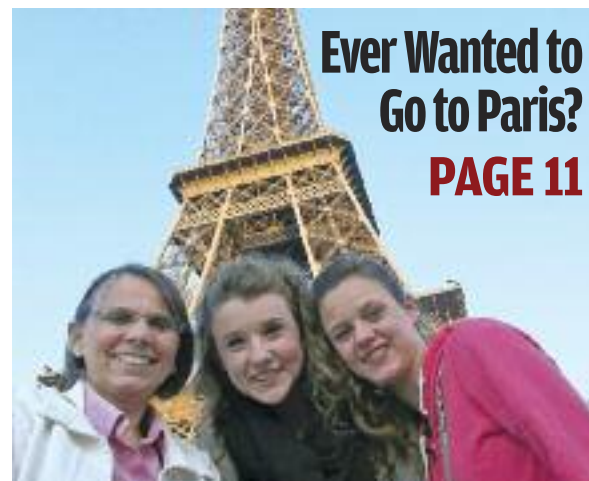




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DAVID PHELPS - MAR. 7 | SEE PAGE 14

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Ever Wanted to
Go to Paris?
PAGE 11

CELEBRATING FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN KANSAS CITY

VOLUME 25 • NUMBER 3

March 2014

FREE-TAKE ONE!

Protecting your phone privacy



Retailers increasingly
spying on shoppers

by **Kim Komando**

You already know that advertisers are tracking where you go online, even on your smartphone or tablet. But did you know that retailers like grocery stores, city governments, airports and other commercial locations are literally tracking where you walk? You might be surprised but here's just a few retailers peeking into your phone or smart device:

National retailers like Walmart, Family Dollar, Cabela's, Verizon, Gordman's, Nordstrom and Home Depot work with companies like Euclid Analytics and have devised a method for tracking shoppers in their stores. The service identifies shoppers' smartphones by requests the devices make for Wi-Fi, even if they aren't connecting to the store's network.

"I think it's outrageous," John Soma, executive director of the University of Denver Privacy Foundation, told Denver's

■ See **PHONE PRIVACY** page 23

Can the church survive the winds of change?

CULTURE STORM

by **Todd Starnes**

The culture war may be lost and religious liberty might not be that far behind, according to a new survey from LifeWay Research.

Seventy percent of senior pastors of Protestant churches say religious liberty is on the decline in the United States and 59 percent of Christians believe they are losing the culture war. Eleven percent consider that war already lost.

The survey results are staggering—indicating grave concerns about the moral direction of the nation from both the pulpit and the pew.

"Ten years ago we were talking about who would win the culture war and now we're talking about how will Christian rights be protected after the culture war," Ed Stetzer, the president of LifeWay Research said. "We've lost our home field advantage. There are going to be some things that are different."

Stetzer said it's a big shift.

"And it's a shift I would not have guessed," he told me. Over the past few years, I've documented hundreds of instances of religious persecution in the United States.

■ See **CULTURE STORM** page 23

A hard road leads to KC's newest Christian radio station

by **Kharissa Forte** | Metro Voice

Composed of genres favorable among the urban core, KCPZ 95.3FM officially hits the airwaves on March 15.

The first of its kind, PRAISE 95 will consist of music ranging from holy hip hop and Christian rap to old school gospel and today's favorite praise and worship.

Station manager Devon Price said that the station will be an outlet to uplift the community in ways other stations have yet to tap into.

"Just its possibility shows God's glory," Price said.

Before Christ, Price lived a life of

selling drugs, fighting and struggling in college. After spending four months sleeping in his car among other challenges, Price decided to give Christ a try.

Price said he knew that running his own radio station completely devoted to God-glorifying music was on the agenda for his life.

"Ten years ago, I was homeless," he said. "This station is a testimony in itself. It gives hope."

"It's been a long road," Price said in the announcement. "I've been in radio since 2003 and now Concrete Truth owns a radio station."

Price has worked for several radio

stations in Minneapolis and Kansas City, including KPRS and KMBZ.

PRAISE 95 is owned and operated by Concrete Truth Community Network, a non-profit organization with the goal of bringing about positive change in the Kansas City area.

Community Network is one-third of the Concrete Truth enterprise: Concrete Truth Studios and Concrete Truth Media incorporate videos, a magazine publication and events that serve as both an encouragement to the lost while also allowing fellowship for believers.

On Feb. 28, "Access Granted: The

■ See **PRAISE RADIO** page 5

**"Just its possibility
gives God glory."**



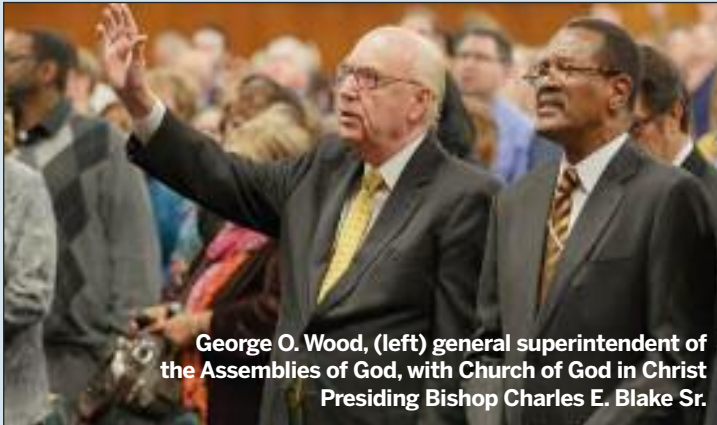
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churchnews

Assemblies of God healing racial wounds with Pentecostal Council



George O. Wood, (left) general superintendent of the Assemblies of God, with Church of God in Christ Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake Sr.

Dr. George Wood, general superintendent of the Springfield, Mo. based Assemblies of God, says the denomination has taken steps to reunite with the United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God.

"It's a group of African-American churches that in 1919 had a division from the Assemblies of God because of racism in the Assemblies of God at the time," Wood said. "Their leader was denied permission to go to Africa as a missionary" because his skin was black.

But about four years ago, Wood received a letter from the presiding elder who had recently been elected. He was seeking reconciliation with the larger body, and that prompted the superin-

tendent to make a phone call.

"That has been followed by about four years of dialogue back and forth, where we have had wonderful times of fellowship [and] obviously apologized and asked for forgiveness for that terrible instance in our past, which doesn't reflect where we are at today," Wood shares. "As the Assemblies of God, I think we're 40 percent minority."

Though this step does not mean a merger, it does represent a step toward full reconciliation and partnership.

Wood adds that his denomination is excited about what the move might mean for the future, as the healing process has already begun.

STUDY: MARRIAGE INFLUENCE WANING

Teens losing belief in marriage as an institution

by Julie Borg

(WNS)--Fewer than half of American 17 year-olds are being raised by both biological parents in an intact family, the most devastating casualty in the marriage battle raging in America today, according to Patrick Fagan, senior fellow and director of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute. Fagan discussed the state of the American family and released the Fourth Index of Family Belonging in a webcast hosted by the Family Research Council.

The study calculated the percentage of 17 year olds in the United States raised by both biological parents in an intact family since birth. The regional index ranged from a high of 50 percent in the Northeast to a low of 42 percent in the South. The Asian community had the most teens living in intact families, 65 percent, while African-Americans had the fewest, 17 percent.

Marriage is the foundational piece for every other aspect of society, Fagan said. Strong, healthy marriages produce strong, healthy families. Strong families produce healthy churches and strong schools.

A well-educated population manifests a strong economy, and only a strong economy can support a strong government and nation. When the



family is weakened, all of society suffers.

The war on the family is no accident, Fagan said. A battle against marriage has been going on for at least 100 years. The Marxists who came to the United

States when Hitler came to power in Germany brought their belief that marriage was an opponent to be destroyed. Now, Fagan said, some American

cultural and thought leaders are devoted to the destruction of marriage.

And they've succeeded, to a certain extent. Since the women's liberation movement and the sexual revolution, the path to marriage is a lot more complex, said Jennifer Marshall, director of domestic policy studies at The Heritage Foundation. When the culture does not have a high view of marriage, young couples are left to devise their own standards. Marriage skills are more caught than taught.

When more than half of all adolescents grow up without an intact family, they are less likely to catch marriage

skills because they are never modeled.

While the problem can only be solved on an individual basis, the community and even the state can help strengthen the family, Marshall said. On an individual basis, she recommends married couples mentor young people in an environment where marriage skills can be caught. States can strengthen marriages through policy-making, offering temporary assistance to families in need and promoting marriage resources to help couples enter and sustain healthy marriages, Marshall said.

Although the panelists who spoke last month pointed to policies and talked about fighting for the family, couples themselves must choose to stay together, Fagan said.

The battle for marriage it is not about going to war, it is about love. Teenage boys need to realize their children need fathers married to mothers for the rest of their lives. "The people who will win this battle are those who will love," Fagan said.

"When the family is weakened, all of society suffers."

Helping kids by keeping state-aid out of strip clubs

by Travis Perry

OSAWATOMIE, Kan. — Could Kansas kids be going without necessities because one or both of their parents were using state benefits to gamble? That's what a Kansas Watchdog investigation uncovered—public welfare dollars ending up at strip clubs, casinos and liquor stores. Now, Kansas has finally put some bite into its once-weak welfare restrictions, and it may help protect kids from parents abusing the system.

During the course of three months during 2012, Kansas Watchdog discovered that state-aid recipients withdrew more than \$43,000 in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits from ATMs at places like Golden Eagle Casino in Horton; Vegas Video Adult Superstore in Wichita; and G Spot, a Junction City strip club, among others.

But as of Feb. 1, all that came to a screeching halt, according to the Kansas Department for Children and Families,



which administers TANF cash distribution in the state.

Theresa Freed, director of communications for DCF, said the state agency flipped the switch last month on a new program that will halt all unauthorized spending of welfare dollars — as much as the state can.

The solution comes in the form of Fraud Navigator, a payment-processing program offered by the state's third-party vendor, FIS Government Solutions.

The vendor manages the actual transactions of Kansas' Electronic Benefit Transfer cards, also known as Vision cards.

Freed said that Fraud Navigator not only will block inappropriate TANF electronic transactions at the cash register, but also will prevent recipients from withdrawing cash from ATMs at specific locations.

That last part is crucial, as it closes a loophole that was about a mile wide.

Before Fraud Navigator, a Kansas welfare recipient with a fully loaded EBT card could grab some fast cash from an onsite ATM to sidestep state regulations that forbid government assistance dollars from being used to purchase alcohol, tobacco or lottery tickets.

The move also aligns Kansas with federal welfare requirements. As part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, all states are required to implement measures to prevent TANF funds from being used at strip clubs, liquor stores and casinos.



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TEACHERS JOIN PARENTS IN OPPOSING COMMON CORE

Kansas and Missouri legislators looking to limit or stop implementation

by **Kharissa Forte** | Metro Voice

The idea that it takes a village to raise a child continues to be a popular stance among parents and teachers concerning the educational progress of today's youth. This is the same mentality the Department of Education claims to have concerning the implementation of the new Common Core State Standards.

"We have never invested as much in public education as we should have because we've always had a kind of private notion of children," said MSNBC host Melissa Harris-Perry. "We have to break through this private idea that kids belong to their parents or to their families and recognize that kids belong to whole communities. Once we realize it's everybody's responsibility, we start making better investments."

One of the largest groups of critics of the Common Core State Standards, however, is teachers. The complaint is that CCSS forces a micromanaged environment where the agenda of true learning is replaced by a host of standardized tests. Teacher evaluation and ultimately job security is tangent upon student performance on these tests.

"In instituting this unplotted CCSS, I

realize that my classroom has become one high-stakes experiment," local teacher Mercedes Schneider posted on her blog. "My goal is to walk the CCSS tightrope as best I can out of respect for administration while continuing to guard and exercise my professional judgment."

While forty-five states have accepted the new regimen, Missouri and Kansas are among the remaining five fighting against the CCSS.

According to Missouri Coalition Against Common Core (www.moa-againstcommoncore.org), "a critical element of the CCSS is the development of a national longitudinal database that

will track 350 data points on each child enrolled in the public school system."

Missouri children are already susceptible to 61 data points in adherence of state and federal standards.

In addition to academic progress, collection of data such as combined household income, insurance coverage, oral soft tissue health and other information will begin being collected at birth.

The Department of Education will have access to these data points, as will the Department of Labor, Department



Supporters of a bill that would sever Kansas from the Common Core gather outside a Kansas House Education Committee hearing in Topeka.

of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Earlier last month, Missouri Rep. Casey Guernsey filed a bill to "return FERPA-like protection to student data gathered in the state of Missouri."

The Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act now covers the data point expansion as well as which agencies have access to them, including educationally marketed vendors.

Joining the efforts of Rep. Guernsey, Missouri Rep. Kurt Bahr developed document HB1490 which "forbids the governor [Jay Nixon] and state employees from adopting Common Core and reverses what they have already inappropriately done."

Across the river, Kansas is a part of the

same fight to stop CCSS.

"I and others are still fighting to get rid of Common Core," said Kansas Rep. Pete DeGraaf in an e-mail to local residents. "The Chairman of the House Education Committee is with us, but we are still dealing with basically the same make up on the House Education Committee and the House at large."

On Thursday, Mar. 13, a program titled "Is Our Children's Right to Privacy Being Infringed Upon?" will be held in Mound City, Kan. to inform participants on how the Common Core State Standards could affect their children.

More information and registration can be found at www.kansansagainstcommoncore.com.

newsbriefs



Walgreens terminates pharmacist over abortifacient drugs

(WNS)--A pharmacist from Tennessee filed suit against drug store chain Walgreens in early February, claiming the company fired him because he refused to dispense so-called "morning after" emergency contraceptives. Philip Hall worked as a pharmacist at a Walgreens in Jamestown, Tenn., for six years before he was fired in August 2013.

Until then, the company accommodated his request not to fill prescriptions for drugs like Ella and Plan B. Emergency contraceptives are considered abortifacient drugs because they can prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus. Hall, a Baptist, told the company his faith prevented him from participating in abortions, a position he claims his supervisors honored.

The company's decision to fire Hall violated both the federal Civil Rights Act and the Tennessee Civil Rights Act.

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Lawmakers urged to pass 'foster parents' bill of rights'

Former state senator testifies in support

Dave Ranney | KHI News Service

TOPEKA — Nichole Hulaether has been a foster parent for 17 years. She's cared for dozens of children.

"I consider myself to be a fierce advocate for the children in my care," the 41-year-old Topeka woman told a panel of legislators. "That's my role; that's my job."

Hulaether, who spent a year in foster care herself when she was 12, told members of the Senate Judiciary Committee that the state's foster care system

is broken.

Foster parents, she said, are "treated like babysitters," allowed to have little or no say in what happens to a child in their care and are told keep quiet about the system's shortcomings.

Foster parents who complain about being left out of the decision-making, she said, are punished for speaking out.

"I have a boy in my home now that

has had four case managers in nine months," she told KHI News Service later. "I won't say anything about the latest (case manager) because he's new, but the other three were worthless."

Hulaether said when she complained to the third worker's supervisors and directors, the worker arranged to have

her monthly payment reduced by \$300.

"She did it without talking to me, without telling me she was going to do it," she said. "Keep in mind, this was for

a child that I was paying a tutor \$35 an hour for because when I got him, he couldn't read or write." The child, she said, was 8 years old.

Many foster parents, she said, fear similar punishment.

"I had 30 foster parents that were supposed to be here today," Hulaether said. "And almost none of them showed up because they said they were afraid of what would happen if they spoke out. There's this constant fear of retaliation" from the state's foster care contractors or subcontractors.

Hulaether testified in favor of Senate Bill 394, which she and other supporters called the foster parents' bill of rights.

Included in the bill are provisions for ensuring that foster parents:

- Have access to "all pertinent information" about a child placed in their care;
- Are allowed to participate in determining when a child should be returned to a parent or family member's care;
- Can know what happens to a child after being removed from their care;
- Receive 30 days advance notice when a child is to be removed from their home, except in emergency; and
- Receive "appropriate preferential consideration" for being allowed to adopt children who've been in their care.

The bill also would create an eight-to-10-member board for advising DCF on foster care and adoption issues.

"This bill is designed to give foster parents a voice," said Lori Ross, executive director at the Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association, a group that represents more than 400 foster and adoptive parents in Kansas and Missouri.

Kansas privatized most of its foster care system in 1996.

Kathy Armstrong, DCF staff attorney in charge of prevention and protection services, said most of proposed "rights" in the proposed legislation already are spelled out in DCF policy.

"We value and appreciate the role that foster parents play in the lives of kids who, for various reasons, have been removed from their homes," she said.

Armstrong said she wasn't aware that some foster parents were afraid to challenge caseworkers' decisions.

Complaints of that sort, she said, would warrant case-by-case investigation by DCF.

Most of the state's foster care services, she said, are provided by two non-



Photo by Dave Ranney
Former State Sen. Barbara Allen, was among those who testified in support of Senate Bill 394, which some call the "foster parents' bill of rights."

profit contractors: KVC Behavioral Health and St. Francis Community Services. Both agencies, she said, rely on several sub-contractors.

Armstrong said DCF was neutral on the bill.

Representatives of KVC and St. Francis attended the hearing but did not testify.

Shared frustration

Barbara Allen, a former legislator who became a foster parent four years ago, said she shared Hulaether's frustration with the system.

Allen, an attorney whose husband is a district court judge in Johnson County, said she was being denied information on the whereabouts of a baby girl who had been in her care for about three months.

The child, she said, was moved to an unidentified relative's home recently.

"I have no idea where she is or with whom she's been placed," Allen said. "Was it in our foster baby's best interest to be moved to a relative placement? I don't know, because I don't know anything about the placement."

Allen said she felt like she and her husband had been taken for granted by the system.

"I'm an attorney, my husband is a judge," she said. "If we feel this way, I don't know that any of us can say we're surprised when foster parents who've been doing this awhile decide they don't want to do it anymore."

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State winners for 2014 Longest-Married Couple Project announced

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., — The 2014 state winners of the annual Longest Married Couple Project, sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME), include two Kansas City-area couples.

Dale and Alice Rockey, married 80 years, live in Olathe, Kan. while Ed and Ila Tenny, of Lee's Summit, have been married 73 years.

"We are truly excited and amazed at the number of couples married 70 years or more and we are particularly impressed that six of the couples taking the state honors each have over 80 years of marriage," explained Ron and Judy Pekny, the United States Leadership Team for WWME.

The Peknys serve with Fr. Rocky Grimard as the U.S. Leadership Team.

"There were hundreds of nominations submitted," the Peknys explained, adding, "Among the winners there are many couples with over 70 years of marriage and also quite a few with 60 plus years of marriage. That truly is a testament to having a commitment to a long marriage!"

The 2014 longest married couple in the United States, based on the nominations submitted, is Harold and Edna Owings of Burbank, Calif. They are married over 82 years having made their marriage vows on Nov. 24, 1931.

The Peknys traveled to the Owings' hometown on Feb. 14th to personally honor them at a special ceremony.

As in previous years of the four-



Dale and Alice Rockey of Olathe.

"We are truly excited and amazed at the number of couples married 70 years or more and we are particularly impressed that six of the couples taking the state honors each have over 80 years of marriage."

year-old project, individual state winners were recognized and honored by couples involved with Worldwide Marriage Encounter over the Valentine's week and weekend.

Winners of the project are automatically made members of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Longest

Married Couple Project Alumni group.

Couples cannot succeed themselves



Ed and Ila Tenny of Lee's Summit.

each year as either national or state winners, thus giving an opportunity to honor other longest married couples across the country.

The Peknys also pointed out that the project is based on nominations received from October 15 the previous year to January 10th of the current year. "We realize there could be couples married longer, but we did not receive their nominations from friends

or family during the nominating period," they said.

They also pointed out that there were no nominations from three states.

i moreinformation

Go to wwme.org.

PRAISE RADIO

continued from page 1



Praise 95 Support Party" was held at The View Community Center in Grandview, MO. The party allowed fans and future listeners to celebrate the endeavor with the PRAISE 95 team.

One of the biggest supporters of the station is Rev. Stan Archie, senior pastor of Christian Fellowship Baptist Church at 4509 Troost, in Kansas City, Mo.



ARCHIE

"There are many voices that reach out into our community from abroad saying what's best for us," Archie said. "PRAISE 95 will offer biblically centered concrete truth that will provide insight for living a biblical life."

Archie believes that the best way to reach the urban core is to use those who have made it as the example.

"Today, we are educated, experienced, adventurous people with passion that seems to never end," he said. "We need even greater insight from the source that served as the foundation that led to our survival over the years."

Archie expects 95.3 FM to reach the heart of its listeners with information that enriches the mind and provides guidance for a healthy and well spiritual life.

Later this year, a formal dinner will be held in which investors, businesses and those seeking a home for their on-air program can attend to learn more about how the station can benefit their own ventures.

i moreinformation

For more information on PRAISE 95, visit www.PRAISE95FM.com.

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avalanche

-BURIED ALIVE!

Family shares harrowing hours of prayers before son found

by **The AG News Service**

I was being buried! I couldn't believe that an avalanche could happen where we were!

Those were Matt Walsh's thoughts on Feb. 8, 2014, as the avalanche swallowed him up and left him buried alive under nearly three feet of snow in an icy tomb. "I figured I was going to die," he says. And by human logic, Matt was right. The odds of surviving were slim.

Matt (17) and Michael (19) Walsh are the sons of Pastor Mike and Becky Walsh of Glad Tidings Assembly in Powell, Wyoming. But the two are more than brothers — they consider each other best friends. When they talk about each other, the honest emotion of the bond is telling.

Michael, who works on rigs in the North Dakota oil fields, had come home to spend some time with family, friends,

and particularly his brother Matt. "Michael's a tough kid," his father says. "He's 125 feet up in the air working on rigs in 30-below weather — it's hard, dangerous work."

But this day, Michael was home and had volunteered to help set up a kids' hunt, putting pheasants out in the field. It was snowing, near blizzard conditions, when he got Matt's text asking him if he wanted to go snowboarding on the Polecat Bench. It was an invitation he couldn't refuse.

Swinging by the house, he picked up Matt. The conditions outside would have put a majority of Americans in "survival" mode, but it didn't faze either brother. Snow and four-wheel-drive off-road vehicles are a part of life in Wyoming — and Michael's Ford F-150 Raptor was capable of going even where most other four-wheel-drives dared not go.

Polecat Bench is not a typical snow-

boarding mountain, at least not by Wyoming standards. Instead it is an elevated, flat area of land that has relatively small cliffs and gullies streaming down its sides. Some areas are gradual inclines, but other areas — the areas a snowboarder looking for some quick runs might seek — are quite steep and can run about 500 feet long.

Driving along the edge of the bench,

things suddenly went from funny to mind-numbing disbelief.

"I saw cracks in the snow in front me," Matt recalls, "and then everything began breaking and I was in an avalanche." On the leading edge of the snow, Matt made it safely to the bottom of the hill, not realizing what was right behind him.

Michael, on the other hand, was in a near panic. After his brother had jumped, he saw the mini-avalanche begin, but then suddenly, "pop-pop-pop" - the whole ridge of snow he was standing on let loose.

"When the avalanche first started, it threw up a whole cloud of snow, so I lost sight of Matt," Michael says. "Then the ridge I was on started to go so I threw myself backwards on my board to keep from getting sucked down too."

"I got to the bottom on top of the slide," Matt says, "then all the ledges and snow below the ledges came down on top of me. It hit me with a lot of force. I knew I was getting buried. I just couldn't believe that could happen where we were. I remember it hitting my back and feeling it going around me and getting deeper and deeper. I had no idea how deep I was, but I figured I was probably too deep to get out with the equipment we had."

Being totally surprised that the bench area was even capable of an avalanche, the boys were not wearing transponders and didn't have search poles. Michael quickly got to his feet — scanning the 100-yard

long, 200 yard-wide area for any sign of his brother — he was gone! He had no idea where Matt was and the sun would be setting soon.

"I never felt to hopeless or helpless in my life," Michael says, the emotion strong in his voice.

Matt, now buried under nearly 3 feet of snow, figured he was as good as dead - the once fluffy snow already hardening about him like an icy body cast. His hood, however bought him some time, as it left an air pocket for him to breathe.

"I was really calm and really peaceful — I honestly never felt so close to God," Matt says. "I was not frightened or scared. I tried to get out and with every bit of strength I had, I tried to wiggle as much as I could... but I could only move one arm, everything else was frozen tight...."

"Then the Lord spoke to me and reminded me of the prophecy...."

"It was a Sunday and we were at church," says Becky Walsh, Matt and Michael's mother. "I was four months along with Matt, but I felt a heaviness. I got home from church and I started to bleed. I called the hospital and they told me to just wait it out and come in in the morning."

She recalls a doctor telling her over the phone that she was losing the baby — she was having a miscarriage.

"That night, Mike went to church and I stayed home," she says. "After church, Mike brought some of the youth kids over and they prayed for me. One of the kids then prophesied, 'You're not going to lose that baby because God's going to do great things with him.'"

The bleeding stopped. Matt would go full-term and be born completely healthy.

"During the prayer, I could sense an anointing," Becky says, "and when the prophecy was given, I knew that it was going to happen."

For all his life, Matt has known about this prophecy — and has lived in it with expectation. And now, when faced with impossible odds, he firmly, calmly held to God's promise.

But for Michael, the instantaneous and powerful emotional mixture of deep loss, fear, disbelief and confusion left him, for a moment, paralyzed with shock.

"The only thing I knew to do was cry out to God and ask, 'What should I do — call search and rescue or go find him?'" Michael says. "God spoke to me, 'go find your brother.' I followed His orders, I didn't think about it, I ran down the hill and chunks of snow the size of my truck were still coming down around me."

Meanwhile, Matt knew he was still sitting in an upright position, so with his free arm he started digging, a handful at a time, up into the compacting snow above him, taking the hardening snow and packing it into his small air pocket by his face. But no

■ See **AVALANCHE** page 7



A cold, but happy, Matt Walsh smiles after being partially dug out by his rescuers after an avalanche buried him under 3 feet of packed snow.



Michael was looking out his window for a suitable spot. They saw some gullies, but at first nothing that promised much of a ride.

"Then we saw an area that looked perfect," Michael recalls. "I got out of the truck and looked — the snow was so deep and fluffy looking. I waved Matt out of the truck and we both did front flips off the edge of the bench into the snow to check it out."

Looking at each other, they agreed. "Let's do it!"

Matt, being closer to the truck, was able to get strapped onto his board first. Michael looked up and saw him standing there.

"What you waiting for?" he asked.

"You!" came the grinning response.

Laughing, Michael said, "Go ahead dude, I'll catch up!"

Matt, a junior at Powell High School, nodded and leaped off the edge and onto the powder, hitting and falling backwards in a slide.

Michael good-naturedly laughed at his brother's failure to keep his feet, but then

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Youth pastor wins Olympic gold medal

by **Jim Denison**

David Wise is the most unusual "black sheep" in the Olympic Games. The New York Times calls skiers "models of branded dishevelment marketed as easygoing and athletic slackers, usually longhaired and clothed in flannel, like guitarists from a jam band enjoying a day in the snow."

By contrast, Wise is a 23-year-old husband and father whom his competitors call "vanilla." The Times describes him as "counterculture to the counterculture. He is the undude." He agrees: "People kind of look at me as the black sheep. I don't necessarily live the lifestyle that goes along with skiing."

He also happens to be the best in the world at what he does. In the freeski pipe, where athletes perform incredible aerial acrobatics while skiing up and down a snow-covered U-shaped arena, Wise has won back-to-back X Games titles and a world championship. One of his "tricks" involves spinning 3½ times in the air before landing on his skis and continuing his run. His signature trick helped him win gold at the Sochi Olympics.

What does he think of his success? "I think being a good husband and father is more important than to be a great skier. So I kind of focus on that, and the pressure is off." He believes that "there's a lot more to life than skiing. We're just flipping and skiing in the half-pipe. It's not an eternally lasting thing."

What is? His relationship with Jesus. David met his future wife at a church camp. He proposed marriage when he was 20 and she was 19, kneeling under a full moon and presenting to her a poem he had written in glow-in-the-dark ink. Both are now youth ministers; he may become a pastor in the future.

Reading his story reminds me of two important things. One: We must stay connected to Jesus if we would serve him. David admits, "If I'm not spiritually in tune, then the rest of me is not going to be in tune either." So what does he do? "I always try to wake up and spend some quiet time, try and center myself



and really feel connected to God and what He's trying to say or speak into my life. As long as I have that, it becomes easier for me to just go out and enjoy what I do." He's following the example of Jesus, who met with his Father early (Mark 1:35), late (Matthew 14:23), and sometimes all night (Luke 6:12). When last did you spend an hour with your Father?

Two: When Christians serve Jesus, others take note. David says, "Even after I won the X Games the first time, they said: 'We don't know what to do with this guy. He's different.'" How does he respond? "My rebuttal to that is: Why do you want something that has been done before? It's the people who are different who end up shaping the culture." As I often say, the darker the room, the more obvious the light (Matthew 5:14-16).

Because he walks with Jesus and serves him, David Wise can say, "life's a grand adventure." Do you agree?

AVALANCHE

continued from page 6

matter how he struggled, his arm just wasn't quite long enough to reach the surface. And then the miracle.

Michael, who had raced down the hill, scanning for any hint of Matt, stopped to call for him. He had no idea where Matt could be. He took another step and heard Matt's voice.

"The heel of his boot actually sank into where I had been digging and I could see it!" Matt says. "I called out, 'Mike, I'm fine, Mike I'm fine.'"

"I stopped yelling for a second, and I heard Matt," Michael says. "I looked down and there was this little tiny hole about the size of a baseball in the snow. I started digging frantically in the snow."

Using his hands, it took Michael about 30 minutes to finally free his brother from the snow, explaining that the snow was frozen like concrete, but that Matt was in a surprisingly good mood, cracking jokes the whole time.

"When I found him, I broke down and cried," Michael says. "I was so happy—the fear and heartache I just experienced were gone!"

Michael and Matt say that during the whole rescue process, portions of the hill kept collapsing; yet the rivers of snow didn't come their way. The next day, however, when they returned to show their family where Michael had dug Matt out of the avalanche, there was no sign of the hole—the rest of the ridge had collapsed, burying the area under several feet of additional snow and debris.

"I was pretty much in shock until we got home for dinner," Matt admits. "Then it hit me how real, how dangerous, how blessed we were to be alive—it was pretty emotional. For me, this just confirms the



prophecy and God's calling."

"My brother definitely has a calling on his life," Michael says. "He leads worship, leads in youth group and is so talented... I didn't want to see that go to waste—because he's going to do something great for God!"

Yet, as the news of the miraculous rescue spread, Michael and Matt, who were never ones to seek the spotlight in the first place, quickly tired of the attention.

"I told my boys, as they were getting tired of the publicity," Becky says, "that the time is now, this is when people want to hear your story—shout it from the rooftops, let them know what God did!"

And so they have—sharing how God saved their lives through online interviews, newspapers articles, and even a television appearance.

"I pray for my boys all the time," Pastor Mike says. "I pray for His protection, constantly, upon their lives. This is a confirmation that God is hearing us. God is so amazing!"

newsbriefs

Pro-life group boycotts Girl Scout cookies

(WNS)--According to Austin Ruse of the pro-family Catholic group C-Fam, "a part of every Thin Mint and Do-Si-Do, every Samoa and Savannah Smile goes to support abortion advocacy."

That's why a number of pro-life groups have organized a national boycott of Girl Scout cookies. Ruse said the Girl Scouts have recently upped the ante on their leftist activism. "The Girl Scouts designated Wendy Davis as an 'incredible woman' who deserved to be on the list of 2013 'Women of the Year,'" he wrote for Breitbart.com.

You can find out more about the boycott at www.cookiecott.com.

Overseas Christians see USA as a mission field

(WNS)--The United States is turning into a mission field for Christians in other countries. The Anglican Church of North America (ACNA) and its dozen or so associated Anglican groups have been looking to Africa for leadership. Now comes word that one of Africa's biggest Christian movements, the Redeemed Christian Church of God, is spreading across the United States. According to the BBC, "the Pentecostal movement started in Nigeria and opened its first American parish in Detroit in 1992. Today they have 720 congregations throughout North America."

Facebook offers 56 gender selections on profile page

(WNS)--Facebook upped its gender options for user profiles from the basic two to at least 56. Slate published a comprehensive list of choices, which includes bigender, transgender, pangender, gender fluid, and more. Both "Trans Female" and "Trans* Female" are options, though the difference between the two was not explained. Jeff Johnston, an issues analyst for Focus on the Family, said, "Of course Facebook is entitled to manage its

wildly popular site as it sees fit, but here is the bottom line: It's impossible to deny the biological reality that humanity is divided into two halves—male and female."



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Got a problem? Create a solution

Define entrepreneur

To exercise your entrepreneur muscle, let's look at three ways you can begin to bring solutions to the table by revisiting the definition of an entrepreneur and a familiar Bible story.

The term entrepreneur normally refers to bringing new products or services to market assuming a financial risk. Let's expand that definition.

According to Dictionary.com, entrepreneurs, in the purest sense, are those who identify a need—any need—and fill it. It's a primordial urge, independent



LINDA FIELDS

Director of The Joseph Company

faithworks!

of product, service, industry or market.

Notice the needs around you that you have a desire to do something

about. You may ask, "Why should I start with such a simple application of entrepreneurship, I want to do something BIG." The little things lead to the big things.

Think about the story of the boy who's lunch of five loaves and two small fish was multiplied by Jesus to feed a crowd of 5,000 hungry people on a mountainside. It must have seemed ridiculous to mention the boy's lunch, but Andrew did. Read the story for yourself in John 6:1-14

1. When you identify a large need begin with what you have on hand. In this case, it was a boy's lunch. In your

"Think about the story of the boy whose lunch of five loaves and two small fish was multiplied by Jesus and fed 5,000 hungry people on a mountain side."

case, what is the large need? What do you have?

Next, Jesus and his disciples brought order to the crowd and had them sit down in groups.

2. Refuse to panic before the answer is evident. Calm the situation.

If you're fretting because you do not see a solution yet, calm yourself and rely on God for next steps.

3. Be thankful in the moment for what you have and what God is about to do; then press on with your solution.

As the food was distributed, it was multiplied and all were fed, with food left over.

Watch for a practical way to bring a solution to the table, at work, at church, at home, or in the community.

Now you can get down to business.

Linda Fields is Director of The Joseph Company. Learn more through The Joseph Company events. Ihopkc.org/josephcompany

Give generously

Developing the habit of tithing

by **Mike and Elizabeth Murphy**

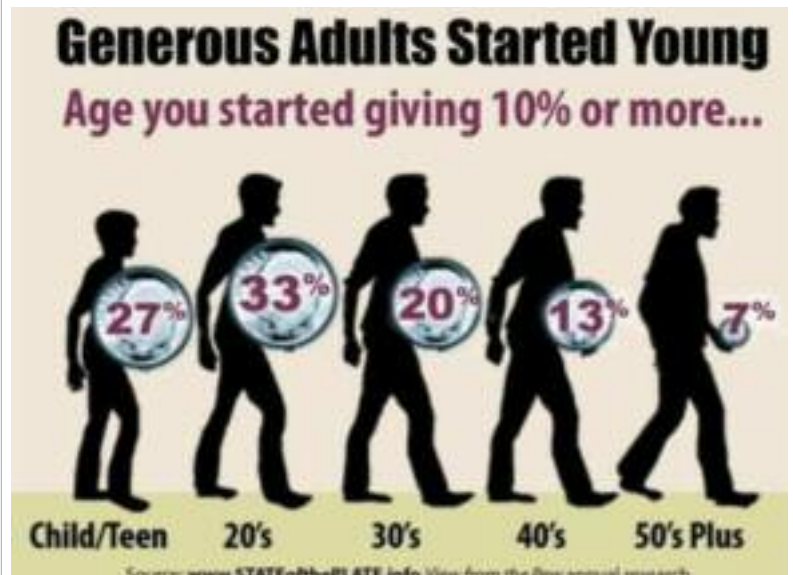
Few topics make people more uncomfortable than money. If you want to make people squirm, talk about giving. People will ask all sorts of questions about how much to give, what to give to, and whether to give off of the gross or the net, just to steer away from the heart of the matter – why give at all?

When we, as ministry leaders, pour ourselves out in every other way, why

truth, that giving is a spiritual decision based on the fact that God is the owner of it all and we are His managers. God reoriented us to His perspective, and we continue to give even when it's very hard.

Time versus Money

It's so easy to ask God to let our time be our offering. If time were a biblical substitute for money, a family in ministry would be among the biggest givers. However, God instructs all of His people to be faithful stewards with worldly wealth. The idea of substituting time for money is so common and yet so wrong. Money is addressed in Scripture more often than any other subject; the practi-



can't we hang on to the little money we have? Giving is not a financial decision, it's a spiritual decision. Few things will hold us back in our spiritual growth more than holding on too tightly to worldly wealth.

Growing up, giving was something we were supposed to do. Our parents smiled while we put a portion of our allowance in the offering plate each week. As teenagers with jobs, we both stopped giving. The world had become all about pleasing ourselves. After college, life seemed so expensive, so giving money made no sense. Our perspective only got worse with marriage, a mortgage, and children. We thought our earned money was ours to do with as we pleased. We couldn't have been more wrong. It wasn't until we participated in a Bible study called Crown Ministries, that we learned it was God's money to begin with, and that giving was an act of worship. Our giving became about pleasing God.

Financial Decision or Spiritual Decision?

The world tells us to take care of ourselves, our family, and our future first, and IF there is any left, give it away. We were looking at things from the wrong perspective. We needed to begin with

cal God we serve knew it would be a struggle. Financial giving is the first step toward loosening the grip of materialism in our lives.

Give Off the Top

If you are waiting for just the right time to give, don't. We would like everything to add up on paper, but somehow it never does. This is especially hard for Mike, who likes to cross his T's and dot his I's, when it comes to the budget and the bills. Even when we can't, God stretches what we have to meet our needs - after we've given to Him first.

The example we see in Scripture is they gave first to the Lord. When someone gives to God "off of the top," before any other bill is paid, somehow things work out.

Grow in Your Giving

We check ourselves to see if we are growing in our devotional life, our prayer life, etc. When was the last time you checked to see if you were growing in your giving? Only you and the Lord know how much you should give. If you find yourself in a difficult situation, caused by poor judgment or circumstances out of your control, don't let that stop you from giving; start with something, regardless of the amount. God will bless whatever the amount is and you will be blessed for your obedience.

We have wonderful godly people in our lives whose expenses began to decrease although their income didn't. They kept what they needed and gave ALL the rest away. That's a spiritual goal to which we aspire. Don't miss out on the joy of giving to the Lord. Remember, it is a spiritual decision. Money is simply worldly wealth. Hold it loosely, give it generously, and worship God fully.

For a biblical approach to giving see www.generousgiving.org

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The world needs God's leaders now

Dorothy, we're not in Kansas, or 1950s America, any more



CHUCK
BENTLEY

CEO
Crown Ministries

viewpoint

The America I was raised in was saturated with the influence of evangelical Christians. While it is hard to define the meaning of the word "evangelical," I view it as those followers of Christ who believe the Bible is true, who believe that they should share the "Good News" of Jesus Christ and who seek to live by its teachings in every area of their life.

But America is now in the midst of a rapid cultural change. The very group of people who brought the salt and light of the gospel to this generation are now broadly considered a fading minority and for some, the source of the problems in our nation.

I grew up when it was normal to hear a Christian prayer over the public address system each morning before the opening bell to start the school day. It was normal for a man to marry a woman and a family to consist of a father, a mother and their children and to live together under one roof. It was normal in my childhood to witness people weeping in church as they

were moved by a deep sense of conviction over their personal sin.

All of these occurrences and many others in the America I knew are diminishing.

I have been reading *The Great Evangelical Recession: 6 Factors That Will Crash the American Church and How to Prepare*, by John S. Dickerson. It is a sobering wake up call supported by strong research and factual analysis. As my wife, Ann, said, "This is not good bedtime reading."

Dickerson, a former award-winning journalist and now a pastor in Prescott, Arizona, makes the following conclusions:

- The fuel of American evangelicalism – dollars – is disappearing and will dwindle over the next three decades.

- The church is losing millions of our own people – about 2.6 million per decade.

- The evangelical church is not winning new believers fast enough to keep pace with rapid population growth in the United States.

- The external climate is turning against evangelicals. The fastest growing subcultures in the United States express militant antagonism against Christians who take the Bible seriously.

- The cultural debates and theological differences among the church that remains are splintering and splitting the church.

**...no matter your
circumstances...you can
make a profound
difference.**



Having just returned from my trip to Turkey where I gathered with Crown's European leaders, I came away with the painful awareness that there is no "bottom" to how far we can fall. Europe, once the motherland of the great theologians and the birthplace of Bible translations and sweeping revivals that impacted the world, is today scornful of those who believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and authoritative over human opinion and philosophies.

While Dickerson offers a number of insightful and helpful solutions to reverse the trends facing the evangelicals in America, I have summarized his recommendations into a single call to action: God's leaders are needed now.

My appeal to you, no matter your circumstances, is to recognize that you can

make a profound difference by getting engaged in the process of making disciples within your spheres of influence whether that is in your home, church, place of work, community or mission field. In fact, you are needed everywhere God has placed you, right now.

The Church is designed to multiply through this very simple, yet highly effective model: faithful people passing on God's truth to other faithful people. Paul expressed this relational strategy to his young disciple Timothy: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." II Timothy 2:2

Please join us in this urgent and vital cause to be the salt and light needed in the world right now.

—Chuck Bentley is CEO of Crown Ministries, a Christ-centered financial stewardship organization. www.crown.org

Remembering the legacy of St. Patrick



CLINT
DECKER

President and
Evangelist with
Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

Clay Center, Kan. – If you are like me, St. Patrick's Day might be about watching a parade, wearing green or for some, having a few drinks at the pub.

It is part of human nature to forget altogether or do a little historic revisionism as time passes for significant events. You know, every year the fish story becomes more amazing. This is the case with St.

Patrick's Day. It was meant to honor Patrick and the incredible legacy he left not just to celebrate Irish heritage.

Patrick was born British and lived 385-461. His parents were very religious, but he wanted nothing to do with their faith. As a teenager his life dramatically changed when an Irish mob abducted and sold him into slave labor in Ireland. For six years he served as a shepherd watching over his master's sheep. During those years of quiet suffering he came to know the God of His parents. Eventually, he was led by God to escape slavery

in miraculous fashion. He made his way back home to Britain. There Patrick prepared for a career in ministry. In time, he was convicted by God that he must return to the land of his

slavery and spread the good news of Christ. He boarded a boat that took him to the shores of Ireland for a second time,



this time of his own choosing. The day he stepped onto Irish shores began 29 years of a legendary mission.

Ireland in Patrick's day was an evil and dangerous place. Knowing this in advance, Patrick recounted in his writings, *The Confession* saying, "I am ready to be murdered, betrayed, enslaved --

whatever may come my way." It was an epic battle of light versus darkness which made for mythical type stories that followed Patrick's work. Upon his death in 461, light had won the battle setting a new course for the Irish. God used Patrick to see over 120,000 people baptized and 300 churches planted.

St. Patrick's Day is about remembering two things. 1 – Remember what God can do through someone who is wholly surrendered to Him. 2 – Remember how God loved Patrick enough to rescue him from slavery and how He loved the Irish enough to send Patrick with His good news.

Remember the real Patrick and the good news which changed a nation. "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). Like Patrick, may Jesus be your hope for today.

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

The FCC Wades Into the Newsroom



AJIT PAI
FCC
Commissioner

viewpoint

Why is the agency asking about coverage choices?

News organizations often disagree about what Americans need to know. MSNBC, for example, apparently believes that traffic in Fort Lee, N.J., is the crisis of our time. Fox News, on the other hand, chooses to cover the September 2012 attacks on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi more heavily than other networks. The American people, for their part, disagree about what they want to watch.

But everyone should agree on this: The government has no place pressuring media organizations into covering certain stories.

Unfortunately, the Federal Communications Commission, where I am a commissioner, does not agree. Last May the FCC proposed an initiative to thrust the

federal government into newsrooms across the country. With its "Multi-Market Study of Critical Information Needs," or CIN, the agency plans to send researchers to grill reporters, editors and station owners about how they decide which stories to run.

A field test in Columbia, S.C., is scheduled to begin this spring.

The purpose of the CIN, according to the FCC, is to ferret out information from television and radio broadcasters about "the process by which stories are selected" and how often stations cover "critical information needs," along with "perceived station bias" and "perceived responsiveness to underserved populations."

How does the FCC plan to dig up all that information?

First, the agency selected eight categories of "critical information" such as the "environment" and "economic opportunities," that it believes local newscasters should cover.

It plans to ask station managers, news directors, journalists, television anchors and on-air reporters to tell the government about their "news philosophy" and how the station ensures that the community

gets critical information.

The FCC also wants to wade into office politics. One question for reporters is: "Have you ever suggested coverage of what you consider a story with critical information for your customers that was rejected by management?"

Follow-up questions ask for specifics about how editorial discretion is exercised, as well as the reasoning behind the decisions.

Participation in the Critical Information Needs study is voluntary—in theory. Unlike the opinion surveys that Americans see on a daily basis and either answer or not, as they wish, the FCC's queries may be hard for the broadcasters to ignore. They would be out of business without an FCC license, which must be renewed every eight years.

This is not the first time the agency has meddled in news coverage. Before Critical Information Needs, there was the FCC's now-defunct Fairness Doctrine, which began in 1949 and required equal time for contrasting viewpoints on controversial issues.

Though the Fairness Doctrine ostensibly aimed to increase the diversity of

"But everyone should agree on this: The government has no place pressuring media organizations into covering certain stories."



CNN, Fox News, ABC and other media outlets are crying foul at the government's intimidation of First Amendment rights.

thought on the airwaves, many stations simply chose to ignore controversial topics altogether, rather than air unwanted content that might cause listeners to change the channel.

The Fairness Doctrine was controversial and led to lawsuits throughout the 1960s and '70s that argued it infringed upon the freedom of the press. The FCC finally stopped enforcing the policy in 1987, acknowledging that it did not serve the public interest.

In 2011 the agency officially took it off the books. But the demise of the Fairness Doctrine has not deterred proponents of newsroom policing, and the CIN study is a first step down the same dangerous path.

The FCC says the study is merely an objective fact-finding mission. The results will inform a report that the FCC must submit to Congress every three years on eliminating barriers to entry for entrepre-

neurs and small businesses in the communications industry.

This claim is peculiar. How can the news judgments made by editors and station managers impede small businesses from entering the broadcast industry? And why does the CIN study include newspapers when the FCC has no authority to regulate print media?

Should all stations follow MSNBC's example and cut away from a discussion with a former congresswoman about the National Security Agency's collection of phone records to offer live coverage of Justin Bieber's bond hearing? As a consumer of news, I have an opinion. But my opinion shouldn't matter more than anyone else's merely because I happen to work at the FCC.

Mr. Pai is a commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

Local media scrutinized over disturbing trend

Instances of religious bigotry examined

by **John Altevogt** | Metro Voice



Scott Parks and Dana Wright,
hosts of Kansas City's most
popular local talk radio program

You don't have to be a veteran Kansas City media watcher in Kansas City to notice the changes going on at KMBC-TV and KMBZ radio.

KMBC, long the leader in local news coverage, placed its lead anchor, Larry Moore, on "emeritus" status, drove off veteran meteorologist Joel Nichols, dumped another veteran meteorologist, Lisa Teachman, and appears to be doing the same longtime political reporter Mike Mahoney.

KMBZ also is shaking things up in a much more subtle way. Station management now discourages political discussion, at least conservative political discussion. Instead, the centerpiece of the new format, Dana and Parks, is going for an ever-more-vulgar approach to talk radio that could most adequately be described by what author Charlotte Hays calls "white-trash normal."

Media insider John Landsberg recently criticized a photo posted on the duo's station Facebook page that contained an obscenity, while popular local blogger Tony Botello denounced another glorifying sexual harassment in the workplace. Comments under both columns were overwhelmingly negative, condemning the show as "sophomoric and unprofessional," "off-the-charts terrible" and "a sad commentary on the direction our culture is headed."

A recent story pushed by both media outlets and devoid of any meaningful journalistic standards, underlines just how drastically these changes are affecting what local residents see and hear from these two media outlets.

The story involved an unknown couple who allegedly left no tip and a derogatory

■ See MEDIA page 22

Four ways social media will destroy your life



Brandon Cox
Saddleback
Church pastor

myopinion

I am defensive of social media. Yes, it's easy to make fun of when you're just not into it. And it's also easy to criticize when you've been negatively affected by it. But I still believe that it's going to be more and more like air — an unavoidable and ubiquitous part of the atmosphere in which we live life.

That being said, social media can destroy your life. Quickly. Consider the recent story of a PR executive who, on her way to Africa, tweeted something with rather racist implications. She lost her job and six-figure salary and probably won't find employment again soon in the industry she's built her career in. Or the many thousands of couples whose divorce proceedings include details of an affair that started with flirting over Facebook.

Social media will destroy your life. Or perhaps more accurately, social media will allow you to destroy your own life quickly and painfully. How?

■ Social media allows you to be the center of your own universe.

If you're not careful, you'll actually begin to believe that the world revolves around you — that people are just wait-



ing with baited breath for your next status update. There's a reason why "selfie" was the big word of 2013. This is not at all to say that letting your personality shine through your social net-

"Privacy is an illusion. Facebook is a stalker's dream."

works is all bad. But if you struggle with egotism or self-centeredness to begin with, social media can provide the stage for excess.

■ Social media provides a dangerous (and false) sense of anonymity.

Everything is public. Privacy is an illusion. Facebook is a stalker's dream. These are warnings I issue over and

over to people who believe they are being anonymous online, and I speak as one who is an open book online. But I'm careful. While transparency is certainly a value of our current culture, and it's well warranted, too much transparency can get you into serious trouble.

■ Social media allows us to vent our feelings without a filter.

I cringe whenever a Christian leader says anything controversial online. I know what's coming. A barrage of criticism from people who may indeed be right in their assessment, but wrong in their approach. The disunity of the church has never been on display more than in our current age when everyone is a publisher.

■ See SOCIAL MEDIA page 20



Postcards from Paris

How our family made the memory of a lifetime

by **Dwight and Anita Widaman**

[This is the first in a two-part series on how to enjoy Paris and London with your family]

“Viva la Israel,” I shouted with an over-the-shoulder wave as we left a famous falafel joint. My gesture elicited a broad smile from the face of the maitre d’ and waiters—and customers—waiting in line at the counter. Anita, daughters Hannah and Emma, and I, were not in Israel, but in the heart the Jewish Quarter of the Le Marais neighborhood of Paris.

We left the tasty L’As du Fallafel, and walked several yards down the street when I felt a tap on my shoulder. Startled, I turned and was greeted by Monsieur Journo, the maitre d’, still smiling and motioning with his hands to take a picture. With a gentle tug, he led us back to the café.

The Frenchman, wearing a NYPD sweatshirt, seemed genuinely pleased to see a smiling American and more importantly perhaps, one that appreciated Israel enough to shout the words “Long Live Israel!”

“I want a picture with your family!” he exclaimed and, armed with my camera, I dutifully documented our visit and new friend.

This experience of friendly nationals eager to help us—sometimes confused, sometimes tired and sometimes lost—American tourists was common both in Paris and London. These memorable encounters with residents of both world-class cities were refreshing and not anticipated.

Our journey was part media trip and part celebration for three milestones: our 20th wedding anniversary, my 50th birthday and Hannah’s high school graduation. We had saved money



A new friend at L’As du Fallafel

for years, doing without regular summer vacations, fewer dinners out, Anita working as a long-term substitute counselor at a local school, and saving rewards points from business expenses.

It was, as you will see, more than worth the sacrifice. In this, the first of a two-part travel feature, we will bring you along with us as we explore Paris—the city that, truly, never sleeps. Next month, our travel experience takes us to London.

Many people ask “Why go to Europe when there is so much to do and see in America?” That is true to an extent. America is rich, with vast vistas and 300 years of history, but by acknowledging how our ancestors each migrated from somewhere else we can all learn something about our heritage, providing each of us a new perspective on the world. Today, African-Americans, for instance, are traveling to discover their rich and proud heritage in Africa; second- and third-

which 70 percent of Americans trace their roots.

Many Americans are discovering their Christian heritage in Europe. From Italy and France’s deep Catholic traditions to the Lutheran customs of German and Nordic countries to the Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist history of England and other nations. Regardless of your reason, traveling to Europe is worth the effort and sacrifice.

For our family we chose Paris and London, the most popular destinations for Ameri-

cans. You’ll be surprised to know that while more expensive than an excursion to Hawaii (but not much), it is still within reach if you plan carefully, adjust your expectations and are frugal. Plan your travel dates first then line up your airfare three to four months in advance and your lodging at least two months in advance. Once you have those you can begin to plan your daily itinerary. And ours was full.

Notre Dame

Almost 400 years before the Pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock, the French were laying the foundation for Notre Dame Cathedral—a masterpiece of French Gothic architecture built on an island in central Paris and that wouldn’t be completed for almost 300 years. One of the world’s most imposing structures, it’s a must-see and it’s free! We took an English tour, led by an expat American,

who gave us an intimate look at the structure and its history. Included was an outside view, and even in the rain we learned that the facade’s master stone carver included the faces of despised French elite, disreputable church leaders and land barons—all tormented by demons on their arrival in Hell. By the way, those famous Gargoyles you see in the movies standing watch over Paris?

They are not demons but heavenly creatures from Revelation who are on the lookout for evil.

Before we concluded the outdoor portion of our tour, our group of 40 had dwindled to just our family and two older couples which was lucky for us. Once back inside, as a reward for our loyalty through the wind and rain, the guide allowed us onto the very altar on which Napoleon I was crowned. We were mesmerized by our guide’s knowledge and passion for history. At the conclusion he even recommended his favorite neighborhood restaurant. Had we been hasty and left the group early or not withstood the weather outside we would have missed the special attention he afforded us for sticking with him.

Sainte-Chapelle

Located just blocks from Notre Dame, this amazing church was begun around 1241 and completed in just six years and, while smaller than a cathedral, it is just as impressive for the massive, intricate leaded glass windows. It was the pride and joy of the authentically devout Louis IX who wanted to protect and display relics thought to be connected to Christ, such as the Crown of Thorns and a fragment of the cross. Unlike many rulers of the time who absconded with historical relics, the saintly Louis purchased his for more than four times what it cost to build the chapel, wanting to honor God in their acquisition. It is amazing, that with towering walls of glass windows, the church survived so many revolutions and wars intact.



Sainte-Chapelle



Outside The Louvre

The Louvre

What can you say about the Louvre—the world’s most famous art collection, plus many paintings and sculptures chronicling biblical and church history. As a former royal palace (you can walk through Napoleon’s apartment) the Louvre is about much more than art, it’s about a time and place when France was ascending as the world’s dominant military, political and artistic force—when French was the



L’Enfant Jesus jouant avec un clou, (The infant Jesus playing with a nail), by Paolo Bernini

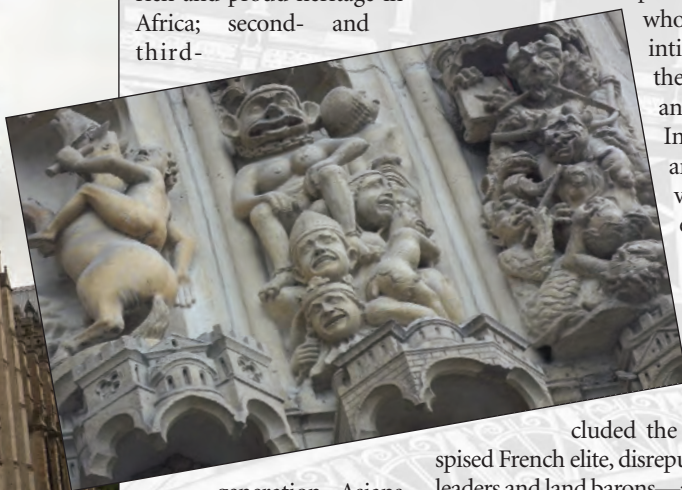
language of commerce and government across Europe. Don’t try to do it in one day unless pressed for time. We rented a GPS device that guided us through the labyrinth of halls and allowed us to specify what exhibits, work or period we wanted to see and it gave detailed information on each. It’s worth the nominal rental charge. At the Louvre you’ll enjoy Venus de Milo, Mona Lisa, Michelangelo’s “Captive,” and the tablet of Hammurabi’s Code. We enjoyed the massive painting “Consecration of the Emperor Napoleon” which took place inside Notre Dame and where we stood in the very spot the next day.

And don’t forget the basement! Before the palace was built it was a 12th century medieval fortress and your kids can explore the fortress foundations beneath.

Versailles

The stories you’ve read and the movies you’ve seen were right. The Palace of Versailles is a study in excess and it’s no wonder Marie Antoinette

Notre Dame and relief sculptures



generation Asians are returning to Southeast Asia, and for other families, like mine, to Europe for

The Consecration of the Emperor Napoleon. By Jacques Louis David



Continued from previous page

and King Louis lost their heads! The architects of the chateau used gold (gilded bronze) like paint. It covers just about everything except for the splendid paintings featured on every ceiling. The compound was France's ultimate royal

thing as the girls and I sheltered under huge imported palm trees. It was worth it, Anita contends!

Eiffel Tower

Designed by Gustave Eiffel, the Tour Eiffel (That's Eiffel Tower for us anglophiles) is the most recognizable structure in the world. From the top you'll understand why it was an engineering marvel when constructed as the entrance arch for the 1889 World's Fair. The tower's height

The grounds of Versailles



palace and has the reputation for being the most opulent before or since the French revolution. It was the center of power in France from 1682 until the French Revolution. Now, as then, it remains a symbol of royalty—and the excesses of the ruling classes. Thankfully, revolutionaries storming the palace gates recognized the treasure it was. They stationed armed guards so that the peasants of Paris would not loot and destroy this treasure—treasure in every sense of the word!

Where to begin? You'll definitely need a full, and long, day to enjoy Versailles. From the ceilings—each a work of art in their own right—to the grand apartments of the royals, you are overwhelmed. You can walk through the Hall of Mirrors, the King's and Queen's state apartments, the Royal Chapel, the library, the clock room, and the salons. Outside the palace is one of the world's greatest gardens, which, combined with the interior, needed 6,000 workers to keep running each day. The grounds are huge! To walk from one end to the other would take a full hour. We walked, but on reflection the ground transportation is worth the cost for it will get you to the corners of the estate quickly where you'll enjoy the Grand Trianon and the Petit Trianon and the estate of Marie Antoinette, built to imitate a French village.

Versailles is about 18 miles outside Paris but you can easily take a train. We enjoyed a nice restaurant on the grounds and to work off lunch you can rent a rowboat. We took a break on the vast park lawn and only left when it started to rain. But that didn't stop Anita, who ran back to see one more

until the completion of New York's Chrysler Building in the 1930s and this iron work of art remains the tallest structure in Paris.

Much of what you see from its dizzying heights is unchanged from the early 20th century with the exception of modern skyscrapers on the distant horizon. You can imagine Napoleon marching through the Arc de Triumph or the American troops parading down the streets with cheering Parisians at the end of World War II. The city of light (named so because of the beautiful aura the stone buildings give off at sunset) won't disappoint as in addition to the Arc de Triomphe, you'll see Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur and the Pompidou



Center. A museum at the base is worth the time if engineering is your interest and don't miss the "Eiffel epic tour" circuit: the fun history as seen through 60 illustrations, photographs, engravings, drawings, films and interactive systems.

Galerie Lafayette

Paris wouldn't be complete without a fashion show—and shopping. On our first day in Paris we took the girls to attend an hour-long fashion show of the



latest styles at the Galerie LaFayette. Entrants needed tickets and we had none so we stood in line for a bit and were finally admitted before the catwalk came alive with skinny models. Shopping here is as much about the building as it is about the contents. This is truly a breathtaking and gilded structure that has been described as a "temple to shopping". It includes European fashion but for the budget-conscious you might find a surprising bargain here and there. Later, we enjoyed lunch in the grand cafeteria with a view of the Eiffel Tower.

Musee d'Orsay

Originally constructed as a train station in 1900, the museum completed a major remodeling in 2011. Its structural centerpiece is an arched hall with an ornate and massive clock that still keeps time much as it did for hurried Parisians catching a steam train 100 years ago. The museum is renowned for its collection of impressionist (Dwight and Anita's favorite), art nouveau, decorative and sculpture art. We found the museum much smaller than the Louvre but no less beautiful for the treasures it contains. Thanks to the recent remodeling project, many of those treasures are displayed in small rooms, which provide a



unique perspective. We rented headphones so we could each meander at

our own pace, stopping to learn about pieces that interested us the most. The girls really enjoyed being able to focus in on work that caught their eyes.

Palais Garnier

Want to see some history connected to modern-day Broadway? Plan to visit the Palais Garnier. This theatre is the location of the Phantom of the Opera, which is based in part, on events that transpired there—the falling chandelier and the river, which runs beneath the theatre. To step inside is a magical experience. We purchased tickets for a guided tour and were not disappointed. The history, some funny and some tragic, comes alive as you creep around the building and marvel at the excess, which was 19th century Paris. Enjoy the 1964 painting by Marc Chagall that adorns the ceiling. Hated by Parisians when completed, it has since become a favorite of residents and tourists alike.

Paris Catacombs

Ever been in a coffin? How about a grave built for millions? The Paris Catacombs are a cavernous labyrinth of tunnels housing the bones of more than six million people. The walls are covered with graffiti dating from the time of the French revolution when its tunnels were used for escape and hide-outs. Centuries old, the Catacombs grew and grew as graves were uprooted in other parts of the city to make room for other structures. Stacked in odd piles with skulls arranged into interesting patterns, the workers who created it never imagined tourists touring its dark passages—jaws agape.

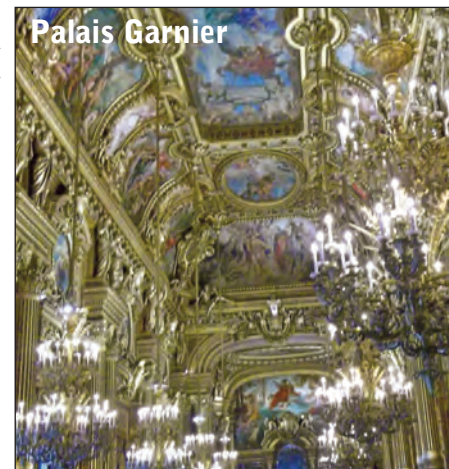
Champs-Elysées and Arc de Triomphe

The Champs-Elysées is the boulevard for couples and may be the most famous boulevard in the world. Strolling down this tree-lined street toward the towering Arc de Triomphe at the west end is an adventure. This thoroughfare is known for its belles promenades but also offers shops, quaint boutiques and cafés and entertainment. Step a block or two off the beaten path and you'll discover old Paris. At the end is the imposing Arc de Triomphe—a monument to victory and sacrifice that you can climb.

Pleasant surprises

As we toured this

cultured city, we quickly discovered that nothing ever goes as planned. Savor unexpected and unplanned moments. One of those Parisian "short walks" for us turned into an hour "stroll" in the rain through the Jardin des Tuileries (Tuileries Garden) across from the Louvre Museum. Anita and Hannah clutch-



ing one another under one umbrella and Emma and I arm-in-arm under another, we walked, talked, laughed and shivered. The experience was a special memory. What could easily have

been an opportunity for griping, we all laughed-off as we were equally soaked to the bone. The fact we were in Paris helped, too.

On another occasion it was the girls digging through bins of all right-footed sample shoes at a sidewalk market we stumbled upon. You find the one you like and the owner brings you the matching shoe! Even I was coaxed into picking out a pair of Italian men's loafers. While the discovery caused us to drop a small museum from our itinerary, the serendipitous shopping find thrilled the girls and reinvigorated their spirits for the afternoon.

Pleasant surprises created for us, a



once-in-a-lifetime experience with our daughters before they leave home. Paris could waiting to surprise you and your family as well.

We hope you've enjoyed coming along with us on our voyage to Paris. Until next time, we bid you adieu!

For the second part of our feature, including what to do and see in London, where to stay in London and Paris and other tips, visit www.metrovoicenews.com or watch for our April edition.



Top Tips for Travel



Restaurant Beaurepaire

Getting there

Any trip to Europe requires you to be in shape. Midwesterners don't walk—we drive. Expect to do a lot of walking. A Parisian may tell you that a restaurant or museum is “just a short walk” but, 20 minutes later, you may still not have reached your destination. Use this time to explore and do some shopping at the numerous street markets, shops or stop for treats at a cafe. No time in Paris is ever wasted as every picturesque street brings opportunity for discovery and adventure. But, when needed, public transportation is convenient, easy and safe. Prepare for your trip by walking several miles a day in the month prior to your departure to build stamina.

Sustenance

After a busy day of sightseeing (Europeans tend to eat supper after 8 p.m. or even 9) or for the need to take a break for lunch under the tree-lined streets, you'll want to find nourishment. Americans are used to inexpensive meals. Our budgeted amount for food was our biggest sur-



Lunch was often at a deli or take-away stand. (The price of food “taken away” can be half the cost of having a table). Just take

your lunch to a park (there are plenty of sunny spots all abloom).

For dinner, we sought out suggestions of the locals or just chose a cute café or restaurant that looked like a memory in the making. Forget about having a soda unless you are addicted. We typically just ordered tap water.

But, remember, if there is a top 10 list for Paris, it has to include the food. Encourage the kids to try new things and lead by example! At one restaurant Hannah, after having tasted something similar in Branson, ordered steak tartare—a meat dish made from finely chopped or minced raw beef and served with onions, capers and seasonings. She enjoyed a few bites before she asked if it was OK to have it sent back to be “cooked”.

The waiter, smiling, happily accommodated her request.

If steak tartare isn't to your liking, there is little in French cuisine that is not delicious and you can always find a local ethnic restaurant familiar to Americans or a hamburger.

Leave your world behind

We had a “no-cell phone” rule on our trip. Though painful, our daughters left their phones and all the distractions they create, in their rooms at home. I took one in the luggage just in case we needed it during the U.S. portion of our flights. Consider taking a laptop or tablet—they come in handy in case you're looking up museum times and the girls did check-in on their Facebook friends. But, a trip “sans phone”, meant we were talking to each other and enjoying the scenery, not texting. By creating this margin you will be greatly rewarded by the lost art of conversation.

Everyone picks. Everyone wins.

How do you balance your family's expectations and interests? Plan and play fair! Realize that what dad and your boys might consider a “must do” may not be on the top 10 list of teenage girls—or mom. Likewise, parents won't want to spend endless hours while teenagers shop for the latest fashions.

Involve your kids by letting them pick one activity each day either from activities they're drawn to or from several options you provide. This also applies to what museum exhibits to see.

Realistic itinerary

Most world-class museums are huge and would take days to fully explore. Realize you cannot see it all. Before your trip discuss what each museum has to offer and pick one or two sections or, better yet, use the museum's “Top 5 or Top 10” booklet. Guided tours are often the best way to enjoy a museum on limited time and are well worth the up-charge. For permanent collections, let the kids each pick an area they consider a must see. For example, at the British Mu-



seum Emma picked the Egyptian and Middle Eastern section. She was not disappointed as we stepped through ancient arches from Mesopotamia and viewed mummified pharaohs.

In Paris, Hannah, who graduated from a 12-year professional ballet program, wanted to view Degas' paintings of ballet dancers on display in the Musée d'Orsay. Degas' colorful and emotive oil paintings helped popularize ballet and make it accessible for Europe's masses. Hannah enjoyed viewing the original work of the print that hung at home in her room and for her the experience was



Anita pitches in at a fleurist

very personal.

Emma and Dad were excited to attend the premiere of the new Star Trek movie in London because of the movie's timely connection to the city. For Anita it was a “girls-only” outing for high tea while Dwight was off shopping for an authentic English cardigan.

In London, Dwight's priority was to see the Churchill War Museum and the famous “War Room” and bunker a 100 feet below the surface that is virtually untouched since the last day of the war.

None of these activities though, were to the exclusion of another's wishes. We each enjoyed them because they reflected the interests of the people we love and know so well.

Teaching moments

Listen for the kids to connect the dots on what they are seeing to the knowledge they already possess. Our family loves “Amazing Grace”—the movie about the British slave trade starring Benedict Cumberbatch (Sherlock Holmes, Star Trek) as the British Prime Minister William Pitt. Pitt was best friends with John Wilberforce—the 17th century Christian and British abolitionist. Hannah remembered that the movie stated they are buried side-by-side in Westminster Abbey. With the help of the

three Abbey guides getting info on their phones, we located the crypts, and much to Hannah's delight, there lay the two best friends who changed the direction of the Western world.

Get outside info

It is not just a movie or historical interest that can generate sightseeing ideas. During your planning, talk to friends who have made the trip. This helps to confirm and validate your choices; research travel blogs and buy a quality guide book (Lonely Planet) for each city (check out the library's copy first to help you decide).

Don't over-plan your day

There's just too much to do! We made the mistake of overbooking most of our days as we realized this would most likely be the only time we traveled there as a family. We learned there are some things that will have to wait for a future trip. Review your itinerary and be realistic. You may need to trim it down or you'll end up exhausted, though we soon discovered we had much more energy than our teenagers and were ready to go at the crack of dawn!

Don't over do it. Taking a break at the Musee d'Orsay



Getting the wide angle

Upon arrival, get the “wide angle” of your surroundings. For Paris it was the view from the Eiffel where we enjoyed the famous panorama from above and immediately after, a more up-close view through the city's heart down the Seine River on the Star of Paris tour boat. Both views are a taste of the adventure ahead!

—Dwight and Anita Widaman are publishers and editors of the Metro Voice Newspaper. Covering stories for Metro Voice, on missions or for personal enjoyment, their travels have taken them across Europe, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, India, Canada, the Caribbean and destinations in between. They hope to inspire a love for travel, missions and learning in their daughters and readers.

Look for Part II: London, next month.



Around the corner from our hotel—a great restaurant

A view from the top of the Eiffel Tower



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

the events calendar

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

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



MAR 7 **DAVID PHELPS PRESENTS CLASSIC IN CONCERT. 7:00 P.M. AT GRACEWAY, 5460 BLUE RIDGE CUTOFF, KCMO. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 615-579-5151.**

CONCERTS

DAVID PHELPS PRESENTS CLASSIC IN CONCERT. Mar. 7, 7pm. Graceway, 5460 Blue Ridge Cutoff, KCMO 64133. \$20 General Admission. 615-579-5151.

MARK TRAMMEL QUARTET. Mar. 13, 7pm. First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2151 S Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-6653.

CHARLES DAVID SMART. Mar. 14, 7:30pm. 7126 W 80th St., OPKS. 913-381-6022.

SPRING BREAK BASH. Mar. 14, 7pm. FireEscape Coffee-house, Chanute, KS. Sauce Remix from Kansas City, Play-dough from Dallas/Ft. Worth & special guest speaker Minister DJ Dangerfield. Free. Several prizes to be given away including an iPad. 281-725-3644.

THIRD DAY, SKILLET, MANDISA, BRANDON HEATH, PETER FURLER & WE AS HUMAN. Mar. 16, 7pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., KCMO 64106. 888-929-7849.

CHANGE A LIFE TOUR. Mar. 30, 7pm. Mathewson Exhibition Center, 2503 W 16th St., Sedalia, MO. \$45 (VIP), \$20 (GA), \$25 (door). Featuring Audio Adrenaline & Kutless. 660-826-2160.

PHIL AND PAM MORGAN. Mar. 30, 6pm. Calvary Baptist Church, 900 NW 22nd St., Blue Springs, MO. 816-228-5540.

CASTING CROWNS. Apr. 3, 7pm. Independence Events Center, 19100 East Valley View Pkwy, Indep., MO 64055.

THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY. Apr. 10, 7pm. Cowen Memorial Auditorium, 7020 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS 66204.

\$15 General Admission Advance Purchase, \$20 General Admission at door. www.kccbs.edu. 816-722-0272.

THE LEFEBRE QUARTET. Apr. 10, 7pm. First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2151 S Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-6653.

JASON CRABB CONCERT. April 17, 7pm. New Life Assembly, 801 SW 1st Street, Oak Grove, MO. 816-690-3514.

THE FREEMANS. May 1, 7pm. First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2151 S Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-6653.

SWEET SPIRIT & FRIENDS MUSIC OUTREACH. May 17, food at 6pm, music at 7pm. Moment of Truth Bible Baptist Church, 310 Randolph Rd., Claycomo, MO 64119. Special guests: The Chamber Family. 816-453-7547.

FREEDOM QUARTET. May 22, 7pm. First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2151 S Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-6653.

SOUTHERN GOSPEL (CALL FOR GROUPS)

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

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

St., KCMO. 913-432-0359.

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

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

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

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

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

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



MAR 1 **16TH ANNUAL MIDWEST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & COLLEGE EXPO**

CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

DIVORCE CARE. Wednesdays through Apr. 16, 6:30pm. Independence First United Methodist Church, 400 W Maple Ave., Indep., MO 64050. \$20. 816-863-4662.

16TH ANNUAL MIDWEST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & COL-

■ calendar continued on next page

JASON CRABB

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General Admission: \$20 (doors open 6pm)
General Admission at the door \$25
VIP Ticket: \$45 (doors open 5:30pm)

(Includes: VIP pre show entrance; Concert Admission; VIP Lanyard; Meet & Greet; Up Front Seating, collectible laminate; autograph session; "Audio A" band photo & CD)

For info visit facebook "Change A Life Tour – Sedalia, Missouri"
email: justask@fbcsedalia.org
or call 660-826-2160 for ticket outlet information.

LEGE EXPO. Mar. 1, 9:30am-2pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, KCMO. 100 schools & organizations. See ad in issue. Also www.metrovoicenews.com Colleges and K-12 schools plus seminars. Homeschooling information. 816-524-4522.

JEWISH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES "KAFFEE KLATSCH." Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 8:30-9:30am, arrive before 8:30am! JCC Conference Room A, 5801 W. 115th St., OPKS. Weekly coffee meeting for jobseekers; get and give support in an informational session hosted by JES coach. Complimentary coffee and nosh; business casual dress. 913-730-1449.

FREE CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS INFORMATION MEETING. Various times and location. Come see the Classi-

cal Christian Community in action, learn right along with us as you visit our Community! March 3, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 1230 Austin Court, Warrensburg, MO 64093. RSVP: Michelle Pennington, mamamamaredpajama@gmail.com March 11, 8:45a.m.-3:00p.m. Gashland Baptist Church, 601 NE Barry Rd., Kansas City, MO 64155. RSVP: Michelle Cannon, jammcannon@yahoo.com March 13, 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m. South Broadland Presbyterian Church, 8750 Holmes Rd, Kansas City, MO 64131. RSVP: Guenna Mullet, gcmullet@sbcglobal.net March 15, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. 603 Emerson Drive, Belton, MO 64012. RSVP: Rebecca Jacobs, becajacobs2012@gmail.com March 24, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. 503 East 127th Street, Kansas City, MO 64145. RSVP: Guenna

Mullet, gcmullet@sbcglobal.net March 26, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 1230 Austin Court, Warrensburg, MO 64093. RSVP: Michelle Pennington, mamamamaredpajama@gmail.com March 27, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Panera Bread, 1305 NE Douglas St, Lee's Summit, MO 64081. RSVP: Laura Wissel, lsclassicalconversations@gmail.com April 12, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. 603 Emerson Drive, Belton, MO 64012. RSVP: Rebecca Jacobs, becajacobs2012@gmail.com.

KC PROPHETIC SCHOOL OF THE SEERS. Mar. 6-9. Christ Triumphant, 401 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64063. Featuring Kevin Basconi, Michael Danforth & James Durham. www.KingofGloryMinistries.org for registration and info. 816-



9 AM, SATURDAY, APRIL 5

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MAR 11 "SHOW ME LIFE" PRO-LIFE ACTION DAY 2014 - JEFFERSON CITY, MO

524-6120.

FREE CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS OPEN HOUSE AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION PROGRAM. March 6, 8:45a.m.-3:00p.m. Countryside Baptist Church, 14150 W 175th, Olathe, KS. Come see the Classical Christian Community in action, learn right along with us as you visit our Community! Our Excellence in Education Program starts at 12:35p.m. RSVP: Ruthe Reid southlathecc@gmail.com

2014 STAINED CONFERENCE. Mar. 7-8. Cross Points Church, 6824 Lackman Rd., Shawnee, KS 66217. Speakers: Nick Adams, Chris Anderson & Marty Darracott. A targeted youth conference geared towards empowering & encouraging youth to pursue righteousness at all cost. Late Registration (after Feb. 1): \$20 per person. 913-205-9868.

FREE CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS INFORMATION MEETING. Various times and locations. Come hear how Classical Conversations can help you successfully teach your

child any subject and be amazed at how understanding the Trivium can make your homeschool the best it can be! March 7, 6:00-8:00p.m. Grace Community Church Hwy 169 Spring Hill, KS. RSVP: Marlies Lamer caredfor25@hotmail.com March 13, 6:00-8:00p.m. Nall Avenue Baptist Church 6701 Nall Ave. Prairie Village, KS. RSVP: Charlie Long cvlong3@gmail.com March 18, 7 - 9 p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park, KS. RSVP: Jill Pettis jpettis@classicalconversations.com March 27, 8:45a.m.-3:00p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park, KS. RSVP: Jill Pettis jpettis@classicalconversations.com March 31, 6:00-8:00p.m. Bonner Springs Public Library 201 Nettleton Ave. Bonner Springs, KS. RSVP: Oni Hoge thehogiefam@gmail.com April 1 7:00-9:00p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church 10100 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park, KS. RSVP: Kirstin Esau jonkirstin@embarkmail.com April 1, 7:00-8:30p.m. Countryside Baptist Church, 14150 W 175th, Olathe, KS. Come hear how RSVP: Ruthe Reid southlathecc@gmail.com April 15, 7 - 9p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park, KS. RSVP: Jill Pettis jpettis@classicalconversations.com

FREE CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS INFORMATION MEETING March 8, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Gashland Baptist Church, 601 NE Barry, Rd., Kansas City, MO 64155. Come hear how Classical Conversations can help you successfully teach your child any subject and be amazed at how understanding the Trivium can make your homeschool the best it can be! RSVP: Michelle Cannon, jammcannon@yahoo.com

THE BOOK OF GALATIANS BIBLE STUDY. Mar. 10-14, dinner 6:00-6:55pm (no cost), bible study at 7pm each evening. Morning Star Baptist Church of Jesus Christ, 2411 East 27th Street (at Wabash), KCMO. Instructed by Dr. Darren Edwards, United Believers Church of Kansas City. 816-923-3559.

AVOID PROBATE SEMINARS. Mar. 11 & 27, 7pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langford Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. Free. 816-524-3200.

■ calendar continued on next page

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Join the TOWN

FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETING. Mar. 13, 7-8:30pm. Countryside Christian Church, 6101 Nall Ave., Mission, KS. Cori Phelps will cover general information on using essential oils for pain relief. 913-384-4673.

GOSPEL OF GRACE & PEACE GATHERING. Mar. 14-16, 7pm nightly; 10am Sunday Celebration Service. Faith Ministries Community Church, 12222 Blue Ridge Ext., Grandview, MO 64030. Featuring Dr. James B. Richards. 816-695-7141.

MEN'S PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST. Mar. 15, 8am. Denny's Restaurant, I-70 & Blue Ridge Cut Off, KCMO. 816-356-6380.

RECONCILIATION WEEKEND. Mar. 21-23. Mansion at Elfindale, Springfield, MO. Spon. by If Not For Grace. Email Jama Edlund (jedlund@infgr.org) if you would like more information or to register for this weekend. 816-847-2911.

WOMEN'S PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP. Mar. 22, 9am. Heart of America Church, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., KCMO 64138. All welcome, call to reserve a spot. 816-356-6380.

FAMILY-TO-FAMILY. 12-week course beginning Mar. 26. Jewish Community Campus, 5801 W. 115th St., OPKS. Free course for family and friends of individuals with mental illness, provides participants with communication and problem-solving techniques, coping mechanism and the self-care skills needed to deal with their loved one's mental illness as well as its impact on the family. 913-327-8259.

FREE CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS OPEN HOUSE. Various times and locations. Come see the Classical Christian



Community in action, learn right along with us as you visit our Community! March 27, 8:45a.m.-3:00p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park, KS. RSVP: Jill Pettis jpettis@classicalconversations.com March 31, 8:45a.m.-1:00p.m. Shawnee Presbyterian Church, 6835 Pflumm Rd. Shawnee, KS RSVP: Mary K. Clinton maryk.clinton@gmail.com March 31, 8:45a.m.-3:00p.m. Nall Avenue Baptist Church, Prairie Village, KS. RSVP: April Watson awatson@classicalconversations.com April 3, 8:45a.m.-3:00p.m. Countryside Baptist Church, 14150 W 175th, Olathe, KS. RSVP:

Ruthe Reid southolathecc@gmail.com April 10, 8:45a.m.-3:30p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park, KS. RSVP: Kirstin Esau jonkirstin@embarkmail.com

WHOLE HEART GIRLS CONFERENCE. Mar. 29. Olathe Christian Church, 1115 S. Ridgeway Rd., Olathe, KS 66062. Main Speaker: The Sonflowerz. Whole Heart seeks to restore our "whole heart." We want to help our teenage girls imagine a future where they are restored and made new again. 913-782-3041.

WORLDVIEWCONFERENCE. Apr. 3. Hannibal Lagrange University, Hannibal, MO. Spon. by Missouri Baptists, The Pathway & Christian Life Commission. Speakers include: Dr. Anthony Allen, Ph.D., Dr. Janice Crouse, Ph.D., Bob McEwen, Kerry Messer, Dr. John Yeats, Rob Phillips, Justin Mosher & Don Hinkle. mobaptist.org/worldview.

KATHY TRICCOLI'S HOPE'S ALIVE WEEKEND CONFERENCE. Apr. 4, 7-8:30pm & Apr. 5, 9am-12:30pm. Olathe Bible

Church, 13700 W. 151st, Olathe, KS 66062. During this weekend, women will experience Triccoli in concert Friday night, then periods of worship, comedy, prayer, encouragement, and more on Saturday. 913-764-8280.

THE 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR PASTORS AND LAITY. Apr. 9-10. Ottawa University, Ottawa, KS. Featuring The Reverend Jacqueline L. Saxon. www.ottawa.edu/norwoodjones.

JR. CYIA TRAINING. Apr. 21 & May 2-3. For students entering 7th or 8th grade in the fall of 2014. Jr. CYIA students commit to a minimum of serving for two weeks of 5-Day Clubs in their local area (during the time frame of June 23-Aug. 8). Spon. by Child Evangelism Fellowship of the Greater KC Area. 816-358-1138.

THE ART OF MARRIAGE SEMINAR. Apr. 25-26. Lee's Summit First Assembly, 425 SW Oldham Parkway, Lee's Summit, MO. 816-524-0181.

STAND UP! MEN'S CONFERENCE "STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH." May 3, 9am-5pm. Calvary Bible College, 15800 Calvary Rd., KCMO 64147. \$15/person, includes lunch & dinner. Ages 13 & up. This conference will be a platform for older men to gather and encourage younger men about manhood, examining issues and what genuine manhood looks like from a Biblical perspective.

FAITH MINISTRIES 2014 WORLD CONFERENCE - MORE THAN ENOUGH. June 23-26, daytime sessions begin at 9:30am & preregistration is required; evening sessions begin at 7pm and will be open to the public. Faith Ministries, 12222 Blue Ridge Ext., Grandview, MO 64030. Speaker include: Dave & Bonnie Duell, Dennis & Denise Capra, Ed & Mona Shirley and Dan & Nancy Thompson; Worship by Juli Perry & Band! www.fmin.org.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

BATTLE OF THE BANDS. Mar. 1. Maranatha Christian Acad-

emy, 6826 Lackman Rd., Shawnee, KS. Open to all youth, 6-12 grades & youth groups. Featuring Remedy Drive. 913-631-0637.

"MARCH MADNESS." Bags dropped off on Mar. 2 in several neighborhoods around Independence, and then collected on Mar. 9. A food drive for Thomas Hart Benton Elementary school. If you would like to donate food to Thomas Hart Benton for their food pantry, please drop your non-perishables off at Independence First United Methodist, 400 W. Maple Ave., Indep., MO 64050. Contact Rachel, 816-863-4662.

GREATER KANSAS CITY NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS. Mar. 2-8. Calvary Temple Baptist Church, 2940 Holmes St., KCMO 64109. The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS of Greater Kansas City is designed to encourage the faith community to assist in educating the community on the risk factors associated with HIV/AIDS and to mobilize area African-American churches in reducing the spread of the disease. The CCON is a certified partner of the Balm in Gilead, Inc. and is the convener and fiscal agent for the local observance, which is held the first full week in March annually. Call for information & events. 816-531-4683.

DISCOVER MCA. Mar. 4, 6pm. Cross Points Sanctuary, Maranatha Christian Academy, 6826 Lackman Rd., Shawnee, KS. Open to any parents interested in Christian Education; Preschool age through 12th grade. 913-631-0637.

TIPS ("TAKING IT TO THE PEWS") REVIVAL. Mar. 5, 7pm. Centennial United Methodist Church, 1834 Woodland Ave., KCMO 64108. Host Pastor: David A. Gilmore; Guest Speaker Pastor Emeritus Wallace S. Hartsfield, Sr., metropolitan Baptist Church. The TIPS Revival is a mid-week Service for the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS in KC. The Week of Prayer is an effort to reach out to all faith traditions and all people to raise awareness and provide HIV/AIDS education. Join us for an evening filled with song, prayer, testimony and the Word of God as we demonstrate love and compassion for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. FREE and Confidential HIV & STD Screenings will be provided!

GRANDVIEW CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE. Mar. 6, 5-7pm. 12340 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO. A free chili dinner will be provided and there will be drawings for prizes for new families. Tours will be available and families will be able to meet with administrators, teachers and other school families. 816-767-8630.

"CHURCHES FIGHTING AIDS" BASKETBALL COMPETITION. Mar. 8. Central High School, 3221 Indiana Ave., KCMO. Featuring Youth & Young Adult Games from 9am-12pm, A Health & Community Resource Fair, HIV & STD Education & Testing will be provided. Help us rally together the Faith Community to lead in the fight against HIV/AIDS in KC! Team Entry Fee \$50/team. Pastor must serve as Team Captain but is not required to play. 816-531-4683 ext. 5.

■ calendar continued on next page

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CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5: FREE
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KANSAS CITY METRO MEN'S CHORUS. Mar. 8, 7-8:30pm. Greater KC Chinese Christian Church, 5316 Quivira Rd., Shawnee, KS 66216. Free will offering will be taken & all proceeds will go to Child Evangelism Fellowship, Inc.

LOVE'S OUTREACH FOOD DISTRIBUTION. Mar. 8, 11am-12:30pm. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO. Free food for families in need. Valid ID and proof of residency required to participate. www.cotroc.org or 816-246-7625.

"SHOW ME LIFE" PRO-LIFE ACTION DAY 2014. Mar. 11. Registration at 9am at Selinger Center, next to St. Peter Church. After 10am, registration also in the 1st floor Capitol Rotunda. Encourage your legislators to pass pro-life legislation, lobby them before and after the Noon Rally. Join the Noon Rally at the Capitol Rotunda. Stand Up 4 Life Student Action Day 2014 will be held in conjunction with Pro-Life Action Day. missourilife.org or 573-635-5110.

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE. Mar. 13 & Apr. 10, 9-11am. East Campus, 9333 West 15th St., OPKS. 913-681-7662.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE COMMUNITY COOKOUT. Mar. 15, 12-1:30pm. First United Methodist Church parking lot, 400 W. Maple Ave, Indep., MO. Games for the kids and drawings for gift certificates in various denominations. The parade will pass by the front of the church building, so bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the afternoon. 816-863-4662.

"POOR MAN'S LUNCH." Mar. 16, 9am Traditional Worship, 11:15am Relaxed Worship, 11:15am-1pm Potato Bar. Independence First United Methodist Church, 400 W. Maple Ave., Indep., MO 64050. Free will offering goes to help children go to summer camps. Find out "Who was St. Patrick and why is he still celebrated?" 816-863-4662.

FATHER & DAUGHTER PURITY BALL. Mar. 22, 5-9pm. Abundant Life Baptist Church, 414 SW Persels, Lee's Summit, MO 64081. \$20 per person. In this special event, the goal is to exhort Fathers to protect their daughters' purity, of heart and body. We hope that young ladies will see that true beauty and true purity comes when trusting in the work of Jesus Christ He washes all sin away! 816-566-0480.

LOVE'S OUTREACH COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN PLEASANT HILL. Mar. 22, 9am-10am. Cass Co. Fairgrounds, 308 W. Commercial, Pleasant Hill, MO. Free food for families in need. Valid ID & proof of residency required to participate. Free and open to the public. www.cotroc.org or 816-246-7625.

CRAFT SALE. Mar. 22, 9am-3pm. Parkway 103 Condominiums Clubhouse, 5300 104th St., OPKS. Kids toys, designer jeans, handmade jewelry, knitted and crocheted items, home décor and much more! Spon. by The Fibromyalgia Coalition. 913-384-4673.

MANA MEI LAGI PREVIEW WORSHIP. Mar. 23, 11:15am. Independence First United Methodist Church, 400 W. Maple Ave., Indep., MO. come join the celebration of Polynesian Islanders in worship with the message given by Pastor Posee Vatikani. 808-520-5433.

EAGLE EGG 5K. Apr. 5, 9am. Summit Christian Academy, 1500 SW Jefferson St., Lee's Summit, MO. 816-525-1480.

1ST ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET. Apr. 11. Silent Auction 5:30pm, Dinner 7pm. Overland Park Convention Center, OPKS. Keynote speaker: Former Attorney General John Ashcroft. Proceeds benefit KCCBS and Overland



THROUGH JUL 31 **CHURCHILL: THE ARTIST - THE HALLMARK VISITORS CENTER**

Christian School students. Tickets available at www.kccbs.edu or by calling 913-722-0272.

EASTER CANTATA. Apr. 19, 7pm & Apr. 20, 10:15am. Pisgah Baptist Church, 112 Pisgah, Excelsior Springs, MO. 816-630-5121.

"ART EVENT AT KCC": KANSAS CITY'S PREMIER CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS. Apr. 25-26. Kansas City Christian School, 79th St., just west of Roe in Prairie Village.

30+ artists will be exhibiting and selling original works of art. A portion of proceeds will benefit Kansas City Christian School. 913-648-5227.

SALVATION ARMY 2014 CIVIC LUNCHEON. May 8, 12-1:30pm. Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center, 2345 McGee St., KCMO 64108. Speaker Laura Bush.

11TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT. May 16. Eagles' Landing Golf Course, Belton, MO. Benefits Missouri Right to Life Western Region. 816-353-4113.

FINE ARTS

"THE-A-LONE RANter!" Through May 11, Saturdays at 7:30pm & Sundays at 3:30pm. 9601 Metcalf, in the Metcalf South Shopping Center, OPKS. Presented by Martin City Melodrama. 913-642-7576.

"AESOP'S AMAZING FABLES!" Through May 17, various show times. Metcalf South Shopping Center, 9601 Metcalf Ave., OPKS 66212. Presented by Martin City, Jr. 913-642-7576.

HAIFA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF ISRAEL. Mar. 1, 8pm. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., KCMO 64108. Pres. By Harriman-Jewell Series. 816-415-5025.

EKKLESIA. Mar. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 & 9. Greenleaf Music & Arts Academy, 1500 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS 66061. Original musical theatre production based on Acts 16, brings first century Philippi to life! Follow the journeys of Lydia - a seller of purple, Maltius - a Roman jailer, and Sabra - a tormented

slave girl, as they discover the healing and reconciliation found in Jesus. \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. 913-397-7071.

THE JACOMO CHORALE CONCERT. May 4, 6 PM. Nativity of Mary Church, Independence, MO. A concert of Broadway music

THE MUSIC MAN. Mar. 6, 7 & 8, 7pm. Plaza Heights Christian Academy Drama Department, 1500 SW Clark Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64015. Tickets are \$4 (ages 2-18) and adults are \$6 (children under 2 are free). 816-228-0670.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC. Mar. 6, 10am (School Day) & 7pm (Family Day); Mar. 7, 10am (School Day) & 7pm; Mar. 8, 2pm & 7pm; Mar. 9, 2pm. Goppert Theater Avila University, 11901 Wornall Rd., KCMO 64145. www.cytkc.org, 913-681-3318.

"GREAT EXPECTATIONS." Mar. 7, 7pm. Van Horn High School - Little Theater, 1109 Arlington, Indep., MO. Cost \$20. Suitable for children 12 and up & adults. Spon. by PAI. 816-833-9777.

"TASTE & SEE." Mar. 8, 7pm. River Church, 63rd & Woodson Rd., Raytown, MO. Spon. by Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre. dramatictruth@junio.com.

THE BIG BUPKIS - A COMPLETE GENTILE'S GUIDE TO YIDDISH VAUDEVILLE. Mar. 8, 7:30pm & Mar. 9, 2pm. White Theatre, 5801 W. 115th St., OPKS 66211. Shane Bertram Baker, unquestionably the biggest star in Yiddish vaudeville today, returns to his hometown of KC to tread the boards at the White Theatre! Rated PG. 913-327-8054.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING BY WILLIAMS SHAKE-SPEARE. Mar. 13-16, various show times and prices. Liberty Chapel, on the campus at Calvary Bible College, 15790 Elmwood Ave., KCMO 64147. Calvary.edu/arts or 816-322-0110.

LA BOHEME. Mar. 15, 17, 19 & 21, 7:30pm; Mar. 23, 2pm. Muriel Kauffman Theatre, 1601 Broadway Blvd., KCMO. The most beloved opera of all time. 816-994-7200.

GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAPTER ORGAN RECITAL. Mar. 17, 7:30pm. Atonement Lutheran Church, 9948 Metcalf Ave.,

OPKS. 816-333-4917 ext. 240.

SPIRE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE & BAROQUE ORCHESTRA - HANDEL'S ISTRAEL IN EGYPT. Mar. 30, 8pm. Helzberg Hall, 1601 Broadway Blvd., KCMO. 816-994-7200.

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD. Apr. 5, 10 & 12, 7:30pm; Apr. 6 & 13, 2pm. White Theatre, 5801 W. 115th St., OPKS 66211. Set in Alabama during the Great Depression, To Kill a Mockingbird follows the journey of Jem and Scout Finch, whose father has been appointed to defend Tom Robinson, a black man framed for a crime he didn't commit. Rated PG. 913-327-8054.

HERCULES. May 15, 10am (School Day) & 7pm (Family Day); May 16, 7pm, May 17, 2pm & 7pm, May 18, 2pm. Goppert Theater Avila University, 11901 Wornall Rd., KCMO 64145. www.cytkc.org or 913-681-3318.

THE LEGEND OF POCAHONTAS. May 15, 10am (School Day) & 7pm (Family Day); May 16, 7pm, May 17, 2pm & 7pm, May 18, 2pm. Bell Cultural Events Center, MidAmerica Nazarene, 2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS. www.cytkc.org or 913-681-3318.

FAMILY OUTINGS

ROMANCE IN BLOOM. Through Mar. 9. Powell Gardens, 1609 NW US Highway 50, Kingsville, MO 64061. Make a romantic getaway. The glass-topped conservatory will be brimming with soft pinks, blues and purples, combined with fragrant favorites such as stock and paperwhites. 816-697-2600.

PUBLIC OUTDOOR ICE SKATING. Through Mar. 9, 10am-9pm, Sun-thu; 10am-11pm, Fri-Sat. Crown Center Ice Terrace, 2425 Grand Blvd., KCMO 64108. 816-274-8411.

GRAND OLE OPry EXHIBITION. Through Mar. 16, 11am-3pm, Thu., Fri. Mid-America Arts Alliance, Culture Lab, 2018 Baltimore Ave., KCMO 64108. Free. The images document the radio show and the country music business during the zenith of country music. 816-421-1388.

"WINSTON CHURCHILL: THE ARTIST." Through Jul. 31,

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I have to say, Roxanne, I was so inspired by you yesterday. It was such a big day for Joey! I will admit that while you were working with him in getting Buddy to engage with him and Euddy decided to move toward him I shed a few tears. How great that was for Joey to see that it's okay to require others to earn trust; it was okay for Buddy to require Joey to earn his trust in being a good leader and it's okay for Joey to require trust be earned from others.

Though he may not trust people yet, he knows that he can trust an animal because the animal has never given him reason not to. And no matter what he has been through he still tries as hard as he can to make sure his friendship with Buddy is built on kindness and trust. Joey has used more expressive speech and stronger communication skills with Buddy than I have ever seen with him. Thank you for your heart and your service. A grateful member
Buddy's work on earth is done and we are forever grateful that he was a part of our herd - he is missed by many!

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entertainment

SON OF GOD EARNs CRITICAL ACCLAIM

moviereview

by Edwin L. Carpenter

The best on-screen biblical account of the life of Jesus

"Son of God" is lovingly made from start to finish. It is a warm and moving picture of the life of Jesus from the beginning to the resurrection. Producer Mark Burnett said they could not possibly film everything that happened in the gospels, so he selected certain highlights that conveyed the character and nature of Jesus as the true Son of God. This film is filled with compelling cinematography and closeups that draw the audience right into the midst of each scene.

"Son Of God" opens with a declaration from the book of John, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God". The film reinforces that pronouncement with various events, including Adam being created from the dirt, scenes of Noah and Moses leading up to the eventual telling of the story of Jesus. His birth in Bethlehem and His baptism by John the Baptist were clearly portrayed. Other moving scenes include Jesus teaching the Beatitudes, walking on the water, the feeding of the multitude, and raising Lazarus from the



Diogo Morgado reprises his role as Jesus

dead. The film treats Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey followed by the Last Supper and His betrayal with careful detail. Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane and his capture through to the crucifixion are indelible reminders of His suffering and sacrifice for mankind. Of course no story of the Son of God would be complete without His resurrection.

I found myself spiritually stirred as I watched this movie. The brutality of the crucifixion reminded me of what Christ willingly endured to redeem the lost. It renewed me. The movie was filmed in Morocco with realistic scenes, including incredible views of the temple in Jerusalem. It is one of those rare pictures that features stirring music, a great story, and a superb cast. The viewer will feel

film411

SON OF GOD

STARS: Fraser Ayres, Rick Bacon, Hami Belal, Said Bey, Paul Brightwell, Andrew Brooke, Anas Chenin, Joe Coen

WRITER: Richard Bedser & Christopher Spencer

DIRECTOR: Christopher Spencer

PRODUCER: Mark Burnett & Roma Downey

RUNTIME: 138 minutes

RATING: PG13

Mary's pain as Roma Downey does a remarkable job portraying the mother of Jesus witnessing her son cruelly tortured and crucified. Diogo Morgado is a strong and convincing Jesus.

We recommend "Son of God" and award it our Faith Based Seal. There are graphically violent moments including scenes of Roman soldiers attacking the crowds and Jesus' suffering and crucifixion. This is a movie with a message. It will take you on a powerful, compelling and, in the end, spiritual journey.

"Son of God" is playing at area theaters including Blue Springs 8.

MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE!

Hyped on Hyper-Grace

Why it's one of the most important books you'll read in 2014



Larry Sparks

readernook

This project has intrigued me since I began following Dr. Michael Brown's discussion of the topic hyper-grace. The reason this book is so important is because it helps you rightly divide the Word of God in the sea of many Jesus-exalting, God-glorifying voices. And yet the best voices can still fall prey to error and even deception. This is why we must know how to clearly identify what God's grace is, what it does and how we are biblically called to respond.

I will cut right to the chase. While I do not agree with every single word in the book, I agree with enough of it to offer my highest recommendation. I thought about removing this bit from the review, but honestly, it should be kept. Regardless of where you stand on matters concerning God's grace, salvation, holiness, the Law, Old Testament relevancy and eternal security, this is a very important book for you to read. Why? It will get you thinking—and in

the best possible ways.

Right up front, Brown presents the facts with precision, love and respect. Between reading both his Hyper-Grace and Authentic Fire books, I have been amazed at how well a Christian leader such as Brown can call out deception (and, yes, name names) while maintaining such a strong witness of Christian character and even honoring those he does not agree with. Whether it is John MacArthur or Joseph Prince, Brown never resorts to painting with broad strokes, bashing or name-calling. Time after time, you will see him go out of his way to celebrate some of the wonderful contributions these leaders have made or are making to the body of Christ.

It will not take much research for you to discover which Christian leaders (and their perspectives on grace) this book addresses. If these are people you admire and are concerned that Brown's perspective will ruin your image of them, hang in there with me.

After reading Hyper-Grace I am all the more intentional at evaluating what I hear from any Christian leader by the eternal standard of Scripture.

Throughout Hyper-Grace, Brown exposes readers to challenging topics concerning grace, such as: Do we need still to repent for our sins—even after we are saved? Does the Holy Spirit still convict us of sin, or is He okay with us

■ See BOOK page 19



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JARS OF CLAY OFFERS FREE ALBUM



D.C. Jeanes
Metro Voice
Music Editor

musicscene

For a limited time (I assume), Jars of Clay has an E.P. available for free at Noise-trade.com! Eastside Manor Sessions EP was presented as a sort of sampler of the JoC's new release, Inland.

Presented with stripped-down versions of a few new songs, there are also live renditions of songs the band has become known for ("Dead Man (Carry Me)," for one). They also have a few other offerings on there, including a sort-of best of collection, called Gather and Build. If you are technologically savvy and enjoy some good, alternative music, this would be one way to go without spending too much.

The newest movie about the life of Jesus, "Son of God," has a trailer showcas-



ing For King and Country's song "Crave."

Selected as the "New Artist of the Year," For King and Country will also have their song "Baby Boy" included on the inspired CD, SON OF GOD: Music Inspired by the Epic Motion Picture. The artists are currently on tour with Casting Crowns. Speaking of



which, For King and Country and Casting

Crowns will be performing at the Independence Events Center on April 3. For more information, please visit www.forkingandcountry.com/shows.

In other concert news, David Phelps (known both for his work with the Gaither Vocal Band as well as a successful solo career) will be performing at Graceway Church in Kansas City on March 7. Doors will open at 7 pm. There is also a great interview with Phelps in this issue of the Metro Voice! For more information on the tour and tickets, please visit www.visitgraceway.org.

Audio Adrenaline will perform in Sedalia, on March 30, at the Mathewson Exhibition Center in the Missouri State Fair Grounds. General admission, in advance will be \$20, and \$25 at the door. The VIP package will be \$45, and includes early entry (5:30pm), VIP lanyard, Meet & Greet, Up Front Seating, autograph session, and



For King and Country is comprised of brothers Joel and Luke Smallbone

"Audio A" band photo and CD. For more information, please visit Facebook page "Change A Life Tour - Sedalia, Missouri."

Last, the Collingsworth Family will be performing Evening of Family Worship and Praise concert at the Cowen Memorial Auditorium, on April 10. Phil and Kim Collingsworth, along with their four children, bring a sense of family celebration

and worship. With a history that dates back to 1986, The Collingsworth Family have performed nationally and internationally. For uplifting music, an inspirational message, and some great voices, this would be the show to see in April. For more information, please visit www.thecollingsworthfamily.com.

BOOK

continued from page 18

living any old way we choose (and still claim a Christian label)? Are the words of Jesus Christ, as presented in Gospels, still relevant for us today? (It's terrifying that some are even questioning this.) Is sanctification a lifelong process or is it simply part of what we receive at conversion? And finally, what place does the Law of God and the Old Testament have in a believer's life in the 21st century? This is not an exhaustive topic listing but merely a selection of what you will discover in the book.

In the end, Dr. Brown makes readers aware that there are the different levels of hypergrace deception, with some leaders mildly entertaining error while others skirt dangerous heresy that actually distorts Scripture. This book is a vital tool to help Christians navigate the various messages and viewpoints when it comes to one of Scripture's most glorious realities: grace.

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Putting joy back into music is goal for David Phelps

by **D.C. Jeanes**



David Phelps is a man many have come to know as the current tenor for the Gaither Vocal Band, and for good reason. Phelps has a vocal range not common, including an ability to maintain a tessitura (Italian for "texture") for long periods of time. He also has a recognizably beautiful timbre that blends nicely with the other gentlemen singing with the Gaither Vocal Band.

Phelps also has had a career highlighting his solo work. Hoping to get working on his eleventh solo album this year, not including live recordings, Phelps is cur-



rently on tour, supporting his Classics album released a few years ago. The Classics tour will be coming to Kansas City in March and Metro Voice got a chance to chat with David Phelps about the tour, his

music and his family.

"I grew up singing with my family. I learned singing was a way to express my faith," Phelps said, "we travelled around a lot."

Now, he says, the tradition continues.

"My daughters sing with me [on tour]," noting that there is a recording of his then-14 year-old daughter singing 'Agnes Dei' on Youtube.

My cousin is our manager; my sister [Kari Lee] plays trumpet with us." David's other sister, Sherri Deinise Phelps Proctor, also sang with him over a fifteen year period, before losing her battle with cancer almost two years ago.

"My family was pretty eclectic in their music," he continued, noting that, along with gospel and hymns, the family would often listen to such bands as Journey and Queen while travelling. Phelps mentions they enjoyed a variety of musical styles, but also appreciated the creativity and variety that could often come from one artist or band. "My son says 'I don't like country

■ See DAVID PHELPS page 21



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■ SOCIAL MEDIA

continued from page 10

The problem is, because we speak from behind the thin veil of a screen, we disconnect a person's words from the context of their life. We pounce without understanding the heart, the motives, or the real life story of the one whom we are castigating.

And when everyone voices an opinion about everything that is major news, the world sometimes sees the worst side of who we are. It is by our oneness that the world will know we are followers of Jesus, but social media can fuel division and put it on display.

Social media can distract us from what matters even more. What matters more than our presence in the digital space? Our physical, mental, and emotional presence with those whom we love. Social media will direct our attention to conversations happening elsewhere and distract us from the conversations happening right around us.

How many times do we see tables full of family members, each in their own world with a smartphone? And how often do we "just check Facebook for a second" while our kids are playing a dozen feet from us? Sometimes we just need to check in instead of "checking in."

The problem isn't really social media. It's our humanness.

But social media, with all of its power for good, can provide a pretty great outlet for some of our worst human habits.

Brandon Cox became a pastor at age nineteen and has served in that role in small churches, as well at Sadleback Church.

DAVID PHELPS

continued from page 20

music,' so I've been trying to introduce him to some different music; he's a big Queen fan right now."

As for his time with the Gaithers through the years?

"It's been a dream to work with Bill and Gloria. I have often felt like they are the teachers... and I consider myself the student." When asked what some of the differences

between singing with the Gaithers and working on his solo work, he says that Bill is in charge of what the Vocal Band does, and he's perfectly happy to follow Bill's lead. As for his solo work, "my music might tend to go in a more modern direction. There's a lot of joy in it!"

Phelps latest endeavor, The Classic tour and album, has been a sort of tribute to his influences and inspirations. "The

Classics album was a collection of songs that are more established songs, including

"The Lord's Prayer,' 'What a wonderful World,' as well as some operatic classics, and a few I've written that have lasted." The tour, likewise, will be a celebration of all of the grand opportunities that he has enjoyed with his musical talent. "I've performed at the Sydney Opera House and performed in the White House; it's been a

pretty great ride."

As much as a "great ride," however, Phelps says he doesn't get much time to enjoy the cities he visits on tour.

"We usually drive in, sleep, rehearse, perform, and move on..."

Here's to hoping KC can give him a memorable welcome!

"I grew up singing with my family. I learned singing was a way to express my faith"

DAVID PHELPS



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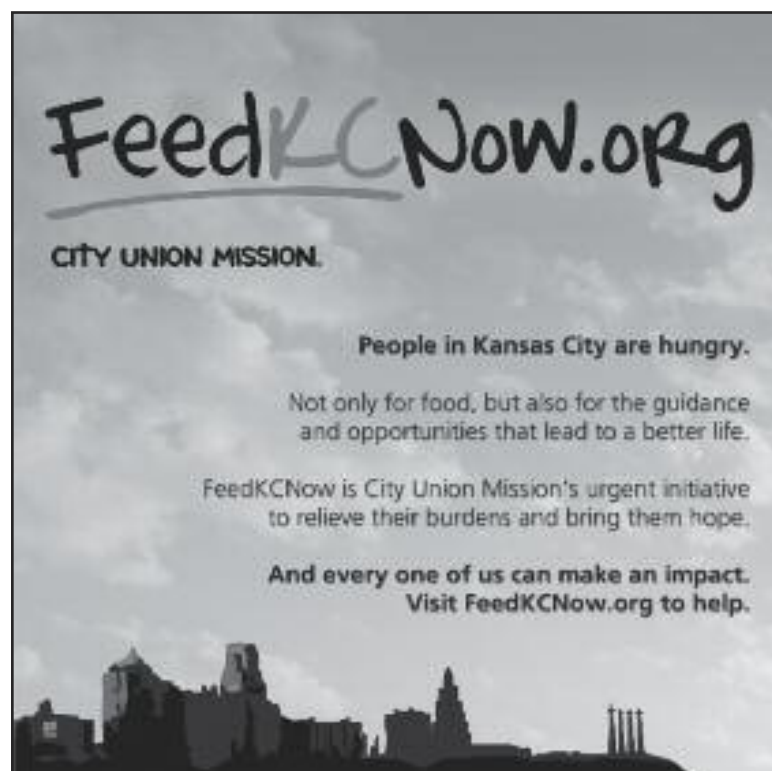
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■ CULTURE STORM

continued from page 1

And the targets have been exclusively Christians.

The military labeled evangelical Christians and Catholics as religious extremists. Christian organizations like Family Research Council and American Family Association were labeled by the military as domestic hate groups. Bibles were briefly banned from Walter Reed Medical Center.

The Internal Revenue Service targeted Christian ministries engaged in pro-life activities. The government demanded to know the content of one group's prayers. A Wyoming church was ordered by government officials to turn over their membership roles. A Baptist newspaper in North Carolina was audited as was America's evangelist, Billy Graham.

The list of attacks on Christians goes on and on – from students ordered to stop praying in front of the Supreme Court to chaplains being told he could no longer pray in the name of Jesus.

In recent months, the battleground has pitted gay rights groups against Christian-owned businesses who cater to the wedding industry. Christian bakers, florists and photographers have been hauled into court and brought up on state discrimination charges for declining to participate in same-sex weddings.

And in every single instance – lower courts have ruled that gay rights trump religious rights.

So perhaps it should not be a surprise that 70 percent of pastors and 54 percent of Americans believe religious liberty is on the decline. Scott McConnell, vice president of LifeWay Research, said the concern is widespread.

"Half of Americans say that religious liberty is on the decline," he said.

"That's a lot of people."

Robert Jeffress, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, conceded that Christians are losing the culture war and they are losing ground every day.



"The primary reason Christians are losing the culture wars is that pastors are AWOL when it comes to informing and energizing their congregations," Jeffress told me.

Unless Christians stand up and engage the political process, Jeffress said he fears there may come a day when religious liberty is extremely curtailed.

"A religious leader once said, 'my successor will see the tax exempt status removed from churches and his successor will go to jail,'" Jeffress said. "That is probably on the horizon."

But there are some pockets of resistance – like the town of Greenwood in the Mississippi Delta.

Jim Phillips is the senior pastor of North Greenwood Baptist Church. He told me that Greenwood

still has a "very high respect for the historical Judeo-Christian ethic."

"Every one of my son's community college football games around the state last season began with a prayer on the loud speaker – in Jesus' name," he told me. "Will that eventually be challenged? I suspect so at some point."

But right now he said, "pockets of religious boldness still exist." Phillips said national trends, though, are disturbing.

"Christians have slowly given away their impact on culture by becoming more and worldlier instead of confronting the culture to become more and more godly," he said.

So who is to blame for the loss? Phillips blames Christians.

"Sadly, Christians have often wimped out and grown silent instead of being bolder for the Gospel," he said. "Christians get subdued into thinking they're not supposed to rise up."

Jeffress agreed with that assessment and said the church must involve itself in the political process.

"There are 50 to 80 million evangelicals in America," he said. "Only half are registered to vote and only half of those voted in the last election." Jeffress said it's imperative for people of faith to engage the culture. "Every time we go to the voting booth we are casting a vote for righteousness or unrighteousness," he said.

Pastor Phillips also urged his fellow pastors to step up to the plate.

"My calling is to keep leading the charge," he said.



"We ought to do everything we can to push back against this encroachment on religious liberty and protect our right to spread the Gospel," he said.

Billy Graham was never afraid to confront culture with truth but I'm reminded of a quote by President Ronald Reagan.

"If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under," Reagan once said.

A few years ago, A New York public school teacher was ordered to remove that quote from her classroom wall. She was told that it violated the U.S. Constitution.

I'm afraid we may be "gone under."

■ PHONE PRIVACY

continued from page 1

ABC7. "What are they going to do with that data? Are they going to keep it forever? Are they going to aggregate it? Are they going to sell it to 'affiliates?' We just don't know. That's what's so troubling to me."

John Fu, Euclid's director of marketing, told Texas-based news outlet CBS DFW that the company's client list includes a wide variety of establishments, from "mom & pop stores and coffee shops to large department stores."

It's called Mobile Location Analytics, and it uses Wi-Fi or Bluetooth and your gadget's unique MAC address (name unrelated to Apple Mac) to know your location. That way, for example, an airport knows how much time you spent in certain shops, waiting in security or at the baggage claim. A store knows when you move from one department to another or linger in front of a certain product. Then there's the possibility that, in the future, they would use this information when you return to the store based on your MAC address.

Now, an important thing to note is that MLA doesn't include any other information about you. So, it doesn't know your name, email or phone number. At this point, advertisers and stores can't match your gadget's MAC address to your face and name.

However, I can think of a few ways they could do so in the future. They might use facial recognition with security camera footage – they're already using cameras for

■ sidenote

Who is keeping tabs?

With public concern over the NSA and its extensive spying programs on foreign nationals AND ordinary Americans like you and me, it's important to remember that it doesn't have a monopoly on tracking what you do. Other organizations and technology keep tabs on you as well.

I'm not just talking about online advertisers. In fact, you might be surprised at some of the things spying on you.

1. Your car: You may or may not have heard that beginning September 1, 2014, every new car is required to have a black box installed. This will record information about your speed, direction, braking, whether you're wearing a seat belt and everything else going on in the seconds surrounding a crash.

Investigators will know exactly what happened rather than trying to figure it out based

on witness testimony. That might not be such a bad thing – if you're in the right.

Of course, the big worry is that the black box might eventually go beyond that. Paired with a GPS, a black box could easily record your entire driving history. In many countries around the world, such as Jordan, other Middle Eastern countries and some autocratic regimes in southeast Asia, government us phones and black boxes to track the movements of law-abiding citizens.

Insurance companies might eventually use the data to set your premiums. Some states, such as California, are already talking about including GPS to tax drivers based on how many miles they drive. What happens if hackers get hold of the data?

"Well," you might say, "I'm not going to buy a car made after 2013." I have some bad news for you. Around 96 percent of new cars already include a black box. In fact, they've been in use by some manufacturers since the early '90s. If your car has one, it will say somewhere in the

owner's manual.

the Future of Privacy Forum has set up a site called Smart Store Privacy. Visit it at www.smartstoreprivacy.org. You can put in your Wi-Fi and Bluetooth MAC addresses and it will tell participating tracking companies that you don't want to be tracked. Right now, there are 11 companies signed on.

Finding your Wi-Fi and Bluetooth MAC addresses is a little tricky depending on your gadget. Here are some general instructions.

Note: You're looking for a 12-digit number like 91:17:7B:82:C2:A5 or 91-17-7B-82-C2-A5. It should be clearly labeled.

owner's manual.

2. Your favorite stores: Whenever you swipe a loyalty card such as at Price Chopper or Hy-Vee, enter your phone number or use the same credit card at a store, your purchases go into a database profile. Based on what you buy, stores know way more about you than you think.

Back in 2012, the New York Times Magazine reported a shocking story. A father was shocked while shopping in a Target with his daughter when the store sent his 16-year-old daughter coupons for baby supplies. What was Target doing sending pregnancy promotions to a minor?

Well, it turns out the daughter really was pregnant. Target had a team that, crunching data from millions of consumers, were eerily accurate at such predictions. Target can tell how far along a pregnancy is and estimate a fairly accurate due date based on what a person buys.

Imagine what else they can figure out about

your politics, beliefs, health, relationships and more. Scary stuff.

Target isn't the only store doing this, of course. Any business loves to have an inside edge on its customers so it can time promotions for the most impact.

Of course, imagine if the government got hold of that information (assuming it hasn't already) or your health-insurance provider. Even worse, what about identity thieves and scammers? Think what they could do with invaluable information into your habits.

Given the major data breaches happening lately, with Target coincidentally having the worst data breach in retail history, it isn't a stretch to think this information might get out as well.

And, aside from using fake information – which some people do – and paying cash, or shopping at the farmer's market, there isn't anything you can do about it.

Welcome to George Orwell's world!

APPLE: For Apple gadgets, go to Settings>>General>>About and look under Wi-Fi Address and Bluetooth. If you don't see an address, you should turn on Wi-Fi and Bluetooth and then check again.

ANDROID: For Android gadgets, every phone manufacturer has things set up a little differently. First, make sure Wi-Fi and Bluetooth are turned on. Then go to Settings>>About Phone or Settings>>About Tablet.

It might be under Hardware Information or Status. If you can't find it check your gadget's manual for the precise location.

WINDOWS PHONE: For Wi-Fi, go to Start>>Settings>>Connections>>Wire-

less LAN>>Advanced. Look in the MAC field. Wi-Fi needs to be on for this to work.

For Bluetooth, go to Start>>Settings>>Connections>>Bluetooth>>Accessibility and look under Address. Bluetooth needs to be on for the address to show up.

BLACKBERRY: For Wi-Fi, go to Setup>>Options>>Device>>Device and Status Information, and look under the WLAN MAC heading.

On Blackberry gadgets running OS 5 or earlier, go to Options>>Status and look under WLAN MAC. For Bluetooth, go to Connections>>Bluetooth>>Properties to find the MAC address.

– By Kim Komando

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NOT MADE IN CHINA: Shen Yun cannot be seen in today's China, where traditional Chinese culture has been mostly destroyed under communist rule. Based in New York, Shen Yun is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reviving authentic Chinese culture.

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