

**MATTHEW
WEST**



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**NEW FEATURES
THIS MONTH!**

What's new on Netflix,
expanded



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CELEBRATING FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN KANSAS CITY

VOLUME 28 • NUMBER 6

June 2017

FREE-TAKE ONE!



Kansas City Archdiocese moves away from Girl Scouts

By **Dwight Widaman**

The Wichita Eagle reports that the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas is moving to sever ties with the Girl Scouts.

Saying Girl Scouts is "no longer a compatible partner in helping us form young women with the virtues and values of the Gospel," Archbishop Joseph Naumann issued a statement in late May saying he had asked parishes to either immediately stop hosting Girl Scout troops or eventually graduate scouts in the program.

The debate about Girl Scouts and the Catholic Church goes back many years, when the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth began discussions

■ See **GIRL SCOUTS** page 22

Faith, music and baseball come together

by **Alan Goforth**

Dayton Moore has experienced both highs and lows during his tenure as general manager of the Kansas City Royals. However, an unexpected phone call in January reminded him again that some things are far more important than wins and losses.

"I was heading to Atlanta to do a fund-raiser for a high school baseball team in north Georgia," he said. "I left early that morning and



got a call from a national reporter who said, 'Hey, Dayton, look, I just have to confirm the news. Yordano Ventura was killed in a car acci-

dent'. I said, 'No, I haven't heard that. Let me find out.'

"As soon as I hung up the phone, I got a phone call from Major League Baseball confirming that Yordano had been killed."

Moore's faith helped him deal with the tragic loss of a young player. He realizes that God placed him in a prominent position not simply to win baseball games but to help others experience that same faith.

■ See **FAITH FAMILY** page 22

Visiting Nigerian pastor will share on genocide and faith

by **Dwight Widaman**

Christians in Nigeria, Sudan and other African nations continue to be targeted for systematic extermination at the hands of radical Muslims. Yet, because of a virtual media blackout, most American Christians know little or nothing about the genocide

■ See **NIGERIA** page 23



Destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D., what will a rebuilt Temple mean for Israel?

by **Chris Mitchell**

JERUSALEM, Israel – The capture of Jerusalem's Temple Mount 50 years ago this month sent shockwaves throughout the Jewish world. It also raised hopes for the building of the third temple.

On June 7, 1967, Israeli Brigade Commander Col. Motta Gur made an announcement that Jews had

wanted to hear for some 2,000 years.

"The Temple Mount is in our hands! The Temple Mount is in our hands!" he declared.

Retaking this ground was important for a number of reasons. For one, it's where King Solomon built the first Jewish temple. After the Babylonians destroyed it, Zerubbabel (the head of the tribe of Judah when the Israelites returned from the Babylonian exile) laid

the foundation stone for a second temple that was later expanded by King Herod. That temple fell in 70 AD at the hands of the Romans.

When Commander Gur declared the Temple Mount was back in Jewish hands, it rekindled hope for a long-awaited Third Temple.

"The Six-Day War was a miracle of biblical propor-

■ See **TEMPLE** page 23

newsbriefs

Too young to cross a street but old enough for a sex change

(WNS)--More than 200 children under the age of 14 died in the United States in 2014 after being struck by a car. Another 8,000 suffered injuries, according to the National Center for Statistics and Analysis. A new research study conducted at the University of Iowa has determined children younger than 14 do not possess the cognitive skills and judgement to safely cross a street. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) published an excerpt of the study in its Daily Briefing, a nod some physicians found ironic, given the organization's support for transgender treatment. "This same AAP, however, also frequently promotes the claim that children this age or younger are cognitively capable of deciding that they are the wrong sex," noted Michelle Cretella, president of the American College of Pediatricians, a conservative alternative to the AAP.



Fines for worship, prison for Bible study in China

(WNS)--Amid increasing attempts to suppress religious activities, Chinese authorities have detained, fined, and imprisoned Christians for public worship, buying and selling devotionals, and group Bible study. In late April, a court in Xinjiang convicted five Protestants who attended a Bible study in 2016, charging them with "gathering a crowd to disrupt social order," Asia News reported. The verdict came with five-year prison sentences for two pastors, and four- and three-year sentences for three others. They plan to appeal. Earlier in April, authorities raided a Christian concert and arrested those attending. Taiwanese Pastor Xu Rongzhang was singing "Jesus Loves You" when the raid took place, China Aid reported. Before releasing them, officials forced the Christians to say they would not organize large gatherings again and told Xu not to hold any meetings of more than 10 people.



A club by any other name

(WNS)--Some public school administrators still don't get it: Students do not leave their constitutional rights at the school door. For those who need reminding, like Parkland High School in Allentown, Pa., the Thomas More Society stands ready to send a legal notice with remedial lessons on the First Amendment, the Federal Equal Access Act, and—for good measure—the school's own policy handbook. Parkland High School students jumped through the requisite hoops last fall to launch a pro-life student group, only to have an assistant principal reject the club as "too political" and "controversial." Those concerns apparently were not an issue for the Gay Straight Alliance Club and the Political Science Club. Thomas More attorneys sent administrators a letter May 17 demanding a reversal of their decision. Other public schools that have tried to censor pro-life groups reversed course after receiving their legal warning letters.

Officer goes the distance to tell Missouri governor about Kansas City's homicide rate

by Alisa Nelson

Kansas City Police officer Kelly Sapp has made a more than 100-mile journey on foot to tell Governor Eric Greitens that the murder rate of young people in his city must be addressed. His battles through the heat, rain, traffic, and night-fall have made a statement by walking to the Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City.

A comment from an inner city child whom Sapp mentors prompted Sapp to grab his hiking stick and walking shoes.

"He goes 'All inner city kids are going to die soon, before we're adults. We're going to most likely die on the street by a bullet.' You have to understand that a 6-year-old told me this. I was just dumbfounded," says Sapp. "I'm not going to accept that. I knew that if I did a walk that was that long to meet the governor that I would absolutely get the word out about violence and these kids."

According to TV station KMBC, about 36 percent of this year's homicide victims in Kansas City are 24 or younger.

Sapp told Greitens that more officers are needed and community policing must increase.

"If cops had more time to spend with

"If cops had more time to spend with these kids, you train up an entire generation to trust and admire the police," –Sapp



Sapp walks along a Missouri highway on his way to Jefferson City.

these kids, you train up an entire generation to trust and admire the police, like I did when I was a kid and not be so violent toward police. There's a pretty violent generation of kids coming up,"

says Sapp.

He says officers walk a thin blue line between the innocent and chaos.

"Sometimes you just get folks who lose track of that," says Sapp. "The line

is getting so thin everywhere. There's lots of things that need done, a lot of risk-averse policies being done that make us violate our oath and make us unable to be faithful to the officer on our left and our right."

Sapp says police don't have time to answer all of the 911 calls.

"We've been stripped of so many things for just different units or different new ways of fighting crime. The line is getting very thin and we're going to start seeing officers getting hurt more often, just like those kids are."

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Advocates speculate Brownback headed to religious liberty post

Kansas governor could be ambassador-at-large for international religious liberty

Human rights advocates are heaping praise on Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback as speculation grows that he will become the next ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom.

"As a U.S. senator, Gov. Brownback was second-to-none in advocacy for persecuted religious minorities in places such as Sudan," said Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

He said Brownback would be "amazingly effective" in the job: "A Brownback ambassadorship would make clear that the United States government takes seriously religious persecution around the world."

The 60-year-old Brownback, a conservative Catholic, served 14 years in the

Senate before becoming governor of Kansas in 2011. He is two years into his second term, but also among the least popular governors in the country—with an approval rating below 30 percent. If nominated and confirmed, Brownback would vacate the governor's mansion.

The State Department directed an inquiry to the White House, which did not respond to requests for comment on the issue. Brownback's office would not directly address the potential appointment.

"Gov. Brownback is focused on his



Brownback

continued efforts to make Kansas the best state in America to raise a family and grow a business," communications director Melika Willoughby said in an email.

The bipartisan praise for Brownback comes after House and Senate lawmakers introduced resolutions calling on the administration to make international religious

freedom a centerpiece of its foreign policy agenda. The resolutions called for President Donald Trump to immediately name an ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom—a post

vacant since January.

Some observers thought Vice President Mike Pence—a close Brownback friend—would make an announcement when he addressed The World Summit in Defense of Persecuted Christians. He did not mention the post or Brownback, but he declared the issue a top concern: "Protecting religious freedom is a foreign-policy priority of the Trump administration."

Several top religious freedom advocates declined to go on the record ahead of an official announcement, but some groups are already drafting press releases to rally around Brownback. They believe he would bring a high-profile presence to the office and could effectively leverage his deep contacts at the White House and on Capitol Hill.

"Sam Brownback would be a terrific choice," said Kent Hill, executive director

of the Religious Freedom Institute. "He's highly competent, he's passionate about religious freedom, he knows the government. He's got all the credentials that would make him very successful."

Katrina Lantos Swett, a former Democrat-appointed chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), called Brownback "a strong choice" who would "provide powerful, committed, and high profile leadership to the post."

Congress created the ambassador position in the landmark International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. That legislation also created USCIRF and a religious freedom office within the State Department. Both offices compile annual reports about the state of religious freedom around the world, including highlighting countries of particular concern.

RIGHTNOW evangelism conference offers power-packed lineup of speakers

"If Jesus were here today, I have no doubt He'd make use of every means possible to declare His message." — Billy Graham

RIGHTNOW is a one-day, power-packed conference designed to equip pastors, ministry leaders, or anyone wanting to fulfill the plan God has for your life. The conference is Friday, July 21, 9am - 4pm, check-in 8am at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Chapel, 5001 N Oak Trafficway, Kansas

City. The \$15 cost includes continental breakfast, lunch, and leader resource pack. Student are \$10 (until June 30).

"We're all called by God to go and to make disciples for Christ, but putting the Great Commission into play can be overwhelming and discouraging for the pastor trying to move and motivate a church into action and even downright intimidating to your average believer with a heart to share the Gospel," says conference organizer Steve Barnes.

"RIGHTNOW can come along beside you and challenge, encourage, and equip you with what you need to take the next step."

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TOPIC: Urgency, The Time is Now | Sujo John: 9/11 Survivor, Evangelist, Founder of YouCanFreeUs, a human trafficking rehabilitation non-profit.

Sujo John survived from the 81st floor of the North Tower on

9/11. He will share his experience during those horrific events, how he made it to ground level, and pointed others to Christ. He now challenges Christians to be intentional and passionate about sharing Jesus.

TOPIC: Creating an Evangelism Culture | Pastor Chad McDonald: Senior Pastor, Lenexa Baptist Church.

Human nature causes Christians to migrate to an inward focus that ultimately leads us down a path

where we forget about those who need Jesus most. Maintaining or establishing an outward focus is an ongoing challenge in the life of every Christian. In this session, Pastor Chad McDonald will provide insight and actionable steps to help you keep the evangelism fervor as a Christian, church or ministry organization.

TOPIC: Reaching the Unreached | Pastor Christian Newsome: Founder and Senior Pastor of Journey Church International in Lee's Summit.

■ See RIGHTNOW page 21

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TRUMP ADMINISTRATION APPOINTS PRO-LIFE LEADER TO POST IN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Yoest applauded for her strong commitment

by **CBN News**

President Donald Trump is appointing a longtime, influential pro-life advocate to a senior position at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The White House announced Charmaine Yoest will serve as Assistant Sec-

retary of Public Affairs at the HHS.

Yoest, who actively supported Trump during his campaign, served as president of Americans United for Life from 2008 to February 2016.

The organization advances pro-life legislation at the federal and state level.

Under Yoest's leadership, the group backed measures that would ban most

abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, require women seeking abortions to un-



Yoest

dergo a sonogram, and impose tough regulations on abortion clinics that forced them to meet higher standards of medical care or close their doors.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List called Yoest "one of the pro-life movement's most articulate and powerful communicators."

House Speaker Paul Ryan congratulated her on her new position. In a tweet, he stated that the Trump administration "demonstrates (a) strong commitment to the pro-life cause."

Yoest replaces Kevin Griffis, who was recently named the new vice president of communications for Planned Parenthood.

Although Yoest's appointment has upset abortion-rights groups, pro-life

leaders say it's a sign of an ideological shift taking place in Washington.

According to Red State, Yoest would ultimately determine what the HHS could talk about or what they could say when they do talk.

"If you are going to appear on-air, your remarks have to be cleared, in advance, by the ASPA," the conservative news organization explained. "If you are going to represent HHS at a conference, ditto."

They added that any promotional material would also be cleared by the ASPA. Yoest would also have an integral role in the development of new programs at the HHS.

Yoest began her career serving under Ronald Reagan in the Office of Presidential Personnel and was an adviser to former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee in his 2008 presidential campaign.

Recently she served as a senior fellow at American Values, a conservative group in Washington.

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Missouri defunds Planned Parenthood—again

by **Samantha Gobba**

(WNS)--Missouri legislators recently discovered state dollars going to Planned Parenthood despite defunding the organization last year. The state's 2018 budget includes a new blanket ban on Medicaid funds to facilities that perform, encourage, or refer for abortions.

Last year, the state cut \$380,000 in state Medicaid funding to the abortion giant with a ban on funding to organizations that perform abortions. In doing so, they said goodbye to \$8 million in federal funds, replacing them with money from the state coffer. But state officials continued to release funds to Planned Parenthood facilities that merely referred women to the group's abortion megacenters in St. Louis and Kansas City, Kansas.

Susan Klein, Missouri Right to Life's legislative liaison, said funding to Planned Parenthood has been "in-



grained" into the budget system and is hard to oust: "As [legislators] find all this money that's been hidden over the years from different administrations that support abortion, then they're defunding."

The new budget redirects money from abortion centers to community health agencies and grants \$14 million to cover pregnant women and children who cannot afford medical insurance but don't qualify for Medicaid. Klein said she expects Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens to approve the budget.

You can't make up this kind of stuff

by **Dwight Widaman**

A pizza by any other name

A Muslim man who ordered a pepperoni pizza is suing the Little Caesars chain for \$100 million because the pizza contained pork. The pizza was mistakenly labeled as



"halal"—meaning it shouldn't contain pork.

A Little Caesars

statement says the chain "cherishes our customers from all religions and cultures" and believes the lawsuit is "without merit."

The lawsuit seeks class-action status. It says Mohamad Bazzi twice ordered "halal" pepperoni pizza containing pork.

Burrito appropriation?

Two Portland, Ore. women have been run out of business because they are white and wanted, of all things, to sell tasty burritos.

Kali Wilgus and Liz "LC" Connelly, owners of Portland pop-up shop Kooks Burritos, just wanted to make and sell some really great burritos. The little enterprise became so popular that the local newspaper did a feature story and business tripled. That was, until protesters go wind of the refried bean-filled delicacies being prepared by two non-Mexicans.

■ See **STRANGE** page 7



The offending cooks, Kali Wilgus and Liz "LC" Connelly.

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

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France Supreme Court rejects third gender

Discoveries in molecular biology back up arguments for two genders

by **Kiley Crossland**

(WNS)—France's highest court has rejected the notion of a "neutral" gender.

The ruling upheld a lower court's decision denying a French citizen with a sex development disorder the right to use "neutral" as an official gender.

The Cour de Cassation, France's supreme court, ruled that the distinction between male and female was "necessary to the social and legal organization, of which it is a cornerstone," and that the recognition of a neutral gender would have "profound repercussions on rules of French law" and necessitate legislative changes, according to Agence France-Presse.

The plaintiff, a 65-year-old psychotherapist from eastern France known by the pseudonym Gaetan Schmitt, was assigned male at birth despite having intersex genitalia. Schmitt is married to a woman and has an adopted child but claims to be neither male or female.

In 2015, a family affairs judge in Tours ruled in Schmitt's favor, but an

appeals court overturned the ruling last year.

Schmitt's attorney, Bertrand Périer, called the high court ruling a "missed opportunity," in an interview with The New York Times.

"I don't see why France's social or legal organization would necessitate gender binarism."

"Overall, sex-specific genes are mainly expressed in the reproductive system, emphasizing the notable physiological distinction between men and women."

—Report

Périer said Schmitt was raised as a boy because his mother wanted a son. "Gaetan is neither a man nor a woman. They do not feel like a man or woman. They cannot become a man or woman. And they do not want to

become a man or woman," Périer said, referring to Schmitt with a plural pronoun.

Only a few countries, including Australia, Nepal, India, and New Zealand, have a legal third gender.

Other countries allow parents to delay declaring a gender for babies born with a sex development disorder, but only for a limited time.

Schmitt plans to take the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

But even if that court reversed that ruling and affirmed the family affairs judge's declaration that Schmitt should have right to use a "neutral" gender because of a sex development disorder, the ruling would still link gender to biology.

Some activists say that is unacceptable and are pushing for laws like New Zealand's, which allow transgender and cross-dressing people, in addition to those with intersex genitalia, to also use a third category—"gender diverse"—as their legal gender.

But gender is inherently biological, according to a scientific study released earlier this year that found more than



In addition to 1,559 sex-specific genes, Gershoni and Pietrokovski found over 6,500 genes with significant sex-differential expression.

These sex-linked genes were found not only in reproductive organs and the mam-

mary (milk-producing) tissue, but also the skin, skeleton, heart, brain, lungs, and stomach, among other areas.

For example, they found genes that were highly expressed in the skin of men related to the growth of body hair and genes highly expressed in women related to fat storage.

They also found a gene mainly expressed in the brain of women that scientists think might protect the female neurons from Parkinson's, a disease with a higher prevalence and earlier onset in men, and a gene expressed in the liver of women regulating drug metabolism, providing molecular evidence for the known fact that men and women process drugs differently.

The study said more research is needed to understand how the differences between men and women cause disease and change the way each sex responds to treatment.

"Overall, sex-specific genes are mainly expressed in the reproductive system, emphasizing the notable physiological distinction between men and women," the report, published in the journal, BMC Biology, said. "However, scores of genes that are not known to directly associate with reproduction were also found to have sex-specific expression (e.g., the men-specific skin genes)."

newsbriefs

Exploitation, graft thrive in Europe's migrant crisis

(WNS)—Italian authorities on May 15 arrested 68 people, including a priest, for working with a mafia group to exploit millions of dollars of public funds that had been allocated to assist migrants at the country's welcome center. The authorities also arrested the head of



a Catholic volunteer group called Mercy and seized up to \$93 million worth of assets from the mafia group.

An Italian prosecutor also said he's investigating some members of humanitarian organizations for potentially cooperating with smugglers who ferry migrants from Libya to Italy. Chief prosecutor Ambrogio Cartosio said suspicions began

after some rescue crew members knew in advance where to find migrant-crowded boats at sea. Rescue workers have in past months faced accusations of serving as a taxi service for the migrants they rescue. The aid workers argue they are only fulfilling their obligations to assist people in distress and have called on Europe to create more safe legal channels for migrants instead. The rescue workers operate on international waters unless they have permission to operate along the Libyan coast. The interests of some rescue groups in seeing migrants to safety conflict with the Libyan coast guard's crackdown on human trafficking.

International furor erupts over embryo jewelry business

(WNS)—An Australian company has pledged to continue creating jewelry from human embryos despite facing international backlash. Baby Bee Hummingbirds, which founder Amy McGlade said is a "two-mama small business," hand-makes rings, necklaces, and earrings using baby hair, breast milk, "loved ones ashes," and discarded embryos created through in vitro fertilization (IVF). After couples succeed in



having a child with the help of IVF, they often have a number of unused embryos. If the couple doesn't want to implant any more of their children, they pay a yearly fee to leave them frozen, donate them to another couple to implant, thaw them and have them thrown away, or now, thaw them and have them made into jewelry.

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newsbriefs

Much more than just a new address

(WNS)—While President Donald Trump toured Israel and became the first sitting U.S. president to visit the Western Wall, a group of bipartisan lawmakers urged him to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Israel's capital, Jerusalem. Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colo., wrote a letter with signatures from 41 other members of Congress asking Trump to make the switch. Congress passed the Jerusalem Embassy Act in 1995 but since then presidents of both parties have signed waivers every six months to keep the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv. This week Israel celebrates the 50th anniversary of the liberation and reunification of Jerusalem and advocates say it's time the U.S. officially recognizes the historic city as the true capital of Israel. But Palestinians also claim Jerusalem as the capital of their future state, a long sticking point in the peace process.



Nebraska priests climb Billboard music charts with hit

(WNS)—A collection of Gregorian chants by a group of Catholic priests in Nebraska topped the Billboard classical charts recently. The members of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, for whom chanting pre-Vatican II liturgy is just part of the daily routine, recorded the album after four years of producing by a record label focused on sacred music. “We just wanted to put something out there to get people to think more about eternity, God, and our life in reference to those things, and it seems we’ve been blessed with this popularity, which none of us expected or were even trying to achieve,” said the Rev. Gerard Saguto, the order’s North American Superior.

Kentucky appeals court sides with Christian print shop

(WNS)—The owner of Hands on Originals, a Lexington, Ky., print shop, did not violate a local nondiscrimination ordinance when he refused to create T-shirts for an annual gay pride festival, the Kentucky Court of Appeals ruled on May 12. The 2-1 decision is the second to uphold Blaine Adamson’s right to engage in “viewpoint or message censorship.” A local gay and lesbian advocacy organization asked Adamson to create T-shirts promoting the organization’s 2012 Pride Festival. Adamson declined, saying he could not promote that message as a Christian. The organization filed a complaint against Hands on Originals with the Fayette County Human Rights Commission, which ruled in 2014 the company violated a county ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.



Bigger is better for small-town church

by Dan Van Veen

It was a fact of life. Licking Assembly of God, although invested in its community through outreaches and school events, simply was out of sight and out of mind. In fact, not everyone was exactly sure where the small AG church was, which is saying something in a town of just 3,100 people.

“But that doesn’t give the real picture,” says Paul Richardson, pastor of the church which is in Licking, Mo. “The listed population includes the 1,500 ‘residents’ at the state maximum security prison in Licking. The town’s actual population is closer to 1,500 or so.”

But being out of sight or out of mind is no longer a problem for the church. The church is now “front and center” as in November, the congregation purchased a 23,000-square-foot former discount store located at the intersection of the two main highways that run through Licking.

“This was a step of faith for us,” Richardson says, “but it’s been great.”

Townsfolk were quick to question the wisdom of the “step of faith,” expecting the church to rent out a portion of the building or to simply fail. But as they stepped back to watch, it soon became evident that this church — now with abundant space for community events — was, in fact, a God-send.

“When we purchased one of the largest buildings in the city, at first people questioned whether we bit off more than we could chew,” Richardson says. “But now we’re working with the town, providing things the town can’t, such as community programs and helping 4-H clubs with a location to meet. Now instead of expressing disbelief, people are cheering



us on!”

Richardson says that they’re currently meeting in a remodeled 8,000-square-foot section of the building, which is, by itself, twice the size of the former church building. The expansive space has drawn the attention of the community and church attendance is steadily growing, now up to about 120 to 140 a week.

Josh and Amanda Kane are the student ministries directors for the church. Prior to the move, the lack of space had greatly limited what they could do, especially if they couldn’t go outside due to the weather.

“The old church had reached its limits by far,” Josh Kane says. “Now, with a space that’s all their own, the kids are excited and they want to invite their friends — there’s an excitement that wasn’t there before!”

Kane says the children church has doubled in size, with new faces nearly every week, and the teens have gone from an average of six to now as many

as 20 kids.

“We have a bounce house that our kids love that now we can set up indoors,” Kane says. “With the extra space, we can do a lot more activities and host a lot more stuff. This summer we’re going to do a karaoke coffee house and have a Nerf war — outreaches we could never have done before.”

Plans for the remaining space are being evaluated, but Richardson already knows that a gym for the community will be a part of the remodel. Yet, he is quick to point out that the congregation has been actively ministering for years in the community, only now the building has added validity to all those years of effort.

“Paul is very good [at] working with the community,” agrees Keith Cantrell, mayor of Licking. “When they get everything done that they want done, it will be a very nice place that they will be very proud of and will be something the city will be proud of.”

“We were on the peripheral,” Richardson says, “but more opportunities and more doors opened up to us literally overnight once we got into the new building. The great thing is, two-thirds of the building is still transforming — we haven’t even hit our stride yet, I believe!”

“When we purchased one of the largest buildings in the city, at first people questioned whether we bit off more than we could chew.”

Pastor Paul Richardson

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STRANGE

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Alleging that two women had committed cultural appropriation and cannot possibly cook, let alone sell, Mexican food, local Democrat activists formed an Internet mob and began a concerted effort of social media attacks giving the previously popular endeavor 1 star on local food ratings websites, flooding their Facebook page with profanities and eventually protests that kept hungry diners away. The two white women were forced to shut their doors and delete all their social media accounts because the attacks had become so vicious.

The actions of the liberal activists were a bit much, even for Portland-known as the most liberal city in America. Other liberals who know a good burrito when they eat one, and the few conservatives in the city, came to the women's defense but it was too late. One response to an article about the incident reflected the feelings of many, "I disagree with the outrage over this pop-up burrito stand because I believe the cultural appropriation argument in this case is bunk. If Portland is so angry about white people cooking and consuming brown people food, then they'd better stop drinking coffee, too."

No scoops for you!
Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream is so upset that same-sex marriage is not legal in Australia, they're making ice cream lovers pay the price. And they did what any self-respecting liberal business would do-ban customers from ordering two scoops of the same flavor. Sad thing is, they're serious!



"We are banning two scoops of the same flavor and encouraging our fans to contact their MPs to tell them that the time has come - make same sex marriage legal! Love comes in all flavours!" the company announced on its website.

From now on, none of the 26 Australian Ben & Jerry's stores across the country will serve anyone two of the same flavors.

"Imagine heading down to your local scoop shop to order your favourite two scoops of cookie dough in a waffle cone," Ben & Jerry's said. "But you find out you are not allowed...You'd be furious!"

"But this doesn't even begin to compare to how furious you would be if you were told you were not allowed to marry the person you love."

Ben & Jerry's has set up post boxes in their stores to allow customers to send postcards to local MPs expressing their support for marriage equality.

According to the Australian Marriage Equality group, 72 percent of the Australian population supports marriage equality, with support stretching across demographics.

However, the government has not yet responded to the desire to legalize gay marriage with a parliament vote.

While Ben & Jerry's has received support for its campaign, others are annoyed that their preferred ice-cream combo is being held hostage.

The move has gotten negative feedback, even from Australia's gay community.

Rob Stott, editor of the Australian edition of the liberal Buzzfeedoz.com, tweeted: "But what about me, a homosexual, who is only comfortable eating two scoops of the same flavour."

It reminds me of the famous Seinfeld TV show "soup Nazi" episode's "No soup for you!"

All of your personal info is just a keystroke away

Forget hacking. Americans voluntarily give up personal info to thieves

by **Amber C. Strong**

WASHINGTON DC -- Identity theft affected more than 13 million people in 2016 alone. Now, getting a hold of personal information online is easier than before.

Websites like truepeoplesearch.com, an online search engine that allows users to "find anyone for free right now," are popping up all over the internet.

Dr. Amelia Estwick, program manager at the National Cybersecurity Institute, says computer software using sophisticated pattern algorithms skim the Internet every day with one purpose, gathering your personal information and making it available for all to see.

"Sometimes you look at these websites and you're surprised at how accurate some of that information is," commented Dr. Estwick.

She says things like marriage records have always been a matter of public record.

"It (these websites) looks at your address and any public information and some information you might have fed it," said Estwick.

Some data users voluntarily make available on social media. When you combine that with the public informa-



tion, everything about you is a keystroke away.

Dr. Estwick says sites like these are not always bad and can be used for good, like finding loved ones and long lost relatives.

"If you're concerned, you may not need five email accounts, you may not need every social media account."

But of course, they can also be used for nefarious reasons too.

With websites like Truepeoplesearch.com, a user can easily remove personal information by simply clicking on the words "privacy" and requesting a removal.

For people looking to prevent their private info from ending up on sites like this Dr. Estwick offers this advice.

"If folks are concerned there are ways they can anonymize themselves on the internet. There are various tools that you can find to make sure that when you are on the Internet you are behind a little bit of a wall," she said.

But what about ways to protect sensitive information in on sites like Facebook and Instagram?

"If you're concerned, you may not need five email accounts. You may not need every social media account. Be wise and understand the privacy policies for those websites as well. There are probably ways you can opt out of actually having your information shared," offered Estwick.

These are simple steps that could lead to peace and mind and keep personal information safe online.

Vitae golf classic helps women facing unplanned pregnancies

Vitae Foundation is hosting the Jerry and Kaye Meiners 23rd Annual Pro-Life Golf Classic on Monday, July 24, at the Shadow Glen Golf Club in Olathe. The golf tournament is named for the Meiners, who have chaired this tournament since its inception. It raises funds to promote a culture of life and help inform women facing unplanned pregnancies about local resources available that can assist them in making a life-



firming decision.

Proceeds from this golf tournament and auction will be used to help promote Vitae's mission, which includes digital media efforts in the greater Kansas City area. Vitae runs ads during

all 162 games on the Kansas City Royals Radio Network, along with stadium signage and PA announcements. The Missouri Mavericks also run Vitae radio ads, in addition to a television ad with Mavericks owner, Lamar Hunt Jr.

"Vitae's strategies are directing pregnant women in need to Pregnancy Help Centers where they receive real help and resources. Take away fear and isolation and offer practical support so women can choose life," Vitae's Executive market director Anne Carmichael stated. "We are on a winning track, and that means we're saving mothers and babies."

Lunch will be served at 11 a.m., followed by a noon shotgun start. The tournament is a four-person scramble for men and women. Prizes include a new 2017 Malibu LT valued at \$30,000 (provided by McCarthy Auto Group) for a hole-in-one; closest to the hole (provided by Jim Falk Motors, Clinton, Mo.) first prize of \$700 and second closest \$300; and a \$500 prize for the chipping contest, provided by Greg Muraski. Immediately following the tournament, a complimentary dinner provided by award-winning Jack Stack Barbecue will be served. The tournament will conclude with a live auction. Non-golfers are invited to attend the complimentary dinner and auction.

To participate call Vitae at 573-634-4316. Registration deadline and receipt of payment is due Monday, July 10, with a fee of \$330 per golfer.

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newsbriefs

Wives of Chinese torture victims beg Congress for help

(WNS)—Six women who testified before Congress on May 18 belonged to an exclusive, tragic club: The wives of human rights lawyers and activists imprisoned by the Chinese government.

The women, two of whom addressed lawmakers in a pre-recorded video, shared similarly distressing stories of their husbands' arrests for human rights work, the torture they faced in prison, and the emotional and physical toll on their families. Together, the wives urged the Trump administration to raise their husbands' cases to Chinese President Xi Jinping and end the torture of political prisoners. At the hearing, one woman said she did not know whether her husband was dead or alive, while another, the wife of Christian lawyer Li Heping, recently reunited with her husband, who looked about 20 years older after enduring two years of torture.

UNICEF calls for global plan to aid child migrants

(WNS)—Some 300,000 children around the world migrated alone in the past two years, a nearly five-fold increase since 2010, the United Nations child-welfare agency revealed in a report published May 17. The agency said the increasing trend has left many children vulnerable to smugglers and traffickers and called for a global protection system. About 200,000 unaccompanied and separated children applied for asylum in 2015 and 2016 in about 80 countries, while another 100,000 children were apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border, according to the UNICEF report. The figures rose from 66,000 in 2010 and 2011, and the report said the actual number could be much higher.



Violence between religious militias worsens in CAR

(WNS)—Escalating clashes between Muslim and Christian militias in Central African Republic threaten to plunge the country back into civil war. More than 100 civilians died



in the violence in one week, and thousands were displaced. The United Nations and other aid groups working in the country have expressed concern that the conflict is becoming increasingly violent and spreading into previously unaffected regions. The predominantly Christian rebel group known as anti-Balaka over the weekend attacked the southeastern town of Bangassou, where it targeted a United Nations base and the mainly Muslim neighborhood of Tokoyo. The local Red Cross branch today told Al-Jazeera its officials found 115 bodies in the town, many of them with knife injuries and bullet wounds. The UN refugee agency said the unrest displaced some 2,750 people. Clashes between rebel groups in the town of Bria also forced about 1,500 residents out of their homes.

Loss of faith among top four reasons young adults are increasingly suicidal

by WorldNews

Losing faith in God and declining religiosity are among the top reasons why young adults in America are increasingly committing suicide, according to the conservative Family Policy Institute of Washington.

The nonprofit organization explored the cultural conversations that the Netflix teen drama "13 Reasons Why" has stirred in recent months, and noted that teen suicide is a real and growing issue in America.

The show, based on the novel of the same name, explores the life and suicide of a high schooler named Hannah Baker, detailing 13 reasons why she chose to kill herself.

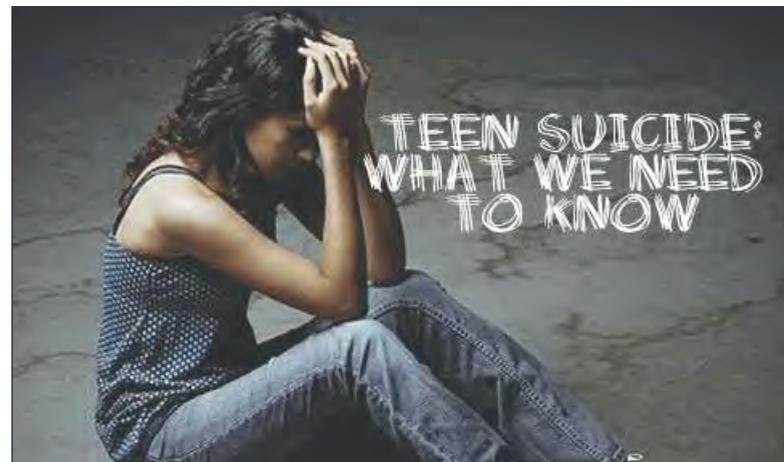
Blaine Conzatti, a columnist and research fellow at the FPIW, wrote in an article: "Many young adults are turning to suicide as an escape from the pressures of life. From 2000 to 2015, the suicide rate increased 27 percent among those aged 20 to 35 (the U.S. average suicide rate among all age groups increased by almost 21 percent during the same time period)."

"Washington State's suicide rate is 16 percent higher than the national average," he added, citing statistics from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Conzatti doesn't agree with many experts who cite increased economic hardship and inadequate mental health services for the recent rise in suicide. He noted that "life on earth has never been better" and that there has been an increase in mental health funding over recent decades.

He instead pointed to cultural shifts, specifically offering four important reasons why suicide has been on the rise.

"Young Americans have increasingly disconnected from religious institutions over the last few decades, choosing instead to live according to their own 'personalized spirituality' or rejecting



religion entirely," he pointed out, citing "decreased religiosity."

He referred to Pew Research Center statistics from 2015 that showed that only 28 percent of millennials born between 1981 and 1996 attend religious services weekly; with younger millennials also less likely to believe in God, and only 38 percent considering religion to be an important part of their lives.

"Unfortunately, by eschewing involvement in religious communities, millennials sacrifice the kinship and solidarity those communities provide. Religion helps provide meaning to life, and religious communities equip individuals with the relationships and support necessary to withstand life's treacherous seas," Conzatti said.

He linked to another study by the American Journal of Psychiatry, which found that religiously unaffiliated individuals had "significantly more lifetime suicide attempts," and concluded that "subjects with no religious affiliation perceived fewer reasons for living, par-

ticularly fewer moral objections to suicide."

The other three main reasons for the increased suicide rate that the FPIW research fellow identified include delayed marriage, increased worker mobility, and adopting a postmodernist viewpoint — which positions that life is meaningless and truth is unknowable.

Delaying marriage means individuals forfeit benefits such as financial security,

“Religion helps provide meaning to life, and religious communities equip individuals with the relationships and support necessary to withstand life's treacherous seas.”

—Blaine Conzatti

greater emotional and psychological well-being and overall better health, he argued. Also, moving often for work has been linked to higher levels of stress, crime, and poor health, and it causes individuals to be detached from communities.

"There is no easy fix. Reversing the trend depends on effectively confronting the lies accepted by culture and society fueling hopelessness and social disorganization. We must also work to ensure our communities can successfully provide for the material, emotional, and spiritual needs of their members," Conzatti concluded.

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Keeping muscles

By Richard Weil, MEd, CDE

George Burns (who lived to be 100) used to say, "If I knew I was going to live this long, I would have taken better care of myself!" It's true that some individuals are blessed with good genes, and no matter how many unhealthy lifestyle habits they have, they're going to live into old age. But for the rest of us who might be concerned with quality of life as we age, exercise is one of the keys. Is it ever too late to start? Research proves it's not.

What happens to muscles as we age?

As many of us have already noticed, muscle mass decreases as we age. Beginning in the fourth decade of life, adults lose 3%-5%

■ See **MUSCLE** on page 10



Don't be a dinosaur!

Tips for avoiding dry skin as Summer arrives

In addition to sunspots and wrinkles, ultraviolet rays from the sun can also cause skin cancer. As older adults have been exposed to sun longer than younger individuals, their chances of experiencing skin damage and cancer is higher. It's important that they are protecting their skin from UV rays, especially in the summer when the sun is the strongest.



There are multiple steps that older adults can take to protect their skin as summer settles in. Here are a few seasonal skin care tips:

Avoid the tanning bed

Most people understand that it is important for them to prevent sunburns, since these are quite painful and can increase the possibility of skin cancer. However, it is also important to remember that outside and inside tanning also increase the risk of exposure to UV radiation. According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, there are more than 415,000 new cases of skin cancer diagnosed each year related to indoor tanning.

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Shortening the distance

Humor a fantastic tool for bridging generations

thecaregiver

By Sarah Jane

"Laughter is the shortest distance between two people."

- Victor Borge, comedian, conductor and pianist

Mum loves jokes, just like the rest of us. Well, almost all of us. I guess there will come a time when, for Mum and me, humor won't work anymore.

In the meantime, my mother still gets the daily newspaper delivered to her room at the rest home. Several times a day she studies the headlines, browses a few stories and checks out all the death notices. "I always read the family



announcements," says Mum. "It's important to see what's happening with my contemporaries." She also shares the occasional comic with whoever's around.

There's one comic Mum particularly likes. It's a series of wry observations on children and parenting called "The

■ See **HUMOR** on page 10

Getting a good return on God's investment in you

By Ron Finke

Each February I participate in the Kingdom Advisors annual conference. Larry Burkett founded the predecessor, Christian Financial Planning Institute, in 1996 to have trained financial advisors ready to offer wise, Biblical advice for Christians everywhere. Ron Blue



took the helm in 2003 when Larry died. Other organizations joined the effort and now Kingdom Advisors is comprised of over 2,200 attorneys, accountants, financial and investment advisors around the U.S.

The importance of this development to benefit the church relates to Jesus' parable in Matthew 25 of the Master entrusting varying sums of money to three servants according to their abilities. We are responsible to our gracious Master to be working according to His agenda to accomplish His mission here and now, with a view toward a fantastic eternity with Him. We are responsible for

using every resource He has given us, including our finances.

Isn't it a privilege for us to be able to

accomplish His mission by investing our honest labor and resources in areas

■ See **RESOURCES** on page 10

taxtips

As the IRS steps up its efforts to combat identity theft and tax refund fraud through its many processing filters, legitimate refund returns sometimes get delayed during the review process. While the IRS is working diligently to stop the issuance of fraudulent refunds, it also remains focused on releasing legitimate refunds as quickly as possible. Recently, the Internal Revenue Service, state tax agencies and industry partners finalized plans for 2017 to improve identity theft protections for individual and business taxpayers. This comes after making significant inroads this year against fraudulent returns. Additional safeguards will be set in place for the upcoming 2017 filing season.

The IRS and its partners saw a

marked improvement in the battle against identity theft in 2016. This is highlighted by the number of new people reporting stolen identities on federal tax returns falling by more than 50 percent, with nearly 275,000 fewer victims compared to a year ago.

"These increased security screenings are invisible to most taxpayers," John Koskinen, IRS chief, said. "But we want people to be aware we are taking additional steps to protect taxpayers from identity theft, and that sometimes means the real taxpayers face a slight delay in their refunds."

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SUN

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Use sunscreen often

It is highly recommended that seniors use a sunscreen that has an SPF of 15 or higher prior to going outdoors - for any purpose. Also, if any extended amount of time will be spent participating in outside activities, 30 SPF should be used. However, just applying sunscreen one time will not be enough to fully protect a senior's skin from being damaged by UV rays. It is important that it is reapplied every two hours when any extended time in the sun is planned.

Look for shade

It is important for seniors to have access to shade any time they are outside. This is especially



important between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the sun is at its strongest point. Additional accessories such as sun hats and sunglasses will help to further protect a senior's skin.

Moisturize

As a person ages, their skin will become drier. Sun damage and hot temperatures can make this much worse. It is essential to apply a quality moisturizer often. This helps to prevent the loss of water from skin layers. Seniors should also be careful when putting on makeup since there are a number of products that can cause further drying out of the skin.

Treat and repair issues of sun damage

UV light can cause issues such as wrinkles, coarse skin and brown spots, even if a person has never been sunburned. It is essential to use recovery treatments to reverse these signs and there are a number of products on the market that can help with this.

There is no question that spending time outdoors can be fun during the summer months. However, it is important for seniors and their senior caregiver to ensure shade is sought and the senior's skin is well-cared for. This will ensure they do not suffer additional damage.

RESOURCES

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that interest us? The Christian tradesman practices his craft to God's glory. The Christian physician practices the healing arts to God's glory. In such diverse ways, we become the hands, feet, voice, mind, and heart of Jesus serving others and fulfilling His mission on earth as found in Isaiah 61. In the process, He blesses us with everything we need according to Matthew 6:25-34.

Though our pastors do not often teach about wise financial decision-making, we can acknowledge that our temptations fall into several categories. First, our desires for current things and comfort are never-ending. Therefore, we do not save enough for ourselves, much less have a greater amount to share with others.

Second, we can focus on savings and investment returns so much that we are frantic if our accounts do not soar with the highest results. Proverbs 13:11 ad-

vises that gaining money little by little leads to better wealth. We should do our best to make the most we can safely.

Third, when we have larger amounts, we may trust in our retirement account balance rather than in the God Who gave us the ability to earn it and Who owns it all. When each one percent of \$250,000 is \$2,500 and we know what it takes to earn that, we can forget that our security is in God Himself and our lasting riches are in the life to come.

“Our financial resources are merely tools”

Our financial resources are merely tools enabling us to travel through this life while producing a great return on His investment in us. We certainly want to hear, Well done, good and faithful servant! A Kingdom Advisor should help you clarify these critical issues of life so you will make truly wise decisions. It is not about the money; it is about our return on life.

—Ron Finke is president of Stewardship Capital in Independence. He is a registered investment adviser. Reach him at refinke@stewcap.com.

MUSCLE

continued from page 9

muscle mass per decade, and the decline increases to 1%-2% per year after age 50. Muscle keeps us strong, it burns calories and helps us maintain our weight, and it is also an essential contributor to our balance and bone strength. Without it, we can lose our independence and our mobility.

Is it ever too late to build muscle?

The good news is that muscle mass can increase at any age in response to exercise. In an important study of weight lifting and older adults conducted with 100 male and female residents of a nursing home in Boston (age range: 72 to 98 years of age; average age 87), subjects lifted weights with their legs three times a week for 10 weeks. At the end of the study, there was an increase in thigh mass of 2.7%, walking speed increased 12%, and leg strength increased a whopping 113%!

In a similar study of adults 65-79 years old, subjects who lifted weights three times a week for three months in-

creased their walking endurance by 38% (from 25 minutes to 34 minutes) without appreciable increases in mass. Ida Weiss, a 91-year-old participant in the Boston study, had the following to say after the study, “It’s very beneficial for me. Things that I couldn’t do when I came here, I can do now. I didn’t think that I was going to live anymore, but I feel different now.”

Exercise can be invigorating and help build muscle mass at any age.

Can I get stronger without building big muscles?

Importantly, strength isn’t just a function of mass. It’s also a function of something called “neurological patterning.” In layman’s terms, patterning is when the brain sends electrical signals via the nervous system to



muscles to make them contract. For example, when you think about walking down the street, bending over to pick some-

HUMOR

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Little Things.” It’s nothing more than a few words alongside simple line drawings of children and their exasperated parents.

It’s a great formula for Mum. The whole joke is contained in a single frame with instantly recognizable behaviors. There’s nothing in there that’s much different from when my mother had young children and nothing that relies on recent memory.

A couple of weeks back, Mum was sitting on my sofa, knitting. Her granddaughter, Harriet, was flicking mindlessly through her Facebook

feed. “Look, Nanny,” she said. “You might like these.” She shuffled across the room and introduced my mother to Classical Art Memes: cartoons featuring well-known classical paintings with modern, ironic quotes inserted as text.

The first was a self-portrait by Van Gogh—the one of him with the extra-large ear. The caption read, “When you hear your name in a conversation.” This was followed by Rembrandt’s dark, brooding self-portrait. “If it ain’t Baroque, don’t fix it,” was the caption. Harriet and her grandmother were highly amused. They spent a happy half-hour searching for the best examples they could find.

When Mum’s birthday came ‘round, Harriet knew exactly what to make—a special collection of classical art memes. “Great idea,” I said. But then I warned her against making a book. “Your grandmother will read it once and put it away. You need something like a calendar; something designed to go on display.” So Harriet settled on the desk calendar format, spiral-bound, with

thing up, or any other movement for that matter, the brain first processes the thought and figures out what muscles are needed to make the move and then sends the signal over the nerves to the particular muscles that are necessary for the movement. The muscles move (and so do you) once the signal reaches them.

The good news is that muscle patterning improves within days of starting a weight-lifting program, even without any increase in muscle mass. This explains the 113% increase in strength experienced by the residents of the nursing home in Boston in the previously cited study. In a different study that specifically investigated this phenomenon, 67- to 81-year-old men lifted weights for six weeks while hooked up to electrodes that measured their nerve and muscle patterning (an electromyogram machine). The results showed that the men experienced a 25% increase in the patterning of the muscle along with a 35% increase in strength, all without significant increases in size.

So whether it is going to a fitness center or purchasing a few inexpensive weights for home, muscle strength will have positive life-changing effects on your health and longevity.

one classical art meme for each month of the year. She set to work, choosing the most recognizable art works and culling anything too rude or obscure. It took quite a while.

By the time the calendar had been ordered and arrived, we were already a couple of days post-birthday. Harriet picked it up and hurried to the assisted care home.

To say Mum loved it would be a huge understatement. She adored it. The calendar was so well produced, Mum was convinced it had been bought ready-made. Harriet tried, but failed, to explain the concept of customized cut-and-paste calendars, but Mum was too busy checking it out.

“I’m delighted,” gushed Mum, leafing through the calendar for the third time. Then she flicked back to the start and went through it all over again.

“You know dear,” Mum began, “I recognize all of those paintings.” She put the calendar down.

“It’s lovely! You completely understand my sense of humor.”

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EDITORIAL SUPPORT

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Trump's religious freedom order was step in right direction



RONNIE FLOYD

Author, Senior Pastor of Cross Church, located in Northwest Arkansas

viewpoint

May 4 in the Rose Garden on the White House lawn, on the very same day as the National Day of Prayer, President Donald J. Trump signed a Presidential Executive Order, "Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty."

On the 107th day of his presidency, the President and his administration did more to promote religious freedom than the previous administration did in eight years. This step is a step in the right direction.

This is a step forward for religious liberty

This is a step forward for religious liberty in America. While some may be disappointed that it does not do more and go further, please understand, at least it is a forward step. Usually, nothing is done easily or rapidly in Washington, D.C. Leading people in a massive organization, government, corporation, or even church is a process.

This is a step forward in the right direction for preserving and forwarding

one of our greatest freedoms, religious liberty. The president was more than clear in his speech in the Rose Garden that religious freedom comes from God and is not granted to us by the government.

The overreach of government regarding religious liberty issues has not just been apparent, but accelerating. It has been a major and growing issue, concern, and threat for all people of faith. Therefore, I am more than hopeful that what occurred last month will not be the end, but a new point of beginning for our future as a nation. At the very least, it is a reversal in our immediate past trajectory regarding the freedom of religion.

Why it was a personal joy to be present in the Rose Garden

While in the Rose Garden experiencing this moment in American history, I was overwhelmed with personal gratitude. Why?

At one point a few years ago, I became a target because I took a stand for a biblical and Christian worldview about various moral issues. As I did then and always will in the future, I teach and lead our people to see moral issues through the lens and the authority of the Holy Scripture. That experience was a difficult and learning time for me personally and professionally.

It was also a personal joy because in the fall of 2014, I was invited to speak at



President Donald Trump prepares to sign the executive order on Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty during the National Day of Prayer event at the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington D.C., on May 4.

a major rally in support of five pastors in Houston, Texas, whose sermons were subpoenaed by the mayor of Houston. As I spoke that night to over 6,000 people present and to a live simulcast, it was a significant moment in my life. This overreach of government was apparent and demonstrated its acceleration in America. Since then, the acceleration has continued. I do hope these five pastors and others who have been targeted are encouraged by what occurred Thursday.

This presidential executive order is in clear support of religious liberty. It says, "It shall be the policy of the executive

branch to vigorously enforce federal law's robust protections for religious freedom."

While some prognosticate about whether this is needed, I want to assure you, it is. Whether a pastor knew about or felt influenced by the Johnson Amendment is not the issue. The issue is having the freedom to articulate the claims of Scripture in the pulpits in America without fear or intimidation. This is America, where freedom is celebrated. Therefore, this executive order is welcome.

■ See VIEWPOINT page 19

FIGHTING THE METH DEMON



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

Recently, I was troubled as I watched a TV news story on the opioid drug problem. What I learned did not leave me. I thought about all the people I have reached out to in the 24 years I have been a minister. Faces crossed my mind of many who were drug users. My eyes began to see how widespread the drug issue is.

What I have learned is a major drug problem around the world has become the number one number one drug problem in my community, methamphetamine. Ten years ago the largest drug bust in history took place when law enforcement seized \$207 million dollars in cash in a meth raid. And six years ago, worldwide seizures of meth increased by 73 percent. Additionally, the U.S. Sentencing Commission said

that meth has produced more offenses than any other drug in 27 states.

The abuse of meth is at pandemic proportions. The other day someone asked me, "Why do people start using meth?" According to one article, the drug seems attractive on the surface by the good feelings it brings. Users feel an instant euphoria, followed by a long high, then feel more energy, extreme confidence, and strong sexual desires. There are many more reasons users are lured in.

It is one of the most dangerous street drugs, because it sucks you in then destroys you. It is like a deadly parasite that takes your health, family, livelihood and gives nothing back. It attacks you physically, rotting your teeth and can collapse your jaw. Due to hallucinations of a crank bug on your skin, you scar yourself marring your appearance. It not only causes you to be a physical danger to yourself, but to everyone around you.

Every user has a heart problem, not from a medical standpoint but a spiritual one. It is deeper than drugs and something we all have in common. The Scripture says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately



The face of meth addiction. Before and after photos reveal effects of drug use on individuals.

sick..." (Jeremiah 17:9). Their heart problem is expressed through drugs, but yours might be shown through sexual immorality or unforgiveness. Is there a solution to this? Yes! Jesus!

Jesus can heal, restore and forgive the sin and brokenness in the heart. He died and rose again from the dead to show us the power He has and what He can do. Let us bring the power of Jesus to every meth addict.

Where do we start? Prayer. Let the meth affected communities call out to Jesus on behalf of their precious sons

and daughters. Let grandparents and parents cry out to Jesus for their kids. Let users themselves look to Jesus for deliverance.

Together, let us say "Enough!" Let's rise up and fall down on our knees. Let us bring the power of heaven to earth and see Jesus transform meth users into beautiful sons and daughters of a loving and mighty God.

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

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the events calendar

Compiled by Anita Widaman

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PLEASE NOTE: Your item must be in by the 3rd Wednesday of each month for following month's issue.

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

CONCERTS

THE LESTERS. June 2, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church Kearney, 2151 S. Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-5583.

PHIL & PAM MORGAN. June 4, 10:30 am. Southview Baptist Church, 8015 Sterling, Raytown, MO. 816-353-9735.

MATTHEW WEST. June 11, 6 p.m. MO State Fairgrounds, Mathewson Expo Center, Sedalia, MO. Spon. by Sedalia Christian Outreach. Special Guest: Bread of Stone. 660-221-1785.

PIC & BOW. June 11, TBA pm. Westside Church of the Nazarene, 1700 W. Santa Fe St., Olathe, KS 66061. 913-764-1445.

THE BLACKWOOD BROTHERS. July 14, 7:00 pm. First Church Kearney, 2151 S. Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-5583.

SOUTHERN GOSPEL

(Call for groups)

SWEET SPIRIT & FRIENDS. Will not be having music outreach for May, June, July and August.

ALPHA OMEGA CHRISTIAN MUSIC ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING, PRAYER, DEVO-



JUNE 11

MATTHEW WEST 6:00 P.M. MISSOURI STATE FAIRGROUNDS, MATHEWSON EXPO CENTER, SEDALIA, MO. SPONSORED BY SEDALIA CHRISTIAN OUTREACH. SPECIAL GUEST: BREAD OF STONE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 660-221-1785

IF I BE LIFTED UP: WORSHIP & REVIVAL.

June 1 - 4. First Baptist Church, 400 SE 14th Street, Oak Grove, MO. Worship & Praise with Daniel Brymer and Message brought by Randy Messer. 816-690-3233.

PARENT PRACTICUM. June 5-7, 9:00 am. First Baptist Church of Shawnee, 11400 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, KS 66203. Sponsored by Classical Conversation. Each summer, parents at all stages of the homeschooling journey spend three days delving into the underlying philosophy and the practicalities of the classical model; then, we challenge ourselves to dig deeper into a specific subject, discovering the truths behind the facts and becoming students ourselves.

TIME TO THRIVE. June 8, 3:00 pm-6:00 pm. If Not For Grace, 5950 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. \$35 at the door. Event speaker: Kaye Carter, founder of Exceeding Life, Wholistic Growth Solutions. Sponsored by If Not For Grace.

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

GET VISION NOW MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

INTENSIVE. JUNE 10, 10:30 AM. Kansas City Plaza Library, 4801 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64112. Workshop is \$29 pre-registration. Sponsored by Purpose Garden Zone. www.bygarvos.com & 816-287-0532.

BE FIERCE MEN'S CONFERENCE. June 10, 9:00 am; 1:00 pm; & 7:00 pm. World Revival Church, 9900 View High Dr., Kansas City, MO. Featured speakers include: Gary Newell, Tom Trout and Pastor Steve Gray. Worship by Dustin Smith. Sponsored by Here Be Lions. 877-804-5433.

JUNIOR. CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN ACTION TRAINING. June 10-17. Genesis Bible Church, Hannibal, MO. June 19-23, local Kansas City area. Sponsored by CEF of the Greater Kansas City Area. 12-13 years old. After training, students teach at least 2 weeks of 5-Day Club at various locations in their local community. staff@cef-gkca.org 816-358-1138.

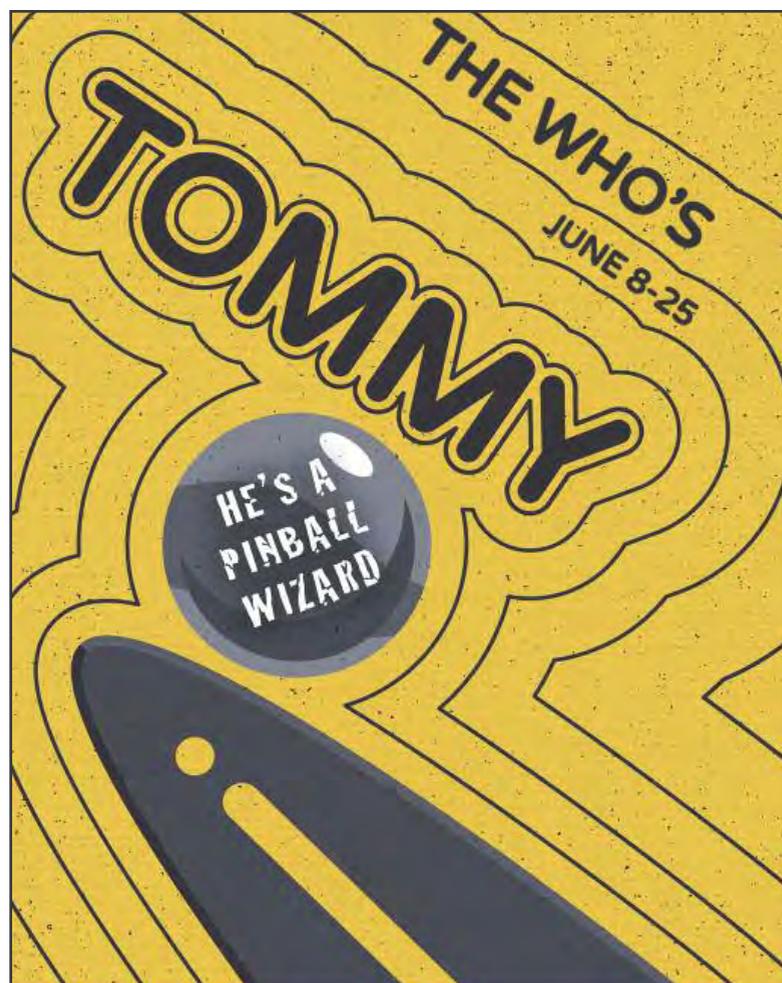
VBS. June 12-16, 8:30 am-11:45 am. Fellowship Bible Church, 16900 S. Waverly Rd., Gardner, KS 66030. Free. Galactic Starveyors VBS 8:30 am-11:45 am 1st-6th. Parent program on Thursday, June 15th at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary followed by and Ice Cream social. 913-856-8454

MAKER FUN FACTORY VBS!!! June 14-16, from 6-9 p.m. Cornerstone Church, 301 SE AA Hwy, Blue Springs, MO. 1st-6th grades; Register free at (816) 228-1979.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION, IF NOT FOR GRACE. June 15, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. So many women and men are living in darkness because of a past abortion. God has called INFG to bring His message of hope and healing to these broken hearted. Learn how you can impact God's kingdom using your time and talents. vgregg@infg.org.

"JOY STORY!" VBS. June 19-23, 6:30 pm. Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 7230 Quivira Rd., Shawnee, KS 66216. "Joy Story", with games,

■ calendar continued on next page



TION, POTLUCK AND JAM. FIRST FRIDAY, 7pm. 10035 E. Westport Rd., Indep., MO 64052.

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

LIVE CHRISTIAN MUSIC VENUE. THIRD FRIDAY, 7:00 pm. Bent Knee Cowboy, 13415 S. 142nd St., Bonner Springs, KS. 913-927-4567.

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

CGMA NW MO CHAPTER MEETING, GOSPEL MUSIC AND POTLUCK. SECOND SATURDAY. Faith Assembly of God Church, South 13 Hwy, Polo, MO. Travel North on I-35 North, go North of Liberty to the Polo/Lathrop Exit. Turn right

onto 116 Hwy. Go 12 miles to 13 Hwy. Turn left and go ¼ mile. pegcla@msn.com.

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

PARADISE BAPTIST CHURCH. SECOND SUNDAY, 6 p.m. Pot luck dinner at 5 p.m. Paradise Missouri. 816-591-1020.

CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

HER CHOICE TO HEAL CLASS & RECONCILIATION WEEKEND. June. Are you struggling emotionally and spiritually after having an abortion? If Not For Grace Ministries offers a safe and confidential place to process your pain and loss. Contact Jama at jedlund@infg.org for more information.



Matthew West
with special guest Bread of Stone
6PM • June 11
Mathewson Exhibition Center
on the Missouri State Fairgrounds
2503 W. 16th St, Sedalia.

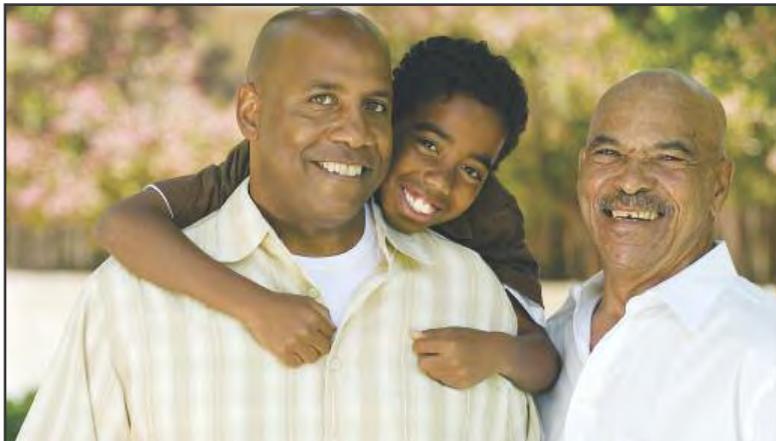
VIP doors open 4:15 • GA doors open 5:00
Ticket Information:
VIP: \$40, Floor: \$25, Upper arena: \$20

Tickets available at www.itickets.com or in Sedalia, MO, at New Hope Baptist Church
For more information call 660.221.1785 or email sedaliachristianoutreach@gmail.com

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816.221.6987 | mthkc.com



JUNE 10 BE FIERCE MEN'S CONFERENCE. WORLD REVIVAL CHURCH, 9900 VIEW HIGH DR., KANSAS CITY, MO. SPONSORED BY HERE BE LIONS. CALL 877-804-5433.

crafts, yummy snacks, and interactive bible lessons. 913-268-6300.

AVOID PROBATE SEMINARS. June 20, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

FAVOR REFRESHER REVIVAL. June 21-23, 7:00 pm. Victory Temple Christian Life Center, 3301 E 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64127. Speakers include: Camel Washington, Leo Standley, and Michael Lampkin. 816-261-4434.

MEN'S DAY. June 25, 10:30 am. Victory Christian Life Center, 3301 E 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64127. Special speakers: Dr. William Jenkins and Jonathan Hicks. 816-261-4434.

VBS: GALACTIC STARVEYORS. June 26-30, 6:00 pm. Nashua Baptist Church, 11408 N. Main St., Kansas City, MO 64155. Searching the visible, discovering the invisible, for children kindergarten through 6th grade. 816-734-4046.

SUMMER WORSHIP DANCE CAMPS YOUTH DANCE INTENSIVE. June 26-30, 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Boys/Girls ages 8-13, 1-2 years experience ballet experience. dramatictruth.org 816-757-9222.

SOUTH KANSAS CITY AGLOW. June 28, 9:30 am. New Vision Christian Center Building, 12400 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO 64030. Naftaly Mina, a Messianic Jew will share his testimony. 816-966-1033

"MAKER FUN FACTORY: CREATED BY GOD, BUILT FOR A PURPOSE. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. July 10-14, 6:00 pm. Woods Chapel United Methodist Church, 4725 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. 3 year olds through 4th grade. 816-795-8848.

2017 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. July 11-16. Kansas City Convention Center, 30 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO. www.gideons.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: GALACTIC STARVEYORS. July 14-21, 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Pisgah Baptist Church, 112 Pisgah Drive, Excelsior Springs, MO. 4 years old through 6th grade. 816-630-5121.

HERO CENTRAL: DISCOVERING OUR STRENGTH IN GOD VBS. July 16-20, 6:00 pm-8:30 pm. Faith United Methodist, 1950 SW Eagles Parkway, Grain Valley, MO 64029. 816-847-0008.

RIGHT NOW ONE-DAY EVANGELISM CONFERENCE. July 21, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. MBTS Chapel, 5001 N. Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64118. \$15 per person, includes continental breakfast, lunch, and leader resource pack. Student rate \$10. Sponsored by 1millionstories.org

SUMMER DAY CAMP. July 24-28, 9:00 am-5:00 pm. Woods Chapel Church Blue Spring, 3609 SW State Route 7, Blue Springs, MO 64015. \$50 for the whole week (scholarships are available), kids in K-6th grade. 816-795-8848.

PARENT PRACTICUM. July 25-27, 9:00 am. Westside Church of the Nazarene, 1700 W. Santa Fe St., Olathe, KS 66061. Free 3-day conference for parents. Camps for kids at a minimal fee. www.parentpracticum.com

HEART OF AMERICA MINISTRY WOMEN BIBLE STUDY. Aug. 9 - 11, 6 - 8 p.m. Location TBA. The Bait of Satan by John Bevere. friends@hamw.org

PARENTING SEMINAR - MOTIVATE YOUR CHILD. August 12, 8:30 am. Fellowship Baptist Church, 16900 S. Waverly Rd., Gardner, KS. Special speaker Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller. 913-856-8454.

CHILDREN MINISTRY VOLUNTEER TRAINING. August 19, 10:00 am. Fellowship Baptist Church, 16900 S. Waverly Rd., Gardner, KS. Cost is \$15 which includes lunch. Speaker Ryan Frank and his team from Kidmin Nation. 913-856-8454

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE DOWNTOWN LEE'S SUMMIT DAY. Jun 2 - 4. Visit us at our booth. Volunteers contact us! (816) 353 4113

MOTHER'S REFUGE WEEKEND BBQ. June 4, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. 3721 Delridge, Independence, MO 64052. BBQ Picnic, face painting, and games for children. Tours of Mother's Refuge - meet new friends.

DAY OF CHAMPIONS. June 10. Cameron, MO. www.behindthewalls.com/event-calendar

OUTPACE POVERTY KANSAS CITY 5K & RUN. June 10, 7:00 - registration, 8:00 am - start. Richard L. Berkley Riverfront Park, Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by: Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph. 816-221-4377.

BOWLING FUNDRAISER. June 10, 10:00 am. AMF Strikes 'N Sares, 13001 E. Hwy. 40, Independence, MO 64055. Sponsored by Ma'at Foundation. Visit our website to learn more about our organization which helps the local young girls in Kansas City. 816-863-8051.

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP MEETING. June 10. Immaculate Conception Church, Pleus Hall, 1206 E. McCarty, Jefferson City, MO. Speaker: Jim Cole. 573-635-5110.

HYGIENE KIT PACKING DAY. June 11, 11:20 am. Woods Chapel United Methodist Church, Missions Building, 4201 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. We hope to pack over 240 hygiene kits for our Grace Place Food Pantry and over 360 hygiene kits for those experiencing

homelessness in Kansas City. 816-795-8848.

SUNDAY NIGHT WORSHIP WITH DANIEL BRYMER. June 11, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. Hillcrest Covenant, 88th St. & Nall Ave., Prairie Village, KS.

INSIDE OUT MOVIE NIGHT. June 16, 6:30 pm. Woods Chapel United Methodist Church, 5413 Blue Ridge Cutoff, Raytown, MO 64133. June 23, 6:30 pm. Woods Chapel United Methodist Church, 4725 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. June 30, 6:30 pm. Woods Chapel Church Blue Springs, 3609 SW State Route 7, Blue Springs, MO 64014. Free viewing of the movie with FREE snacks and drinks. 816-795-8848.

SIWALK COUNSELOR TRAINING. June 24, 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Contact Wendy at 40daysfor-lifecc@gmail.com if you're interested. 816-765-9477.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY: A DAY OF CELEBRATION. July 2. First Baptist Church Raytown, 10500 Raytown Rd., Kansas City, MO. A full morning of celebrating out faith, freedom, and

■ calendar continued on next page



JUNE 10 OUTPACE POVERTY KANSAS CITY 5K & RUN. 8:00 A.M. START TIME. RICHARD L. BERKLEY RIVERFRONT PARK, KANSAS CITY, MO.



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future. 816-353-1994.

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR. July 14. Harrisonville Community Church, 1606 Chapel Dr., Harrisonville, MO. Concerts are free and open to all. A free-will offering is taken at the performance to support African Children's Choir programs. 816-884-2431.

PASTOR'S BANQUET. July 14, 6:30 pm. Kansas City Convention Center, 301 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by Gideon International. Church leaders, and lay leaders are cordially invited to an evening of dinner, celebration, and praise. www.gideons.org

JERRY & KAYE MEINERS' 23RD ANNUAL PRO-LIFE GOLF CLASSIC. July 24, Shadow Glen Golf Club, Olathe, KS. Registration fee \$330 per golfer. Benefits Vitae Foundations. 573-634-4316

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT. August 5, 6:15 pm. Kansas City Royals vs. Seattle Mariners. Presented by Hobby Lobby. After game Program including Newsboys and KJ-52. Sponsored in part by Metro Voice. Visit our booth in the ministry area!

RACHEL HOUSE GOLF TOURNAMENT. Sept. 15. Shoal Creek Golf Club, KCMO. www.rachel-housefriends.org

FINE ARTS

EMPERORS, SCHOLARS AND TEMPLES: TASTEMAKERS OF CHINA'S MING AND QING DYNASTIES. Through July 9. Nelson Atkins Mu-



JUNE 3-11 **DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID.** STARLIGHT THEATRE, 4600 STARLIGHT ROAD, KANSAS CITY, MO. VISIT KCSTARLIGHT.COM, OR CALL 816-363-7827.

seum, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO. 816-751-1278.

THE PASTOR. June 1 - 3, 4 & 7 p.m. Crest Bible Church, 8715 W. 49th Terrace, Merriam, KS. Presented by Greenleaf Performing Arts. 913-397-7071.

DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID. June 3-11. Starlight Theatre, 4600 Starlight Road, Kansas City, MO 64132. A big splash of a family musical. kcstarlight.com 816-363-7827.

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND. June 9-July 9. Quality Hill Playhouse, 303 W. 10th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. Turn back the clock to the 1960's and

70's. 816-421-1700.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION. June 10, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Nelson Atkins Museum, 4525 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. Free festival. A day of visual and literary arts, music, entertainment and education. 816-751-1278.

SYMPHONY IN THE FLINT HILLS. June 10, 1:00 pm. Geary County, KS. The event begins at 1:00 pm. With prairie education, activities, guided prairie walks, catered BBQ and horse-drawn covered wagon rides. The concert begins at 6:45 pm and concludes at sunset when attendees can dance under the stars to old time acoustic music or star gaze.

KINORR PHILHARMONIC. June 11, 3:00 pm. Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, 5801 W. 115th Street, Overland Park, KS 66211. Performances reflect the long traditions of the symphonic repertoire and the rich diver-

sity of the Jewish heritage. 913-327-8000.

CRAZY FOR YOU. June 16-24. Theatre in the Park, 7710 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS. General Admission \$8. 913-826-3012.

IMAGINATION CELEBRATION. June 17 & 24. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd. Independence, MO 64052. www.hazelle.org 816-833-9777.

GARFIELD: THE MUSICAL WITH CATTITUDE. June 20-August 5. The Coterie Theatre, 2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Brand new musical adaptation. 816-474-6552.

JERSEY BOYS. June 27-July 2. Starlight Theatre, 4600 Starlight Road, Kansas City, MO 64132. kcstarlight.com 816-363-7827.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. Saturdays, July 8-22, 7:30 pm. Sundays, July 9-23, 2:00 pm. Thursdays, July 13-20, 7:30 pm. Jewish Community Center, White Theatre, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS. 913-327-8054.

5TH ANNUAL FRENCH ORGAN MUSIC FESTIVAL. August 27, 2:00 pm-5:00 pm. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 416 W. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. 816-842-0416.

FAMILY OUTINGS

OLD SHAWNEE DAYS. June 1-4. Shawnee Town, 11600 Johnson Dr., Shawnee, KS 66203. Free. The whole family can enjoy with music, a carnival, contests, games, parade, crafts, shopping, food and so much more.

GLORY DAYS OF IRON: MIAMI COUNTY ANTIQUE TRACTOR AND GAS ENGINE SHOW. June 2-4. Lewis Young Park, 26600 Jingo Road, Louisburg, KS.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL. June 3, 9:00 am-

4:00 pm. Vaile Victorian Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty St., Independence, MO 64050. A hundred craft and antique dealers will be set up around the Mansion. 816-229-8293.

MOANA. June 6, Sunset. Movies in Park, 7710 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS 66217. \$1 per person. 913-826-3012.

JAZZ IN THE WOODS. June 9-10, 5:30 Corporate Woods, 9001 W. 11th Street, Overland Park, K.. A two-day showcase of local culture and the arts. 913-451-3355

OVERNIGHT FISHING OPPORTUNITY. June 10. Kill Creek Park, 11670 Homestead Lane, Olathe, KS. Sponsored by: Johnson County Park & Recreation District. 913-888-4713.

LITTLE ADVENTURES: STUFFED ANIMALS. June 14, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, 5235 Oak St. Kansas City, MO 64112. Tours at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm and hands-on workshop from 1:00 pm-3:30 pm. 816-235-8000.

VERANDA SALE AT THE 1855 HARRIS-KEARNEY HOUSE. June 16, 10:00 am-5:00 pm & June 17, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Westport Historical Society, 4000 Baltimore Ave., Kansas City, MO 64111. Join the crowd for fun, bargains, and bake sale! 816-561-1821.

FIESTA FILIPINA. June 17-18, 12:00 pm. Filipino Cultural Center, 9810 W. 79th St., Overland Park, KS 66204. Admission is Free. There is something for the entire family to enjoy! Two-day festival has authentic Filipino food, cultural dances, live music, and exhibits to commemorate Philippine Independence. 816-213-4017.

FATHER'S DAY AT THE ZOO. June 18, 8:00 am-5:00 pm. Kansas City Zoo, 6800 Zoo Drive, Kansas City, MO 64132. Complimentary admission and complimentary hot dog. 816-595-1234.

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE. June 18, 5 p.m. Stanford and Sons, 1867 Village W Pkwy D-201, Kansas City, KS. Spon. by Murder Mystery Company. PG-13. 888-642-2583.

CHIP IN 4 CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT. June 19, 8:00 am. Creekmoor Golf Course, 1112 East 163rd 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.

SING. June 20, Sunset. Movies in Park, 7710 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS 66217. \$1 per person. 913-826-3012.

WATERFEST. June 23-25. Hall of Waters, 201 E. Broadway, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. Celebrates the city's mineral water heritage with arts, crafts, live entertainment, and water games for the kids, classic car-hot rods and truck show, donut eating contest, pancake breakfast and parade. 816-630-6161.

BREAKFAST & BLOOMS AT THE BINGHAM. June 24, 8:00 am-3:00 pm. Bingham Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Breakfast only - \$11, Garden only - \$20. Enjoy breakfast, the garden tour and a tour of the Bingham Waggoner Estate. 816-461-3491

THE GARDENS OF MYTH FAMILY FROLIC. June 24, 9:00 am-6:00 pm. Powell Gardens, 1609 NW US Hwy. 50, Kingsville, MO 64061. This daylong event offers families the opportunity to learn more about the myths and legends tied to the Gardens of Myth sculptures. 816-697-2600.

MAKER FAIRE: KANSAS CITY 2017. June 24-26, 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Union Station Kansas City, 30 W. Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Celebrate things people create themselves. 816-460-2020

KC RIVERFEST 2017. July 4. Richard L. Berkley Riverfront Park, 1298 Riverfront Dr., Kansas City, MO 64101. 816-561-7555.

30TH ANNUAL BINGHAM-WAGGONER ANTIQUE & CRAFT FAIR. July 9, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Bingham Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific,

■ calendar continued on next page

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JUNE 2-4 GLORY DAYS OF IRON: MIAMI COUNTY ANTIQUE TRACTOR AND GAS ENGINE SHOW. LOUIS YOUNG PARK, LOUISBURG, KS.

Independence, MO. The Estate will host over 100 antique dealers and crafters. 816-461-3491.

SUMMER SING DAY CAMP-JULY 2017. July 24-28, 1:00 pm. Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS, 66208. SING. LEARN. GROW. Join youth from throughout the Kansas City area for one week camp in a fun, safe, and challenging environment. Sponsored by: Youth Chorus of Kansas City. www.youthchoruskc.com

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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

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

MONTHLY - MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE CHAPTERS 816-353-4113.

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

MONDAY - MOMS AND TOTS COMMUNITY. 10:00-11:00 am. Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

7851 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 amyviets@holycross-elca.org for more info.

MONDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 3:00-6:00 pm. Healing Rooms of Olathe, 1548 E Spruce, Olathe, KS 66061. M-FW by appointment. www.healingroomsolathe.com 913-563-2413.

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

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

TUESDAY - 13 WEEK PROGRAM. DIVORCE-CARE AND DIVORCECARE4KIDS. 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW RD Mize Road, Room 102, Blue Springs, MO. Participants become part of a small support group of people who are also experiencing separation and divorce. A program for children whose par-

ents are separated or divorced, children between the ages of 5 and 12. 816-228-5300.

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

TUESDAY - FEAR NOT SUPPORT GROUP. 7:00 pm-8:30 pm. Lakeland Community Church, 913 NW Colbern Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. Christ-Centered support group for anxiety and depression. Material based on the Christian 12 Steps; Serenity Prayer also Anxiety Centre "The Anxiety/Phobia Workbook" by Edmund Bourne.

TUESDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY. 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 Hauser, 913-449-7265 for more info.

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

TUESDAY - ISRAELI FOLK DANCE. 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. The Jewish Community Center, Studio 3, 5801 W. 115th St., Leawood, KS. \$3 Adults and teens welcome. 7:00 pm-8:00 pm: Beginning/Intermediate Dance, 8:00 pm-9:00 pm: Intermediate/Advanced Dance. 913-327-8000.

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

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

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY - FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS. 7:00 pm., Life Springs Church, Neos Youth Center, 206 N. Webster St., Suite 112, Spring Hill, KS. Contact Kim: fibrohopeandhealing@yahoo.com or 337-852-5052.

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1ST & 3RD TUESDAY - GRIEFSHARE. 7:00-8:30pm. Timothy Lutheran Ministries, 425 NW RD Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO. 816-228-5300.

2ND TUESDAY - EQUIPPING BELIEVERS MID-WEST. 7:00 pm. Blue Spring, Hampton Inn, 900 NW S. Outer Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64015. Free Prayer for healing and freedom from addiction, Free training to heal the sick, evangelize the lost, set the oppressed free. 913-488-6749.

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

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY - MOPS. 9:00 am. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS. 913-649-0900.

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

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

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY - LIVING FREE, CHRIST-CENTERED 12 STEP PROGRAM. Front

Modular, 6:30-8:00. Abundant Life Baptist Church, 414 SW Persels, LS, MO. 816-554-8181.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY - CHRISTIAN BUSINESS CONNECTIONS NETWORK. 3:00 pm, Gusto! Coffee, 3390 SW Fascination Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64081. 816-767-1100.

WEDNESDAY - BREAK TIME CLUB. 9:30am-1:30pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW R.D. Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64014. Enriching environment for older adults with mental and/or physical limitation. 816-228-5300.

WEDNESDAY - AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP. 11:30am-12:30pm. First Presbyterian Church, 601 E. Oak St., Pleasant Hill, MO (please use North basement entrance off Myrtle Street). Are you troubled by someone else's drinking? 816-540-6179.

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

WEDNESDAY - DELIVERANCE - BREAKING CURSES WORKSHOP. 7:00 pm. First Love Ministries Church, 4747 Hadley St., Overland Park, KS. 913-403-9644. Call Tues. - Fri. after 1 p.m.

For the complete monthly list, visit us at metrovoicenews.com

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AWANA 6:30 PM, Youth Group 6:30 AM

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MOTHER'S REFUGE

entertainment

Hollywood producer teaches Sunday School

Sci-Fi guru teaches Biblical messages in movies

by **Michael Foust**

In Hollywood, Ralph Winter is known as a producer of such well-known hits as X-Men, X-Men 2 and Star Trek III: The Search for Spock.

But in his home congregation—Montrose Church in Montrose, Calif. -- he is known as the Sunday School teacher who leads a class each January and February examining movies from a biblical perspective.

Not surprisingly, it's often standing-room only. That's partially because Winter has 44 movies, TV shows or documentaries to his credit as a producer, including four X-Men movies, four in the Star Trek series, and two Fantastic Four films. He's also been a producer on several projects with explicit Christian content, including The Promise, Captive and Thou Shalt Laugh.

Winter said he wants to help Christians think more critically about what they watch.

"The class looks at the Academy Award Best Picture nominees, so for you to come to my Sunday School class, you need to see the Best Picture nominees, bring your Bible and then we talk about it," Winter told the Metro Voice News. "What's the movie about and how does that match up with what we believe as Christians? And it's always a lively discussion: What's the intent? What's the story about? What's the journey about? The class loves it. People want to engage. They're watching these movies and they



Ralph Winter

interview

want to understand why they do or don't like what they're seeing."

Too often, Winter said, people are led astray by movies. As an example, he points to the 1999 box-office sensation The Matrix, which has Christian elements but at its heart "is not about Christianity," Winter said.

"That movie is about salvation coming from within," Winter said. "That's not what we believe as Christians. We need a Savior. We need salvation from outside of ourselves. . . . [The class] is about how do

we become better consumers, how do we build our skillset in understanding what movies are about? Otherwise, we can be distracted by the shiny things."

Winter knows that many Christians are skeptical about movies. Still, he thinks Christians should strive to understand and critique movies because of their role in society.

"The best story wins in our culture," he said. "That's what cuts through. And a lot of times, the agenda-driven propositional truth that we try to promote -- as, this is what you ought to do to become a Christian -- just doesn't ring through for a lot of people. And yet, telling stories does."

By better understanding the themes behind a popular movie such as Les Misérables, he said, "you can engage with people about a spiritual dimension of that."

"There's plenty of stuff in the culture that we just need to be cognizant of and see what gets attention and why it's important and why people are responding."

Winter also teaches a class at Fuller Seminary about theology and film. Recently, the class examined the movies Up and Adjustment Bureau.

"We talked about free will and destiny, digging into what those are," he said. "We put those in play with a book like Ecclesiastes. How does that work out? It's really fun and interesting."

—Michael Foust is an award-winning journalist and is a regular writer for Metro Voice.

MOVIE HAS BOTH A TRAGIC AND UPLIFTING MESSAGE

A fresh voice takes on the Kansas City music scene

musicscene

Welcome to the new Metro Voice Music Scene!

About Me

Greetings to the Metro Voice News family and faithful readers. My name is Cedric Austin and I am excited to come on board as the new music news editor for Metro Voice. I wanted to take just a moment to tell you about myself before we jump into music news. I serve as Pastor at One Church, Parkville, Mo.



Rosalynn and Cedric Austin

alongside my beautiful wife, co-pastor and international evangelist Rosalynn Austin. Along with pastoring, I am a

worship leader, foodie and travel enthusiast. I have served in various leadership roles such as young adult director, youth choir director, music clinician and worship pastor. I have had the privilege to minister in song at Carnegie Hall and have been blessed to use my gifts to minister throughout the body of Christ. I would like to thank you in advance for reading this monthly column, and I hope to meet many of you out and about at the Christian concerts and venues throughout the year. Now, let's get to music news.

■ See **MUSIC** on page 18

MOVIES, STREAMING, BOOKS, MUSIC, INTERVIEWS & MORE!

streaming

'Moana,' 'Trolls' lead impressive lineup for June



When Netflix and Disney announced a major deal five years ago that gave the streaming giant exclusive pay-TV rights to Disney-umbrella movies beginning in late 2016, few observers outside of Hollywood realized the significance of the pact.

But now, nearly a full year into the contract -- which includes Marvel, Pixar, and Lucasfilm movies -- the implications are clear.

Gone are the days when Disney theatrical releases would broadcast on HBO, Starz and other similar channels before streaming on Netflix or Amazon Prime. Now, blockbusters are moving from the box office to Netflix within a matter of months.

June is a prime example of the trend. This month, Moana (PG) and Trolls (PG) -- two of the most popular animated films last year -- begin streaming on Netflix.

Moana (June 20) follows the story of a young girl (named Moana) who lives on a bountiful Pacific island that suddenly stops producing food. The fishermen can no longer catch fish and the coconut trees stop making fruit.

So, Moana, her pet pig and her (nutty) pet rooster set sail across the ocean to find the powerful demigod Maui (voiced by Dwayne Johnson), who rules over the island goddess Te Fiti -- an action that in turn will return sea and plant life to the island.

There's a lot to like about this Disney musical. The songs are spectacular and the col-

THERE'S A LOT FOR FAMILIES TO LIKE ABOUT DISNEY'S MOANA

■ See **STREAMING** on page 19

New this month:

Netflix

The Ant Bully (PG, 2006) -- Lucas Nickle is a boy who loves to torment ants -- until he magically gets shrunk and then meets them face to face. Animated. Rated PG for some mild rude humor and action. June 1.

The Queen (PG-13, 2006) -- Set in the late 1990s, this drama recounts the behind-the-scenes story of Queen Elizabeth II's reaction to Princess Diana's death. Netflix's The Crown is better, but still, this one is good. Live action. Rated PG-13 for brief strong language. June 1.

Amazon Prime



The Queen (PG-13, 2006) -- See above. June 1.

World Trade Center (PG-13, 2006) -- Police officers John McLoughlin and Will Jimeno survived when the twin towers fell on them in 2001. This is their story, and it's not easy to watch -- especially if you're claustrophobic. Live action. Rated PG-13 for intense and emotional content, some disturbing images and language. June 1.

Star Trek Beyond (PG-13, 2016) -- The Starship Enterprise crew continues its mission to



"explore strange new worlds" -- and in this one they find some of the strangest. If you're counting, it's the 14th Star Trek movie. Live action. Rated PG-13 for language, sequences of sci-fi action and violence. June 17.

Hulu

Barnyard (PG, 2006) -- When humans aren't looking, the cows and chickens apparently talk -- and try to teach their kids responsibility. At least, that's what Ben the cow is trying to pass on to his party son Otis. Animated. Rated PG for some mild peril and rude humor. June 1.

Star Trek Beyond (PG-13, 2016) -- See above. June 17.

World Trade Center (PG-13, 2006) -- See above. June 1.

Muppets from Space (G, 1999), **Muppet Treasure Island** (G, 1996),



The Muppets Take Manhattan (G, 1984) -- It's the Muppets. It's hilarious. What else should anyone want to know? Live action and puppets. June 1.

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June 1.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES

moviereview

Captain Jack Sparrow is older and ... Well, let's just say he's older. This perpetually tipsy ne're-do-well is still struggling with pretty much the same issues he always has.

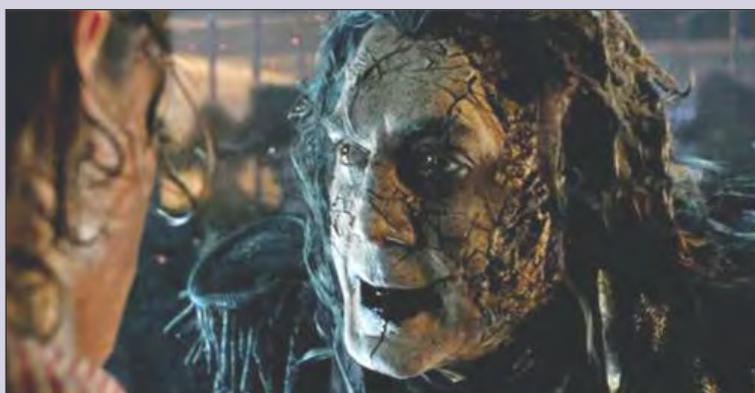
Behind that wobbly swagger and semi-charming gold-toothed grin is a pirate captain who has a hard time accomplishing ... anything.

Jack keeps failing to find his scruffy crew even a single gold doubloon. And his beloved galleon, the Black Pearl, has been magically shrunk down to a little skiff in a bottle that he carries around in his coat pocket. In truth, it's really a stretch to call him a captain at all.

But there's one thing no one

can doubt: Jack has made a lot of enemies. And one of them—a certain zombified Captain Armando Salazar—is driving his putrefying crew of cursed sailors to find and keelhaul this captain named Sparrow.

As legend has it, many years ago a fresh-faced Jack tricked the pirate-



hunting Salazar into sailing into the Devil's Triangle. There he and his crew went down and became ensnared in a horrible eternal torment: Their dead skin may dissolve and their ship may crumble to moldering rot, but they live on and on.

Now, however, Salazar has been miraculously set free from the Triangle's confines. And he's slowly scouring the seas, destroy-

ing and always leaving one survivor to spread the message that he and his dead crew are coming.

They're coming for Captain Jack Sparrow.

How do you

actually stop a cursed band of murderers who want your heart on a pike? Well, that's a tough one. It involves something called the Trident of Poseidon—a magical object that's rumored to control all the powers of the ocean.

Of course, it's also rumored to be unfindable. In fact, the map that might lead someone to said undiscoverable treasure is rumored to be something no man can ever read.

That's a lot of rumored dead ends. But fear not, Jack Sparrow fans: Henry Turner (son of Will Turner and Elizabeth Swann) has been seeking the Trident his whole life.

And he's found an astronomy-focused map-reader named Carina who's seeking that treasure, too.

Together, Jack, Henry and Carina set off on a rollicking high-seas adventure that many will one day tell tales of ...

... if, that is, Jack can stay sober, up-

film411

PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
STARRING: Johnny Depp, Javier Bardem, Geoffrey Rush, Brenton Thwaites, Kaya Scodelario, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley
DIRECTOR: Chris McKay
GORE VERBINSKI
RATED: PG-13

right and in one piece long enough to actually survive it.

They say absence makes the heart grow fonder. And while that may be true, time away doesn't necessarily make the object of one's affection any ... better. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales is an excellent case in point.

It's been six years since we last saw Jack Sparrow wobble his way across a well-swabbed deck. And his return feels pretty hoist-the-main-sail familiar: A similar, darkly magical and deadly foe seeks his demise. Sailors predictably get cutlasses shoved through their gullets. We've got the same rambling, treasure-focused storyline. The same outrageously over-the-top, CGI-fueled action.

In fact, the only thing that gives this fifth pic in the series a truly fresh set of sea legs is the fact that it lands with a satisfying and solid ending.

We see self-sacrificial bravery, teary family reunions and a hearty happily-ever-after for all.

bookreview

A Brief History of Sunday: From the New Testament to the New Creation

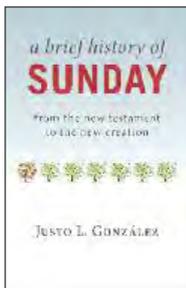
Review by Justo L. González

In this accessible historical overview of Sunday, noted scholar Justo González tells the story of how and why Christians have worshiped on Sunday from the earliest days of the church to the present.

After discussing the views and practices relating to Sunday in the ancient church, González turns to Constantine and how his policies affected Sunday observances. He then recounts the long process, beginning in the Middle Ages and culminating with Puritanism, whereby Christians came to think of and strictly observe Sunday as the Sabbath. Finally, González looks at the current state of things, exploring especially how the explosive growth of the church in the Majority World has affected the observance of Sunday worldwide.

Readers of this book will rediscover the joy and excitement of Sunday as

■ See BOOKS on next page 19



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hymnhistory

PURPOSE FOR THE PAIN

From the Editor: We are launching a new column this month that will explore the history and meaning behind the words and music of cherished hymns.

by Pastor Cedric Austin

When I think of hymns, my mind takes me back to Wednesday night worship services as a kid. Growing up, my family attended a multicultural church with a vast musical repertoire. On Wednesday nights, we would sing nothing but hymns from the songbook. One of the hymns we sang was "When We All Get To Heaven." As a child, although I loved to sing all kinds of music, the meaning behind the words didn't mean as much to me as they do now. Sometimes we don't appreciate the lyrics until we live them.

"Let us then be true and faithful, Trusting, serving every day; Just one glimpse of Him in glory Will the toils of life repay."

Eliza Edmunds Hewitt the author of "When We All Get To Heaven," was born on June 28, 1851 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Eliza graduated as valedictorian of the Girl's Normal School that she attended. After graduation, she be-

See HYMN on page 20

MUSIC

continued from page 16

Faith And Family Night

I'm excited to announce The Kansas



City Royals will host their annual Faith & Family Night at Kauffman Stadium on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017 at 6:15pm. The event will feature Scott Dawson of Safe at Home and testimonies from select players, as well as a post-game concert by Newsboys. Secure your tickets at Royals.com/faith. Metro Voice is proud to be a community sponsor.

June New Releases

Hillsong UNITED - Wonder

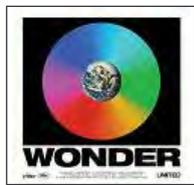
Landry Cantrell - Projections

James Fortune - Dear Future Me

Karen Peck & The New River - Hope For All Nations

The City Harmonic - Benediction

The Perrys - Testament



New Artist

Allow me to introduce to you Tauren Wells. Tauren entered the music scene as the former front man for Royal Tailor. Royal Tailor was a Provident Label Group/Sony Music act whose two albums over a five-year career amassed two Grammy nominations and another for New Artist of the Year from the Gospel Music Association's Dove Awards. Tauren is a husband, father, worship leader, songwriter and creative. "Many people have been asking what's next for me after "Royal Tailor". I am excited to share that I have signed a solo deal with Provident Label Group."

I encourage you to check out Tauren's latest single "Hills And Valleys," which is quickly climbing the radio charts. "Hills And Valleys" is the follow-up to "Love Is Action," the No. 1 hit that held the top spot at radio for eight weeks from his 2017 four song debut EP, Undefeated. The song "Hills And Valleys" is a reminder that no matter where we find ourselves, God is always there. Tauren Wells is a tremendous songwriter and I am a big supporter of his music. Check out his music. I know you will be encouraged.

Tauren Wells



Uniquely Soulful New Artist

Another new worship artist, Dante Bowe, worship pastor for world renowned worship artist, Eddie James, has released his new single, "Potter and Friend", featuring American Idol Alumni, Jesse Cline. Dante Bowe is a much sought after songwriter and is also the leader of the group "Ultimate Call". Written by Bowe, "Potter and Friend" has quickly caught the attention of worshipers across the country. "Potter and Friend" is a transparent musical depiction of how God's grace works in our broken lives and makes us whole again. "Potter and Friend" is the lead single from Dante Bowe's solo project, Son of a Father, a project based on son-ship, identity and the love of a Heavenly Father."



This project was released on March 31, 2017 and is available for download on iTunes and other online retailers.

Kansas City Concert Scene

On May 5, I was privileged to attend the 2017 Most Powerful Voices Concert featuring gospel artists Vashawn Mitchell and Byron Cage. Vashawn opened the concert with some of his greatest hits such as Joy, Greatest Man, Turning Around for Me and No 1 hit, Nobody Greater.

Once Vashawn ended his set, you could definitely feel the presence of the Lord in a mighty way. Byron Cage opened his set with the high spirited Faithful to Believe and continued with I Will Bless The Lord, Like No Other and more. Byron ended his set on a high praise with one of his No 1 hits, The Presence of The Lord is Here. This concert is an annual event hosted by Debbie Dee, Gospel 1590 KPRT and held at the St. James United Methodist Church (Kansas City, Mo.).

The Most Powerful Voices Concert is designed to bring awareness to heart disease and stroke. "Heart disease and stroke are major health risk for all people, but African Americans are at particularly high risk." I left this concert encouraged and more knowledgeable on heart disease and stroke. Check your listings next year for this annual event. You will not leave disappointed.

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Huckabee leaving Fox for new show on TBN

Former governor and presidential candidate Mike Huckabee is leaving Fox News Channel to launch an hour-long show on the Trinity Broadcasting Network. TBN airs locally on digital channels 16.1, 16.2 and 16.3 and on cable and satellite.



Huckabee

A TBN statement says the weekly news and talk show will premiere this fall and will be recorded in Nashville.

"Huckabee' will combine Gov.

■ See HUCKABEE page 20

BOOKS

continued from page 17

early Christians celebrated it and will find fresh, inspiring perspectives on Sunday amid our current culture of indifference and even hostility to Christianity.

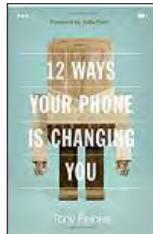
12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You

Review by Gabe Doerksen

Technology is constantly in a state of changing us, even as we change existing technologies and introduce new ones. And so it is fitting and helpful that Tony Reinke begins his book, *12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You*, with an introduction that explores the theology of technology. "Our digital age is no cosmic accident" (29), he explains, and then goes on to give his readers an opportunity to engage with the technologies they use, how those came about, and how using them could bring glory to God and bear fruit for the gospel. Specifically, he examines the smart-

phone.

The smartphone may arguably be capable of accomplishing far more, for good or for evil, than any other single piece of technology available. As Reinke explores that reality, he provides a helpful tool of self-examination. The book is not structured to tell us how we ought to be (or not to be) using our smartphones, but rather is meant to cause us to look at our own habits. It's a call to examine our wants and desires, and to do so in light of our use of technology. How is my smartphone helping – or hindering – my sanctification?



Because the way we use our phones says a whole lot more about how and whom we worship than we'd like to admit.

That is perhaps the greatest strength in Reinke's book. He does not get bogged down with the finer points of interpretation. The smartphone is not the bane of society. Nor is it the savior. You can live effectively for Christ with a

smartphone; you can do so without, as well. The author, then, approaches technology as neutral, and gives the reader plenty of options to examine his own use of that technology. He supplies biblical wisdom to each point of discussion. He adds insights from a scientific and cultural perspective that help me to consider: My phone may be inherently neutral, but am I using it for good, or for evil? Am I making use of its features to help me accomplish more for ministry, for personal growth, for staying organized, for outreach; or am I using those same features to dabble in private sin, to waste countless hours, to sow seeds of discord, to stay distracted?

When those are the sorts of questions being dealt with throughout the book, the result is a work that turns the reader toward introspection. In the end, I'm left with a question about worship. How do my smartphone habits reveal the God (or god) I love and serve and worship? The digital age holds out before us many potential objects for our worship, readily accessible in many ways; the way we use our smartphones is a window

into our hearts. And those hearts need to be searched regularly.

So I would recommend this book as a helpful diagnostic tool for that very thing: how might your smartphone habits be affecting your heart – or how might they be exposing the true desires of your heart? In that, it's for the long-time smartphone user, the person who is relatively new to the game, or the person considering getting his first smartphone.

Finally, this book is most helpful when it keeps our perspective on that which transcends our present time and space. When we are drawn into a focus on that eternal perspective, when we are reminded of the present world that is passing away and the future glory that will make our smartphone gadgetry seem so obsolete, it causes us to evaluate all of our present habits in healthy ways. It keeps us focusing our energies on things that matter most for the kingdom of Christ. Reinke is at his strongest when he pokes and prods into those places in our lives.

STREAMING

continued from page 16

There's a lot to like about this Disney musical. The songs are spectacular and the colorful ocean scenes are amazing. It's also genuinely funny.

That said, Christian parents will want to put on their worldview caps. *Moana* promotes polytheism, animism and reincarnation – beliefs that are found in religions throughout the world. (GotQuestions.org is a great website for parents who need theological assistance.) *Moana* has a bit of potty humor but no coarse language. It also contains no sexuality.

Trolls (June 7) is another musical that had moviegoers walking out of the theater singing. It tells the story of Princess Poppy (Anna Kendrick) and her overly optimistic Troll friends, who believe that singing, dancing and hugging are all you need to do to be happy. Unfortunately for them, the ogre-looking Bergens, who live in the same forest, have discovered another path to happiness:



eating Trolls.

When the Bergens attack Troll Village and capture all but two of our miniature heroes, all hope seems lost. Can the two remaining Trolls -- Princess Poppy and her friend Branch (Justin Timberlake) - find and rescue their friends?

Trolls is certainly entertaining, but it comes with some baggage. The scenes with the dreadful-looking Bergens will be too

scary for some small children. It also contains four instances of "oh my G-d" - which is disappointing to hear in a kids' movie.

Finally, parents may want to discuss the source of happiness with their children. Poppy tells us that "happiness is inside" all of us. Really? Scripture (Romans 3:10-11) says just the opposite. I tell my kids that the only source of true joy is Christ.

VIEWPOINT

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The next step

I am more than hopeful that what happened on May 4 was the first step of many that will forward religious freedom to every American for decades to come.

Prohibiting the free exercise of religion in any way is always an overreach of government and is against on what our country was founded.

The Constitution makes this provision so that every American can live out their faith wherever they are without wondering if they will be penalized for it. Whether you are in business or health care, in the military or pastoring a church, in education or in retirement, the free exercise of your religion should always be permitted. Yes, even to the atheist who does not believe there is a God.

The next step I pray will be another step forward for religious liberty in America.

Let me make the *best* of your time.

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Chris Pratt spreads God's love in children's hospital

Actor Chris Pratt spent shared the love of God with patients at a UK children's hospital in May.

Pratt, who has openly talked about his Christian faith, was joined by his Jurassic World 2 co-star Bryce Dallas Howard at Great Ormand Street Children's hospital in London.

They spread cheer by hanging out with some of the kids in their hospital rooms.

While many may view a hospital as a depressing place, Pratt praised



Pratt

God for his kind nature and for loving his creation.

He wrote in an Instagram post: "Bryce and I had the tremendous pleasure of spending some time with our new buddy Elle and a few other patients at Great Ormand Street Children's Hospital in London. I'll never fail to be moved by the unbreakable spirit of a child. #godisgood Psalm 107:8-9

Let them praise the LORD for his loving kindness, for his wonderful deeds to the children of men! For he satisfies the longing soul. He fills the hungry soul with good. ♥ No doubt. Today my longing and hungry soul is filled."

Not only did he spend time with children like Elle, he also made sure to encourage the hard-working staff at the children's hospital.

HYMN

continued from page 18

came a teacher in the public schools where she resided. One of Eliza's goals was to become the best educator within her school. The career Eliza dreamed of came to a screeching halt after an injury (accidentally struck with a piece of slate) caused by a reckless student. This debilitating condition changed her life forever and on occasion caused her to be bedridden. Instead of giving up and becoming bitter of life circumstances,

she began studying Literature and English while recovering from her injuries. Might I say, God had a plan greater than her own. Eliza began to recover some of her strength in later years and was able to get around. She attended a summer Methodist Camp meeting, in Ocean Grove, New Jersey where she met Emily D. Wilson.

The two became good friends. Eliza and Emily prayed and studied together



and came up with "When We All Get To Heaven." Although Eliza's back problems would reoccur at times, she continued on. She always had a love for Sunday School and most of her hymns were directed at children. Despite her health issues, she was deeply interested in Sunday school work. She became the Sunday school superintendent for the Northern Home for Friendless Children and

later for Calvin Presbyterian Church. It's told at one point, she had a class of 200! People will come and go but their hymns will never die.

I believe Eliza could live a fulfilling life because she knew this world wasn't her home. She fulfilled her purpose here on earth, although painful to let us know that "When we all get to Heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory!

Eliza died in 1920.



Hands raised to glorify God, how Memphis worship leader Chris Blue won 'The Voice'

by Efrem Graham

A worship leader has won the 12th season of NBC's "The Voice."

Voters crowned Chris Blue the winner, and the worship leader from Tennessee now debuts at No. 1 on Billboard's Hot Gospel Songs chart with his version of Tamela Mann's "Take Me to the King."

Blue first performed the hit song on the show's May 15 episode, competing as a member of coach Alicia Keys' team.

Nielsen Music quickly reported 30,000 downloads sold. It's only the seventh song to debut at No. 1.

Following his win, Blue tweeted thanks to Keys, "The Voice" and God.

Chris credits God and his fiancée, Stephanie Dunkley, for encouraging him to try out for the show.

Dunkley recently underwent a bone cancer transplant to save her life. Chris told the Knoxville News Sentinel it was in that moment a light bulb went off.

"When everything happened with my fiancée and her story, I realized that life was just too short," Blue said. "I would say that really did help push me and helped me overcome the fear and just do it."

Chris' win on "The Voice" comes with a record deal and \$100,000 prize. Ironically, he was the very last artist selected in the blind audition process.

When "The Voice" host announced Chris' win, he fell to the ground until a family member joined him on stage and helped him to stand. He then quickly put his hands together and lifted them in gratitude to God.

Blue is a Knoxville native and served as a worship leader at Cokesbury United Methodist Church, where Kirk Wynn sang alongside him.

Describing Chris, Wynn told local reporters, "He brings out the best in you as a performer, to just watch him worship, you can't help but want to worship as well."

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HUCKABEE

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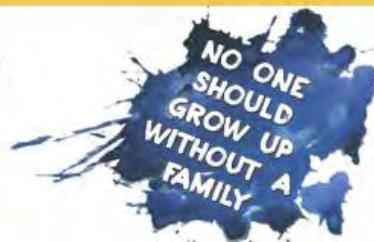
Huckabee's commentary on news-of-the-day and current issues, along with guests from the worlds of politics, entertainment and faith," TBN says.

"I am grateful to (TBN Chairman) Matt Crouch for sharing the vision of a weekend destination on TV where we talk to newsmakers and celebrities in a civil and respectful manner as well as introduce America to some not-so-famous people whose stories remind us that the greatness of our nation is about the people who love God, raise their families, and serve their neighbors," Huckabee says.

His new program follows a seven-year stint at Fox that featured political commentary, conversation, and music.

Huckabee plays bass in a cover band called Capital Offense, which did a version of "Sweet Home Alabama" in Jerusalem last month.

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RIGHTNOW

continued from page 3

A recent study states 35% of Millennials do not believe in God and have no desire to affiliate with any kind of organized religion. They're called the "Nones." In this session, Newsome will guide you into better understanding who the unreached people groups are and how Christians can be more effective at connecting with those in need of Jesus Christ.

TOPIC: People Matter | Pastor Steve Dighton: Founding pastor of Lenexa Baptist Church

Dighton will provide insight to having a real sense of passion and concern for those inside and outside the church that create avenues for sharing the Gospel and develop life-lasting relationships.

TOPIC: Engaging in the Local Community | Pastor Chris Williams, Pastor of Fellowship Greenwood in Greenwood, MO, Conference Speaker

Having a good reputation in your local community adds credibility and opens doors to sharing the Gospel message. Williams will share how his congregation has developed a special relationship with their community and city that continues to allow them to share Christ's love and make greater impact. He will equip you and your church to do the same.

TOPIC: Tools & Techniques for Making Disciples | Pastor Brandon Park: Senior Pastor of Raytown Baptist Church in Raytown, Founder of LifeCoach Discipleship

When thinking of discipleship, all too often churches miss the mark. Christians may get connected to a Bible study or small group but never "graduate." In this session Park will provide step-by-step tools and techniques for making true disciples of Jesus Christ.

TOPIC: High Tech High Touch Evangelism | Pastor Steve Barnes: Founder of 1MillionStories.Org, an Online Evangelism Tool and Community

Most Christians don't actively share their faith in Christ. Why not? We confuse serving in the church with true evangelism or have allowed feelings of fear and inadequacy to creep in. In this session Barnes will encourage and equip Christians and leaders to break through the false barriers that bind us and get engaged in intentional evangelism with one simple tool.

For more information, go to 1MillionStories.org or call Steve Barnes at 913-579-4225.

Some voters feel jilted over ABC's cancellation of 'Last Man Standing'

Network claims move was not politically motivate, but only time will tell

(WNS)--After ABC yanked conservative comedian Tim Allen's sitcom off the air, he is hoping to still claim the "last man standing" title on another TV network.

When it announced its fall lineup, ABC canceled Allen's show, Last Man Standing, while retaining others with significantly fewer viewers, including 20/20, Fresh Off the Boat, and Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. The sitcom features Allen as a gun-toting, Obama-bashing, outdoors-loving family man—one of the only Republican TV characters who was not a villain. While ABC shows lost viewers across the board last year, Last Man Standing held onto the most, dropping only 2.2 percent.

The show's loyal viewers say ABC

must have targeted Last Man Standing because of its conservative bent. About 380,000 fans signed an online petition at Change.org asking ABC to renew the show while at the same time accusing the network of viewpoint discrimination.

"Last Man Standing is one of the only shows on broadcast television, and the only sitcom, that is not constantly shoving liberal ideals down the throats of the viewers. And sadly, that is likely the real reason the show has been cancelled."

"Last Man Standing is one of the only shows on broadcast television, and the only sitcom, that is not constantly shoving liberal ideals down the throats of the viewers. And sadly, that is likely the real reason the show has been cancelled," the petition stated.

ABC defended the show's cancellation as a business decision, saying it no longer planned to feature comedies on Friday nights. It also pointed out it shuttered plenty of liberal shows, too, such as Scandal, which has only one season



left. Other business reasons exist to cancel the show (which critics have noted but ABC hasn't admitted): After six seasons, the show was more expensive to produce than a newer comedy; multi-camera sitcoms are a dying format; and the show was produced by 20th Century Fox Television instead of in-house by Disney-owned ABC.

Allen tweeted he was "stunned and blindsided by the network I called home for the last six years." His own values and politics inspired those of his character on the show, and he said earlier this year on Jimmy Kimmel Live that his views make him something of an outcast in Hollywood.

"You get beat up if you don't believe what everybody else believes. This is like '30s Germany," he said.

Some viewers have suggested Fox should pick up the show since its TV division already produces it. The Parents Television Council released a statement urging Fox to replace The Mick (which has portrayed the sexual escapades of children and teens) with Last Man Standing. If Fox bought the comedy and all of its viewers followed, it could land among the network's top five shows.

Last Man Standing's producers say they are shopping for a new network to call home, and since Fox is known for being more open to conservative views (mainly on its news channel), the show might be a good fit there. If Fox doesn't bite, it might lend a little more weight to ABC's argument that cutting the show wasn't personal, just business.

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■ GIRL SCOUTS

continued from page 1

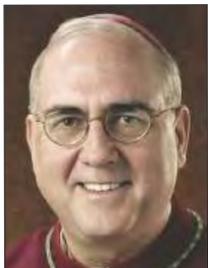


A California Girl Scout Troop participates in the annual Gay Pride Parade.

with Girl Scouts of the USA.

That committee did not support or oppose Girl Scouts but left authority over scouting support decisions to local bishops.

Naumann wrote that he based his decision on the national Girl Scouting organization's contribution to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, "an organization tied to International Planned Parenthood and its advocacy for legislation that includes abortion as preventive health care for women."



Archbishop Joseph

Catholic teachings oppose abortion. Girl Scouts of the USA does not have a position or develop materials on sexuality, birth control or abortion, according to its website. It also does not have an official relationship with Planned Parenthood.

"We advocate values-driven behaviors and a promise to serve God and Country in our promise and law," Joy Wheeler, CEO of Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri, wrote in a statement. "We also promote faith based programming for girls and their spiritual leaders."

But Wheeler's comments deny what local councils do as well as the deep involvement in national leadership in the abortion and other liberal issues.

■ sidenote | Pro-Abortion?

Evidence shows deep connection between Girl Scout USA (GSUSA) leadership and pro-abortion causes:

- GSUSA CEO Anna Maria Chavez collaborated with Planned Parenthood as head of Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas.
- GSUSA National President Connie Lindsey donated to the pro-abortion, pro-LGBT Chicago Foundation for Women;
- GSUSA Board Member Barbara Krumsiek is the Board Chair of the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, which funds Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington;
- GSUSA Board Member Monica Gil is a volunteer and former Board Member (through 2011) of the Saban Free Clinic in L.A., which provides "free and easy" birth control, emergency contraception, and abortion referrals to teens over 12, without parental notice or consent;
- GSUSA Board Member and Executive Secretary Debra Nakatomi is International Commissioner to the pro-abortion World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and promoted contraceptives to Asian teens through California's Get Real program;
- Laurie Westley, GSUSA Senior Vice President of Public Policy, Advocacy & the Research Institute, previously worked for the National Women's Political Caucus, a group dedicated to electing pro-choice women.
- Joan Wagnon, the GSUSA Treasurer, Board of Directors, accepted large campaign contributions from late-term abortionist George Tiller while she was Secretary of Kansas' Department of Revenue and praised Tiller's "social conscience and ... big heart;"
- Ellen S. Fox, GSUSA Board Member from 2008 through 2011, serves on the Investment Committee of the International Planned Parenthood Federation's board of directors.

While the Girl Scouts does not take an official stance on abortion, local councils are free to partner with whomever they please. Some local councils have participated in official Planned Parenthood events.

In recent years, the Girl Scouts have drawn scrutiny for promoting biased resources and pressuring an employee to muzzle her pro-life views.

Evidence does not lie and there is plenty of it to support the decision of the Archdiocese.

Mary Hasson with the Catholic News agency, writes: "the leadership of today's Girl Scouts is driven by a liberal ideology far out of step with the families and churches that support them."

Hasson contends that the Girl Scouts have filled their national leadership team and board of directors with unwavering ideologues whose careers, non-profit work and philanthropic choices reflect a hefty commitment to liberal causes – same-sex marriage, gay and lesbian

rights, abortion rights, comprehensive sex education and radical feminism.

"It's who they are. And it's who the Girl Scouts organization has become."

In addition, the Girl Scouts' curriculum ("Your Voice, Your World: The Power of Advocacy") instructs girls to explore five pro-abortion advocacy organizations, including the Population Council, to see "where and how they are promoting change." Pro-life advocacy groups? None.

Their liberal ideology drives everything – from program materials to themes to partnerships – even their view of leadership.

Girl Scouts is one of 145 member organizations of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, which does training and education across the world but says on its website that it "does not always take the same positions or endorse the same programs as WAGGGS."

American Heritage Girls, a Christian organization, is suggested as an alternative for parishes starting this fall.

■ FAITH FAMILY

continued from page 1

"Immediately, what hit me hard was that when you're talented and your giftedness takes you further than your character can sustain you, you will shipwreck," Moore said. "Your giftedness and your talent can get you to the big leagues, but your character and the choices you make may get you off the planet. That's why what we all do is so vital to our community and society, to future generations."

This is why Moore is excited once again to team up with the Scott Dawson Evangelistic Association to sponsor Faith & Family Night at Kauffman Stadium.

"I want to thank the (David and Dan) Glass family," he said. "The truth of the matter is, we wouldn't have the courage to live out our faith without the great support of the Glass family. This is important to them, and I'm thankful to be a part of that."

This year's event, sponsored by Hobby Lobby, will be held following the 6:15 game against the Seattle Mariners on Saturday, Aug. 5. The program will feature testimonies from players and team executives, an evangelistic message from Dawson and performances by KJ-52 and the Newsboys. The popular group has sold more than eight million units while garnering four GRAMMY nominations, two American Music Award nominations and numerous Dove awards.

"Christian music is a big part of my faith walk," Moore said. "I begin my day with it. I'm constantly reminded of it; it's part of my life. One my favorite songs, by Trevor Morgan, is 'Jesus Rides the Subway'. It's a constant reminder to me of the importance of what people are going through on a daily basis. At 58 years old, I rarely

put my pillow on my head at night and say, 'My goodness, I've just had the most perfect day in the history of my life'. No, there are challenges."

Attendance at Faith & Family Night has continued to grow over the past six years. Special offers from the Royals enable church or other groups to save as much as 30 percent off regular ticket prices. Several options are available to take advantage of advance discounts:

- Log on to www.royals.com/faith
- Call (816) 504-4040, option 4
- Email groupsales@royals.com

Another great way to get involved (and even receive a free ticket) is to be a counselor. Mandatory counselor training will be offered five times:

- Aug. 3, 6 p.m. – New Life Church, 1717 McGee St., Kansas City
- Aug. 3, 7 p.m. – Shoal Creek Community Church, 6816 S. Church Road, Pleasant Valley
- Aug. 4, 7 p.m. – Lenexa Baptist Church, 15320 W. 87th St., Lenexa
- Aug. 4, 7 p.m. – Abundant Life Church, CORE Auditorium, 414 SW Persels Road, Lee's Summit
- Aug. 4, 7 p.m. – Divine Heritage Church, 18106 E. Bundschu Road, Independence

Team officials encourage groups to plan early to obtain the best available seats. For many fans, a trip to the ballpark on Aug. 5 can be a life-changing event.

"It's a great honor for me to be a part of this," Moore said. "What we do here with the Royals is a lot bigger than baseball. Our community reminds us of that constantly. It's a very powerful message that we think is important."

In July, Metro Voice will publish our special *Faith Night Guide*. For more information, please contact the Scott Dawson Evangelistic Association at (800) 869-8738 or visit www.safeathomeministries.com.

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TEMPLE

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tions and was a cataclysmic opening of a new era for Israel and the whole world," Rabbi Chaim Richman told CBN News.

Rabbi Richman, director of the International Department at The Temple Institute, is dedicated to rebuilding the Jewish temple. He sees the time since the Six-Day War as a prophetic shift.

"It would be hard, I think, not to see what's happened in the past 50 years as a tremendous – not just fulfillment of prophecy – but a tremendous jump start, a tremendous fast forward," Richman said. "It's more than prophetic. It's like a kiss from heaven. It's like a divine kiss. It's like an intimate brush with the reality of God's compassion and love. He keeps His promises."

The Institute shares a key connection to the battle for Jerusalem. Its founder, Rabbi Yisrael Ariel, served with the 55th Paratroopers Brigade that captured the Temple Mount. After the victory, a Jordanian guide gave them a remarkable tour.

"His job was to carry the company machine gun," Richman explained. "There's a very beautiful photograph of that. He actually – the first night of the liberation of Jerusalem – he was given the task of guarding over the spot of the Dome of the Rock, which of course is where is the Holy of Holies."

"The story, though, that he told us is

that the soldiers were on the Temple Mount and it was just like the first hour or so. And they were approached by a Jordanian fellow in Western dress who explained that he was the official tour guide for the Jordanian parliament and he offered to take the soldiers and to show them the sites on the Temple Mount.

"He takes the soldiers, you know, and the rabbi there and he says, 'well this is exactly where the sanctuary stood. This is where the altar stood and then this is where the Menorah stood.'

"He tells them all these things about the history of the Holy Temple ... Finally, the rabbi asked him, 'why are you telling us all this?' And he said, 'well, we have tradition from our fathers [and] they from their fathers that one day the Jews would wage a war and conquer this mountain and rebuild the Holy Temple, and I assume

that you're starting tomorrow. I want this to be my part, my part in helping you,'" he said, according to Rabbi Richman.

CBN News asked Richman what was their reaction to that story. "Well, I guess they were pretty surprised, but the bottom line is in hindsight; it doesn't look like we were ready."

Now, 50 years later, that's changed with the Temple Institute preparing blueprints and gathering official temple elements such as the priestly garments. Richman is also dispelling myths about the temple on today's digital loud-speaker: YouTube.

All of this means talk of rebuilding the temple is no longer considered a fringe idea.

"Today there's a lobby in the Knesset of how many members of Knesset that are constantly speaking about Jewish rights to pray on the Temple Mount,"

"So a few years ago, this was considered fringe—zealots, lunatics, peculiar. Today it's mainstream."



Since its destruction in 70 A.D., Jews have dreamed of a rebuilt Third Temple. Here, a carving commissioned by Caesar, memorialized the plunder of the Temple and their return to Rome.

Richman continued. "There are members of Knesset that actually talk about the rebuilding the Holy Temple. Do you realize that 20 years ago these people wouldn't have been given a moment on prime time television to say these things.

They would have been laughed out.

One of those Knesset members is Rabbi Yehuda Glick.

"So a few years ago this was considered fringe – zealots, lunatics, peculiar. Today it's mainstream. Ten years ago,

there was not a single member of Knesset who ascended the Temple Mount," Glick said.

Richman sees the temple through the eyes of the prophet Isaiah who wrote 3,000 years ago that God's house would be called a house of prayer for all nations

"Even them I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." (Isaiah 66:7)

"It means there's a God in the world and that the best is yet to come – and that we are so connected to Him and to each other and to that purpose and to all humanity and it's just a wonderful privilege to be with you today looking out over Jerusalem and to realize that we're living in probably the most important time in history," he continued.

"If you believe in the God of Israel and you see His hand on His people and you understand the tremendous changes that have gone on over the years, you see that the One who brought us this far isn't finished and will keep His promises."

HISTORY DESTROYED

by CBN News

For the past few years, the Temple Mount has been the scene of clashes between rock-throwing Palestinians and Israeli riot police. But some less visible activity on the Temple Mount may be just as troubling.

The Temple Mount is a treasure trove of Jerusalem's history. But some of that history may be disappearing.

"It's a crime, a crime against science and maybe a crime against humanity, but I believe it's a crime to destroy something like this," archaeologist Peretz Reuven said.

Reuven is an archaeologist and an expert on the wooden beams of ancient Jerusalem. He's studied, photographed, and documented many of these ancient beams.

"It's so rare that beams in the Middle East



The Dome of the Rock, a Muslim holy site, sits above the location above the Second Temple. Historians contend that the Palestinian Authority is digging up and destroying evidence of the Temple to deny that it was ever a Jewish site.

survive so many years. In places like Jerusalem they are very, very rare," Reuven said. "At least two of them gave fantastic dating. They gave dating of around the 10 Century B.C."

This means some of these wooden beams date back 3,000 years, to the time of King

Solomon and others to the Roman or Byzantine periods.

Some are cedars from Lebanon, others are cypress or oak. Many have distinctive carvings. Some have questioned how these can survive so long.

"If they are not outside in the rain and the sun, they could survive for thousands of years, if it's in a building," Reuven said. "So we believe that those beams have been removed and reused from one building to another building."

But Reuven fears many of the beams he's documented, not those already in museums, have been discarded or even destroyed. He says he cannot find them any more on the Temple Mount.

CBN News saw evidence of workmen burning wood on the Temple Mount. We contacted the Islamic authorities on the Temple Mount about the burning. A spokesman denied any burning was taking place. Instead, he said any burning would be dangerous on the Temple Mount.



A model of the Second Temple as it looked in 70 A.D.

NIGERIAN GENOCIDE

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and persecution beyond the headlines of Christian school girls being kidnapped several years ago. But atrocities continue, largely ignored.

Kansas City area believers will have the opportunity to hear first-hand of the atrocities and living a life under persecution. Bello Gbolahan Moses, senior pastor of Fresh Apostolic Power Ministries in Nigeria, will be in the area through the first week of July—being hosted by the local Christian Nigerian community. He will speak June 6 and 7 at the TGIW men's fellowships (see info below) and is available to share his testimony and first hand accounts at other meetings. Metro Voice is assisting in setting up speaking engagements.



Pastor Moses

Pastor Moses is no stranger to the Muslim community or the Christians being persecuted.

"I was raised in an Islamic background and was a Muslim for the first 25 years of my life until I had a life changing encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ in November 1995," pastor Moses told Metro Voice.

Moses says that the genocide is heart wrenching and even unbelievable as to the severity of the persecution. "If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I might never have believed it," he stated.

The church he pastors grew out of an outreach effort in response to a growing need for discipleship, spiritual, emotional and physical healing.

"I actively served the Lord in several capacities since my conversion experience and particularly within Christ Apostolic Church of Nigeria across different assemblies until 2010 when the Lord Jesus Christ expressly directed me to establish the

ministry," Moses states.

In 2015 he became acquainted with a Dr. John Akinwale, senior Pastor of International Believers of Jesus Christ Kansas City, and his late wife.

Akinwale migrated to the Kansas City area 47 years ago, co-founded the African Chambers of Commerce, and now facilitates the Nigerian branch.

Moses hopes to encourage the Kansas City area Nigerain community as well as educate the Christian community in general about the Nigerian genocide in Africa.

"The times are very, very urgent," he says. "People are coming to know Jesus at record numbers but they are



Two Nigerian Christian men, one with a machete lodged in his shoulder, seek medical aid after their village was attacked.

being killed in record numbers as well."

You can hear more of the pastor's amazing testimony at the the TGIW

morning fellowships hosted by Rod Handley. The first is at Lee's Summit Summit Community Church Common Ground Cafe (on the campus of Lee's Summit Community Church, 1440 SW Jefferson Street, Lee's Summit); and then on Wednesday at The Stanely Event Space at 308 SE Douglas Street, downtown Lee's Summit (use the Douglas entrance). Doors at each open at 6:15 A.M. with teaching at 6:45. They both end by 7:20. For info on either event call 816-525-6339 or 816-309-7122.

If you would like more information on hosting Pastor Bello at your function, call the Metro Voice office at 816-524-4522.



2017 FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

Saturday August, 5th



VS



6:15PM FIRST PITCH

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