the requirements that a Holy God demands to dwell among a holy people.”

For many the benefit isn’t just educational. Taylor says he was even caught up in the moment—and it surprised him. “I saw a number of people who were really moved by it. People who we wouldn’t think would ever tear up, had tears in their eyes. It clearly had touched them and very deeply.”

The Oakwood congregation will certainly be prepared with new knowledge when they see it this year.

The church has been going through a Sunday morning series on the Tabernacle taught by Taylor. Having started in February, the pastor says that a number of members have said they finally understand the sacrificial elements of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant and how they are interwoven.

For the pastor, though, it isn’t a recent interest. “Seeing it in a three-dimensional way, through the Tabernacle Experience, reignited my passion to share it with our congregation and others,” he told Metro Voice.

Pastor Taylor says that as they’ve been working through the series, this period of Moses is the first time, since the fall, that God expressed His desire to dwell among His people.

“All humanity is hot-wired to know God. The Tabernacle Experience does a great job of explaining that wiring and it exposes people to the opportunity to know God through Jesus Christ. One leaves being reminded of it, as Christians, or being exposed to it for the first time.”

The exhibit features historically accurate, artistically crafted biblical replicas of the Brazen Altar, the Table of Showbread and finally, the Ark of the Covenant. State-of-the-art interactive displays take what a visitor sees to a new level that’s understandable to young and old alike, whether they be seasoned Christians or just curious individuals who haven’t attended church in a while but are drawn to the ancient worship practices.

When The Tabernacle Experience visited Lone Jack Baptist Church last fall, over 5,000 people saw it and reservations filled up within days of the article in Metro Voice.

Shelley Holsten, a member of Lone Jack and one of the organizers of their event said it had a profound effect on her. “The Tabernacle Experience was, for me, a deeply personal worship experience,” she said. “Having the headboard on allowed me to shut out everything and concentrate on the presence of the Holy Spirit. With all senses engaged, I felt His holiness like never before.”

While the exhibit is mostly self-guided, volunteers did work through the various aspects of the tabernacle tent. With the help of audio, they journey through the sanctuary with a 55-minute narration in which they interact at each of nine stations. Jesus Christ is revealed in each aspect of the tabernacle.

The Experience may be the most unique traveling exhibit in the nation. But why does a tent, fabric walls and an altar set up in parking lots, fields and churchyards across the nation capture the imagination and spiritual aspirations of so many people?

Pastor Taylor observes that we live in a more visual and experiential age and it gives people the opportunity to really see what they’re reading in their Bibles. “This allows us to see how people experienced God 2,500 years ago, in a way that reading alone is difficult to convey.”

“Of course, the most beautiful aspect,” Taylor says, “is how different parts of the experience point to the Christ to come.”

Holsten shares a story about a priest who visited, but had run out of time to wait him. She says he could sense his angst when he came to her and said he had to leave in 15 minutes. Was there any part of it he could experience before he had to go? She quickly grabbed a headset, took him straight back to the stations inside the tent, and told him to listen as long as he could, then to just bring the headset out when he had to leave.

“When he came out a short time later, the tears were flowing and he was too caught up to even speak to us,” Hosten says, “Instead he began pulling out bills and stuffing them in the donation box. When we tried to assure him, it wasn’t necessary—he didn’t even get to experience the whole thing—he just shook his head at us, continued, and left in silence.”

The Tabernacle Experience will take place Friday, April 21 from 11 a.m. through Sunday, April 30 at 8 p.m., rain or shine. Oakwood Baptist Church is located at 7000 Lee’s Summit Road, Kansas City, Mo. (North of Lakewood Medical Center).

Cost is $6 pp/$20 per family. Walk-ins wait for those with reservations. You are encouraged to go on line and reserve your time to attend, though donations are payable only be taken at the door.

For info, and to sign up, visit www.obckc.com or call (816) 373-4733 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. More info at www.tabernacleexperience.com.

Carcass disposal is an additional expense.

But he has also heard stories of healing and sacrifice. Two brothers who hadn’t spoken in seven years mended ties after one brother saved the other from certain death when fire crews couldn’t reach them in time. Trucks are rolling in with donated hay and feed from fellow ranchers across the region. A 4-H Club organized efforts to care for orphaned calves until ranchers have had time to recover from their losses.

And Gardner said he already sees sprouts of green through the charred land, noting the timing of the fire allows for spring rains to promote new growth before next winter.

What do the cattle losses mean for the consumer? Gardner said beef has a longer turnover than pork and chicken. “Every day when you eat a hamburger or steak, it took a rancher three years to get that on your plate,” he explained, pointing to a potential hit in the 2019 production cycle. “Those in the cities should have a vested interest. Their meal just burned up.”

Place your classified ad with Metro Voice

CALL TODAY: 816.524.4522
When it comes to culture, do you consider yourself a foot soldier or a gardener? Okay, that's a bit cryptic. But let me explain.

When was the last time you participated in a boycott? Or shared a Facebook post alerting your friends to a dangerous cultural trend?

Good stuff. Now, let me ask you this: When was the last time you went to an art museum? Or bought tickets to the theater? Or listened to a great piece of music? Or wrote a poem and shared it with friends?

I ask because I believe even more important for Christians than being on the front lines of the culture war is participating in the culture—and better yet, helping to create and nurture it. If the main contribution that Christians make to culture is complaining about it, we’re doing something wrong.

That’s what my friend Makoto Fujimura says in his new book, “Culture Care: Reconnecting with Beauty for Our Common Life.” You may have heard me interview Fujimura before. He’s a brilliant artist and writer who has thought long and hard about the relationship between faith and the arts. “Culture,” he argues, “is not a territory to be won or lost but a resource we are called to steward with care. Culture is a garden to be cultivated.”

In other words, Fujimura wants us to shift our thinking away from the “culture wars” model, in which we think of culture as a battleground. Of course we need to have convictions about culture, and stand by them. But Fujimura wants to offer a better way for us to influence culture for good. His image of a garden is just one of many he draws from nature, to show how we can care fully and patiently help to cultivate that cultural environment and make good things grow in it.

So, how do we do this? Fujimura suggests that both Christians and the arts community start by learning to look at each other as potential allies, even friends, instead of as sworn enemies. He asks us to consider investing in cultural works, as we’re able to afford it. (As an example, he mentions customers who have purchased his own paintings by giving him a little money every month until they were fully paid for.) He suggests that leaders in the church, the arts community, and the business community form partnerships to help support each other and nurture the culture around them. He cites the example of singer Mahalia Jackson, who encouraged Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to “tell ‘em about the dream,” spurring him to make his most famous speech. Such encouragement can flow in both directions.

This isn’t always easy work, but it’s extremely valuable and worthwhile. It requires thoughtful engagement instead of blanket condemnation, and it may call for us to broaden our understanding and deal with ideas that seem unfamiliar and uncomfortable. But from such efforts come moments that he calls “generative,” or “life-giving.” Christians who enjoy and support art and culture, who make it a priority in their lives, and who reach out to those in the arts instead of reflexively pushing them away, can help bring the culture toward a renewed appreciation of goodness, truth, and beauty. And that is good for everyone.

Fujimura acknowledges that Christians in the arts, or even just Christians who love the arts, can feel caught between two worlds. But he argues that this is not a bad thing. The person in this position may in fact be playing “a role of cultural leadership in a new mode, serving functions including empathy, memory, warning, guidance, mediation, and reconciliation.”

One of the best things about “Culture Care” is Fujimura’s optimism about our future—even if you’re feeling a bit weary and battle-scarred from the culture wars. He firmly believes that, as tough as this cultural moment is, we can turn it into a “genesis moment” by learning to nurture and care for our culture and those who create it. If you want to be part of that effort, I can’t think of a better way to start than by picking up this excellent book.

–Eric Metaxas is the host of the “Eric Metaxas Show,” a co-host of “BreakPoint” radio and a New York Times #1 best-selling author whose works have been translated into more than twenty languages.

WHO IS THE WORLD’S MOST POLARIZING FIGURE?

I have had the privilege of being guest chaplain at the U.S. Senate and House of Representative as well as the Kansas Senate and House of Representatives. I took those opportunities, not to religiously grandstand, but to genuinely pray for the legislators before me and for my state and country. Only one time did I ever experience pushback. After reviewing my prayer, the chaplain sent it back and suggested some changes. I did my best to honor him, but after the fourth revision, with great respect I finally said, “I understand the position you are in, but I must close my prayer with ‘In the name of Jesus.’” Reluctantly, he permitted it.

The chaplain was a good Christian, but concerned over the fallout he would receive. He knew that some legislators, because of their religious position, would be offended at the use of Jesus’ name. David Limbaugh, who wrote the book _The Persecution_ , summed it up when he stated “Jesus is offensive.” And Jesus Himself explained “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before . . . you” (John 15:18).

From the moment of his birth to the present, Jesus has consistently topped the Who’s Who List for the world’s most polarizing figure. On the one hand, every Sunday millions gather to worship and adore him as savior and Lord. And on the other, over 60 nations are imprisoning, killing or culturally ostracizing followers of Jesus.

What is so offensive? It is his name. Jesus, means savior. He is a savior from sin, and since no one can forgive sins but God, He is also deity. These two truths in flame His adversaries and cause His followers to worship Him.

The deeper reason for the offensive ness of Jesus is the sinfulness found in human hearts. Whether it is an individual, government or a religion, we all want to do life our way. We want to be in control, make our own choices and pursue our own path. That is sin. And if the affects of our sin rise to unbearable levels we mask it with work, addictions or trying to be a good person.

Yes, we may acknowledge Jesus was a good teacher and person, but step short of changing our ways for Him. In a sense, when he comes knocking we hold up a sign in our hearts that says “Resist.”

On a day, love him or hate him, he will bring the whole world to its knees. The Scripture says, “God has highly exalted him . . . so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:10, 11). Instead of raising up your defenses towards Jesus, consider humble yourself and discovering His joy and peace.

–Clint Decker is President & Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.
Worship in the Round

World Vision Presents

Celebrating Nashville’s Beloved Tradition of Musicians in the Round.

Featuring:

Building 429

Josh Wilson

Saturday, April 29 at 7 pm

Word of Life Church • 3902 N. Riverside Road • St. Joseph, MO 64505

Tickets are available on iTickets.com