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Valeo opens new Crisis Center

EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH CARE OFFERED

A promise of hope for people experiencing a mental health crisis was fulfilled in October as Valeo Behavioral Health Care opened its new 26-bed Crisis Center in Topeka.

This expansion of Valeo's services creates a regional center specializing in mental health emergency care. Valeo will now be able to provide greatly



needed support for the overburdened health system — and an overburdened law enforcement system as well.

Valeo has a longstanding partnership with local law enforcement, providing training and assistance so that when an officer responds to a call, he or she has the expertise and the resources to help the person in mental health crisis get the proper services needed rather than being taken to jail or to a hospital emergency room.

Many times, families are concerned about seeing the mental welfare of a loved one severely compromised but are unsure about how to get help. Since Valeo has a full range of services, making a connection there will provide an entry point for assessment and direct people to the right path of care.

"We've offered crisis services for 47 years," said Glea Ashley, CEO of Valeo. "But we've been constrained on how many people we can accept into our programs because our facilities were limited. And with the closure of the Menninger Clinic, Parkview Hospital and Topeka State Hospital, the need has grown dramatically."

With community based programs and community mental health centers over capacity, people in crisis are ending up in jail, hospital emergency departments or the Osawatimie State Hospital — all at much higher cost, and

■ Please see VALEO page 3

HOMELESS

Thanksgiving

There's no missing it when you look around: record numbers of Americans on food stamps, overflowing occupancy at homeless shelters, the high number of individuals applying for disability. All this while the headlines say the Great Recession is over. The recovery has begun, but it started at a snail's pace, and we have a long way to go.

There's no getting by one fact: our community's poor residents continue to stretch the resources of food pantries, soup kitchens and other services offered by local organizations. The problem seems most critical as Thanksgiving and Christmas approach and we prepares for another record-breaking winter.

This year Metro Voice readers can again do their part by answering the call to assist with food and warm clothing donations, finances or just a few volunteer hours.

Ministry Needs Guide - Page 4

PARTNERS TO SHARE THE WARMTH

Scotch Cleaners and The Salvation Army have once again partnered to provide coats for those in need through the "Share the Warmth" program. From now through November 22, coats will be collected for cleaning at Scotch Cleaners locations at 134 SE Quincy St., 2801 SE California Ave., and 2007 NW Topeka Blvd.

On December 6, the coats will be distributed at The Salvation Army, 1320 SE 6th Street, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Those in need of a warm winter coat are asked to sign-up upon arrival and list the number of coats needed for those currently living in your household. No documentation is required, but we ask that you shop for your own family only. Personal shoppers will be available to assist. To volunteer, call 233-9648.

New South-side Restaurant is Locally-Owned

SOMETHING NEW TO TRY AND IT'S NOT ON WANAMAKER



Topeka restaurateur Mark Janice has opened The Southern Star Cafe on south Topeka Blvd.

Topeka restaurateur Mark Janice has opened a new restaurant, The Southern Star Cafe, at 5900 S.W. Topeka Blvd. It is the former location of Pat's Pig.

Janice bought the restaurant in August and remodeled inside for a more open, airy and family-friendly atmosphere. He re-opened in September and is now open for lunch and dinner six days a week.

The Southern Star is a barbecue-oriented restaurant, but also offers

hand-breaded Chicken Fried Steak, chicken tenders, burgers and salads. Janice says meats are smoked daily at the restaurant for a fresher product.

"We offer high-quality, St. Louis-style ribs, as well as brisket, ham and turkey," Janice said.

Janice has worked in the food service industry all his life, with 16 years of that in Topeka (most recently on Wanamaker), but has never owned his own restaurant.

"It's always been a dream of mine

to open my own restaurant," he said.

Janice offers custom catering as well, and also purchased a brand new mobile food trailer in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., earlier this year. It is equipped with a full kitchen and will be used at various events around the city in the coming year.

Online reviews have been glowing for this new locally-owned restau-

rant. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

"Our goal is to serve great food at a great price," Janice said. "We're a little out of the way, but it's worth the drive!"

You can call ahead if you like, at 862-7427, or email the restaurant at thesouthernstarcafe@gmail.com. For more information go to www.thesouthernstarcafe.com. The Southern Star Cafe can also be found on facebook.



Overcoming secularization in American churches

Churches urged to learn new missiology to reach young people

By Vicki Brown

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — What is happening to Christianity in the United Kingdom is heading to the United States, one British theologian believes. And U.S. Christians can benefit from the lessons the English have learned as they continue to struggle with changes in a post-Christian world.

Malcolm Duncan, pastor of Gold Hill Baptist Church in Chalfont St. Peter, England, spoke to mid-Missouri pastors and church leaders through video technology as part of the “Reveal: identify, engage, reproduce” conference. The conference drew from the Acts 17 story of Paul’s using the culture of Athens to share the gospel.

Indicators, both outside and inside the church, are revealing the creep of secularization across the British nation. Duncan gave seven signs of secularization he sees outside the church and seven within it.

The theologian cites the rise of a new atheism, changes in accepted morality and a shift away from including religious understanding in education. He pointed



Malcolm Duncan (on screen), pastor of Gold Hill Baptist Church in Chalfont St. Peter, England, and Joshua Hedger, director of the Center for Church Planting at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, share at the Reveal Conference in Jefferson City, Mo.

out that British society is becoming more multicultural. While he sees the change as “good,” it has led to a struggle among belief systems. While it is unacceptable to make statements about other religious groups, society is now free to marginalize Christianity.

Terms, such as education and family, are being redefined, and people are more suspicious of authority, he added.

Duncan sees growing biblical illiteracy — including among congregational leaders — as the greatest challenge and a key sign of secularization within the church.

The director of Catalyst Mission, an open mission movement across the U.K., told the Missourians another sign of internal secularization is a redefinition of “faithful” and “committed.” Other signs include crises of leadership and of confidence in the church, aggression and attack — the church is known for what it stands against — the splintering of evangelicalism and the confusing of primary and secondary theological issues.

The organized church in the U.K. contributed to the problem, Duncan said, because Christians thought they simply needed to “batten down the hatches.” Instead, they failed to engage the culture. They have lost the difference between the gospel — God reconciling the world through Jesus — and mission or service.

The church has lost its accountability, and it has told outsiders to come in, even though God has commanded believers to go and share the gospel. “People don’t come to church to find God. They come to the church after they find him,” Duncan said.

The church has confused political power with spiritual authenticity, it has chased influence at the expense of authority, and it holds private discussions in public.

Duncan believes the U.S. church can learn seven lessons from U.K. brothers and sisters. The church must seek God instead of trying to organize its way. “We’re not a business, but a family,” he said.

The church must not let culture shape its understanding of Scripture and must engage the culture distinctively. It must recognize the age of denominationalism is dying and must refuse to compromise on the important issues. It also must learn to take risks.

Today’s church must not compromise on the gospel. Instead, it must guard the gospel and pass it to the next generation. “We must be a gospel people who plant gospel churches,” he said.

Joshua Hedger, director of the Center for Church Planting at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, spoke on reaching younger generations through cultural engagement, relevancy and authenticity.

He emphasized that while congregations must be different in each locality, foundations for church planting apply to all.

The American church is substituting social justice for the gospel, Hedger said. Instead, believers must learn a new language and a new missiology to reach younger generations.

Churches talk about race relations

by World News Service



The shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., on Aug. 9 brought race relations to the forefront of the news. A survey of evangelical leaders conducted three days before the shooting indicates that racial reconciliation was already an ongoing topic among evangelical churches in the United States.

Seventy-one percent of the evangelical leaders surveyed said their churches have discussed the need for racial reconciliation from the pulpit, in seminars or in courses, according to the August Evangelical Leaders Survey.

“The survey shows that evangelicals care about racial reconciliation,” said Leith Anderson, President of the National Association of Evangelicals. “Most have addressed the issue publicly. Some have placed special emphasis on it. Others haven’t but know they should. A few have not, even though many of their members are minorities.”

Paul de Vries, president of New York Divinity School and senior pastor of Immanuel Community Church in Manhattan, said, “Even in our racially diverse congregation, racial reconciliation is an important theme going forward toward more complete healing.”

While the survey asked about the churches that leaders attend, denominational, educational and organizational leaders indicated that the topic has been important in their contexts as well.

For example, Doug Beacham, General Superintendent of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church (IPHC), said his denomination started engaging the issue 20 years ago,

when the former IPHC general superintendent worked to unite two Pentecostal denominational fellowships, which were divided by race, to create the Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches of North America, a fellowship that continues today.

When the IPHC gathered in Fayetteville, N.C., in 1996, denominational leaders repented of seven specific sins, including the sin of racism. The denomination also made changes in their leadership and departmental structure to be more representative of the denomination’s diversity.

“Racial reconciliation remains a major focus of our movement,” Beacham said.

“We continue to host and encourage regular dialogue within and outside the denomination between white and African American pastors and churches. Needless to say we still have a long way to go, but I am thankful we are engaged in the process.”

Anderson said, “Sermons, seminars and courses in churches on racial reconciliation are not just a response to current events. They represent a deep expression of Christian faith — one that was an issue in biblical times as much as today.”

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VALEO

continued from page 1

without access to the appropriate treatment services. The new Crisis Center will offer the right treatment in a better environment and lower cost to everyone.

"This offers people a chance to safely work on their recovery and maintain their place in the community," said Patti Bossert, Valeo Board Chair and president of Premier Employment Solutions.

"We know that when people get the proper mental health care, it reduces their overall health care costs by 20 percent. As a community, we can't afford not to invest in mental health."

Once brought into the Crisis Center, an individual gets a proper assessment, then the appropriate services such as medication, counseling or other treatment. The expected average length of stay can range

from hours to several days.

The new Crisis Center is located at 400 SW Oakley. A 24-Hour Crisis Hotline, 785-234-3300, is operated by Kansas Health Solutions. It is estimated that one in four people will need mental health services in their lifetime. Valeo deals with adults, and Family Service and Guidance Center deals with children.



Valeo offers 24 hour crisis services and 29 programs throughout eight locations. The agency employs approximately 340 staff including doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, social workers, counselors, technicians, case managers and peer support specialists. It serves an average 7,000 residents in Shawnee County each year, and partners with over 80 agencies and companies to coordinate services.

Some key partnerships include Topeka Rescue Mission, area hospitals, Shawnee County Jail and law enforcement. More information about Valeo can be found at <http://www.valeotopeka.org>.

Chaplain's Corner
Uncommon Prayers



Fred S. Hollomon

Chaplain Emeritus
Kansas Senate

Prayers like this may be found in my Book of Uncommon Prayers at Book Boutique at the Library, Wolfe's Camera Shop, the State Capital, and my Web site, fsh-kschap.org

Heavenly Father,
It's the month of November,
And all through the house
Families are stirring.
But not for a mouse.

No stockings are hanging,
On the chimney with care.
And families don't expect
St. Nicholas to be there.

What they are expecting
Are more family members,
To join them in thanking
Your blessings in November.

The families are rejoicing
For the answered prayer,
That You, Lord, provided
Through out this year!

**I Pray in the Name of Jesus Christ
AMEN**

Christians, Jews team up to fight Islamic persecution

Now Jews and Christians are banding together to fight growing persecution of Christians in Islamic countries.

"When hundreds of thousands of Christians - men, women and children - are killed, this isn't a war, this is genocide.

And Jews know what happens when the world is silent to genocide," World Jewish Congress President Ron Lauder said at the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem's annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem.

Lauder advocates for Jewish people around the world. Now he's teaming up with the ICEJ and Empowered21 to fight Christian persecution.

"What's happened to the Christians (is) they're being massacred and killed," Lauder told CBN News in an interview. "Some 120,000 were killed last year and no one says anything. Everyone's focusing on Gaza now and the fact is the world is coming apart."

The WJC, Empowered21 and the ICEJ sent a letter recently to more than 100 world leaders calling on them to take up the cause of persecuted Christians in Muslim countries.

Together, the three groups represent millions around the world.



ICEJ Executive Director Jurgen Buhler told journalists, "For the first time to my knowledge in modern history, a Jewish organization and a Christian organization are joining in a letter to protect Christians in the Middle East."

"There has simply been a horrendous thing that has been going on. Christianity is dwindling in the Middle

East. We believe it should be growing," Oral Roberts University President Billy Wilson, told CBN News.

Canon Andrew White, known as the Vicar of Baghdad, said ISIS beheaded 30 more children in October who refused to convert to Islam.

"The children said, 'We have always followed Yesua [Arabic]. We will never leave Yesua.' They all had their heads chopped off. This is the kind of terror we are facing," White told journalists.

Lauder encouraged more than 4,000 Christians from 80 nations at the Feast of Tabernacles celebration to fight together.

In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he wrote that God did not give us a spirit of fear but the spirit of power," Lauder said. "Have courage. Have strength and as one, Christians and Jews, we will be strengthened together and we will not fail."

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Thirty-One Shawnee Heights High School Students Show Up for 'See You at the Pole'

By Carolyn Cogswell

It takes courage to swim upstream, to stand out in a crowd, to go against the flow of your peers, especially if you're a teen. On Wednesday, Sept. 25, 31 students did just that at the annual "See You at The Pole" event at Shawnee Heights High School in Topeka.

According to Wikipedia, since 1990, Christian students of all ages in the U.S. have gathered annually in front of their local school for prayer, scripture-reading and worship, during the early morning before school starts.

Clay Graber, 17, a senior at Shawnee Heights, coordinated the event at Shawnee Heights, along with Chance Joose, 23, Washburn kinesiology student and assistant Washburn tennis coach, who also coordinates Young Life, a Christian student club, with Shawnee Heights students.

Students came out to show their love for Jesus and their peers by gathering around the flagpole at 7:00 a.m. that Wednesday morning, to join hands and pray, to listen to a word of encouragement and to hear a little about "See You at the Pole."

"Go sit with someone who's eating alone in the cafeteria," Joose said. "Actually mean it when you say, 'What's up?' Spread the love of Jesus to everybody you meet."

Joose graduated from Shawnee Heights High School five years ago and has only been a Christian for two years

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MINISTRY NEEDS GUIDE



Each year Metro Voice provides a listing of organizations that serve the most vulnerable in our communities. Whether it is the single mom and her children, our elderly, orphans, the sick, the homeless or incarcerated, our readers respond with prayers, time, items and finances to keep these ministries going throughout the year. "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" 1 John 3:17. Let us all work together to show the love of Christ this Christmas and the coming year. Together, we can make a difference.

ALPHA CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME AND SCHOOL. Perry, Ks; 785-597-5235; www.alphachristianchildrenshome.com; Michelle Kincaid. A ministry for children in need due to abuse, neglect, being orphaned, troubled, or other forms of dysfunction. Alpha provides the children with a loving family and opportunities for healing and growth. A school learning center promotes excellence and success academically, sometimes for the first time, for each child. Alpha is 100% privately funded, and there is no tuition charge for those served. We are always in need of financial support, as well as food, clothing, and toys for the kids.

BREAKTHROUGH HOUSE INC. Contact Person for Wish List donations: Danette Tipton: 785-232-6807 ext 308 (Topeka number); 525 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66603 (for drop off). Website: www.breakthroughhouse.org; Facebook: Search for Breakthrough House, Topeka KS – and look for the FB page with our logo. We are in need of non-perishable food for our food pantry, and personal hygiene items for men and women such as shampoo, soap, shaving cream, deodorant, toilet paper. All items will go to Breakthrough House clients (persons with severe and persistent mental illness). Our food pantry has been utilized more than it ever has in our 34 years



of existence. Breakthrough House serves about 700 persons per year, and some of our clients have been the most hard-hit by the economic downturn.

CARING PREGNANCY OPTIONS. 2041 SW McAlister, Topeka, Ks 66604; 272-3316; www.cptopeka.org. Mon. – Thur. 10-5. Kathy Hart, Executive Director. Provides free pregnancy tests, pro-life counseling, information and education to pregnant women, maternity clothes, baby clothes and items, and refer-

als for professional counseling. Volunteers and financial support are needed, also formula and blankets. A non-political, non-profit ministry.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHEAST KANSAS. 234 S Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS 66603. www.catholiccharitiesks.org. Dylan Woods, dwoods@catholiccharitiesks.org. Founded in 1956, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas is a non-profit health and human services agency that assists annually more than 85,000 people of all faiths. Our work strengthens both families and communities in the 21 counties we serve. Our vision is that our neighbors who are challenged by poverty of mind, body and spirit find the open door of Catholic Charities in our communities and are met with help, hospitality and hope. The Topeka location always has a need for food drives and donations.

CHRISTIAN STREET WITNESS and CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOR CENTER. 107 SW 14th St., Topeka, Ks, 66612; 354-8763. Purpose is to share the Good News, feed and clothe the hungry, work with ex-convicts, the down and out, alcoholics, drug addicts, widows and orphans, abused women and children, and others going through difficult times; help them find jobs, counsel them and offer them a safe place. Donations/volunteers needed.

CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE. PO Box 3856, Topeka, Ks, 66604. 267-5777; bakerbarb54130@gmail.com; Barbara Saldivar. Christians for Life, Inc. is the pro-life ministry that facilitates the Heart of America Memorial Wall for the Unborn, located at 1216 SE Republican Avenue. We offer those who lost a baby through miscarriage, still birth, or abortion a place to put their child's name on the wall of remembrance. No godly and appropriate name will be turned down. The cost to CFL for engraving is around \$150 per line. Donations toward this cost are always welcome and needed. In addition to the memorial park, post abortion bible

studies and pro-life education is offered. Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 PM at Community Church in the Stone Chapel. The public is welcome. Donations and volunteers to assist with fundraisers and upkeep of the grounds are needed.

DOORSTEP, INC., Doorstep, Inc., 1119 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, Ks, 66604; 357-5341; www.doorstep-topeka.org. Doorstep is an emergency aid agency providing assistance for families and individuals in need for more than 47 years. The agency is supported by 56 area member congregations.

Doorstep provides food, clothing, household goods, and assistance for rent, utilities, rx/dental & transportation for thousands of households all year long. Doorstep is in need of donations of food, clothing and household items (blankets, sheets, pots & pans, dishes, etc.) and monetary funds to provide emergency services to our neighbors in need. Regular office hours are Mon.–Fri. 8am–3pm. Volunteer opportunities also available.

THE DOVETAIL SHOPPE. 12th and Washburn, Topeka, Ks; 234-3004. The Shoppe has clothing, household items, trinkets, furniture, children's items and once even had the kitchen sink! There are no prices at the Dovetail Shoppe we ask that customers give a 'reasonable' donation for the items they choose. Dovetail is open on Thur, Fri & Sat, 10am–4pm. Donations are accepted at the Shoppe during open hours or at Doorstep. They will pick up large items. Call Dovetail 234-3004 to make arrangements for a pickup. The Dovetail Shoppe is Doorstep's version of a thrift store and is open to anyone who is looking for clothing or household items or shopping for a bargain.

FLINT HILLS BREADBASKET. 905 Yuma St., Manhattan, Ks, 66502; 785-537-0730; www.breadbasket.manhattank.org. The Flint Hills Breadbasket is a

Community Food Network founded to minimize hunger and poverty through the distribution of available food and to nurture projects that will help alleviate hunger and poverty. The Breadbasket's ultimate goal is enabling our clients to gain the skills necessary for self-sufficiency, and we offer programs to aid this process, including a USDA Commodity Program, Community Resource Referral and more. We depend on community support to carry out our mission in various ways: tax deductible cash contribution, food donations, in-kind donations, and volunteerism. We receive no funding from Federal, State, County or City taxes.

KANSAS CHILDREN'S SERVICE LEAGUE. 3545 SW 5th St, Topeka, Ks, 66606; 274-3100 or Toll Free 877-530-5275; www.kcsl.org; Email: gcozadd@kcsl.org. A statewide, not-for-profit agency with a mission to protect and promote the well-being of children. Founded in 1893, KCSSL's programs work to help keep kids safe, families strong, and communities involved. Our services touch the lives of some 40,000 children and their families each year. Among KCSSL's programs in Northeast Kansas are adoption referral services for children in foster care through www.adoptkiskids.org; foster home sponsorship, infant adoption, parent education, Healthy Families, and a range of child abuse and neglect prevention services including the Community Resource Library and Parent Helpline.

KVC BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE.



235 S. Kansas Ave; 66603; 785-409-6980. A private not-for-profit child welfare organization that provides services for children in need. Children separated from friends and family at Christmas time have special needs. You can help with our Adopt-an-Angel program by making a cash donation or by adopting a child's wish list this year! The holidays are a special time but foster parents are always needed. To become a foster/adoptive parent call 1 (888) 655-5500. Call today because Children Can't Wait!!!

LET'S HELP, INC. 200 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, Ks, 66603; www.lets-helpinc.org; 234-6208. We are a non-profit organization serving Shawnee County and surrounding areas. We provide programs and services through Comprehensive Emergency Services by offering aid with rent, utilities, and medication; Food & Clothing Banks, to include professional attire; Adult Basic Education & GED; Pre-Employment Training & Job Placement Coordination; and a Community Lunch. Let's Help collaborates with many other service agencies in the community and



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LIFE CHOICE MINISTRIES. 1445 Anderson Ave., Manhattan, Ks, 66502; 785-776-9406. A ministry to women and families in crisis pregnancy. We offer free pregnancy testing, abortion information, post-abortion help, educational services, abstinence programs, friendship room (baby and maternity items), and prenatal classes. We facilitate private adoptions and support birth parents in the process. Diapers all sizes, volunteers and financial support are needed.

LIFELINE CHILDREN'S SERVICES. Angela Beemer - 785-783-4577. angela.beemer@lifelinechild.org. Our wish list is simple: VOLUNTEERS and FAMILIES. We would love help with connecting to prayer partners, adoptive families, host families and those who would love to work with families in need in our own community and those who feel blessed enough to share the resources and talents God has given them. To learn more about Lifeline Children's Services and all the ministries God has given us to serve in, please visit this link: www.lifelinechild.org.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER. Leo Center, One Riverfront Plaza, 6th & New Hampshire, Ste 100, Lawrence, Ks, 66044; 842-6499; pcc_lawrence@yahoo.com. Hours: 10am-5pm Mon. - Thu., 10am-12 pm Fri. PCC is a non-profit, non-denominational, non-political outreach supported by concerned evangelical Christians throughout the Lawrence area. We are here to reach out with Jesus' love to women in our community facing unexpected or unplanned pregnancies. All Services Provided at no charge: Pregnancy tests, post-abortion counseling, baby and maternity items, adoption counseling, Women Caring for Women, Compassionate Listeners. We are still raising financial support, and also accept donations.

QUINCY HOUSE, Inc, 1318 NE Quincy St, Topeka, KS 66608. 785-783-8051. www.quincyhouse.org. A 501(c)(3) Veteran's homeless transitional shelter to provide a safe, clean and peaceful home environment for the homeless veterans community in the Topeka area that will allow for healing and prosperity according to God's word and work. Promoting physical, mental and spiritual healing from the effects of homelessness, drugs

and alcohol abuse. Credible and courageous leadership and discipleship within the community. Clothing bank, Bible Study, recreational opportunities.

SALVATION ARMY, 1320 SE 6th Ave., Topeka KS 66614; 785-233-9648. Majors Brian & Lee Ann Burkett, Corps Officers. Website: www.topeka.salvationarmy.us. Facebook: The Salvation Army Topeka Kansas. Emails: brian_burkett@usc.salvationarmy.org or leeann_burkett@usc.salvationarmy.org. The Salvation Army mission is to meet basic human needs in the name of Jesus Christ. Volunteers are needed for bellringing - signup online at www.ringbells.org. Sponsor a virtual kettle at www.onlineredkettle.org or donate at www.DonateTopeka.com. Wish list includes non-perishable food items, toys, and sports equipment.

TFI FAMILY SERVICES. Topeka-217 SE 4th Street, Topeka, Ks. 66603; 785-271-6657. Lawrence-910 W 24th Suite A, Lawrence, Ks. 66047; 785-749-2664. www.tfi familyservices.org. Contact-Mary McClellan 785-271-6657 ext. 1336 or mmcclellan@tfifamily.org. TFI Family



Services is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for youth and families through Behavioral Health and Child Welfare Services. TFI offers services that include: Foster Care, Adoption, Family Permanency, Reintegration, Behavioral Health, Drug and Alcohol Counseling and Transitional Living Programs for young adults. TFI continues to strive to place children close to their biological home. We are "in need" of caring people willing to become Foster Parents for children in their community. The Holiday Season is a difficult time for the Foster Care Children, to be able to provide a sense of normalcy. TFI is in need of businesses and individuals to adopt the Children for Christmas. Kids range from 0-18 years of age.

TOPEKA NORTH OUTREACH, INC. 210 NW Menninger Rd. Topeka, KS 66617. 785-286-1370. topekanorouthreach@gmail.com, www.topekanorouthreach.org. "Christian Churches United in Service." EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: Limited financial help to families to assist in paying utilities, rent and prescriptions. Food baskets, Hygiene baskets, Bibles. VIP LUNCHEONS: Free lunch served to Senior Citizens every Friday at 12 noon at North Topeka Baptist Church. YOUTH PROGRAM: Operation Backpack program provides "Weekend Snack Sacks" to area students in need. Each Snack Sack contains nutritional kid-friendly and easy to prepare snacks. Scholarship assistance for school, medical or emergency expenses. CHRISTMAS PROJECT: Families adopted by our member churches through the Topeka Christmas Bureau. Also providing Holiday Food Baskets with Bibles, Blankets, Towels and Hygiene Baskets, Hats and Gloves. Toy Room with donations from Toys for Tots and American Sawdusters Club. Donations of funds, food, time and prayers are needed.

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION. 600 N. Kansas Ave., Topeka, Ks, 66608; 354-1744; trm@trmonline.org; www.trmonline.org; On Facebook at Topeka-Rescue-Mission. Barry Feaker, Executive Director. The Mission provides shelter, food, clothing and other necessary services to individuals and families who are homeless or in need. This Christmas we are in most need of: new clothing (all sizes), bath/cologne gift sets, pots/pans, coffee makers, crock pots, small appliances, cooking utensils, towels/wash cloths, blankets, tool sets, men's & women's gifts & accessories, educational gifts and VOLUNTEERS!

TOYS FOR TOTS. Topeka area: email Keith R. Viau at keith.viau@usmc.mil; Manhattan area: email: Lee A. Jones at lajones_66531@yahoo.com; Lawrence area: go to www.toysfortotsdgcoks.org or email: Mary Jones at maryjones@askmcgrew.com. Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity. We collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to



needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

THE URBAN MINISTRY INSTITUTE of Topeka. 8th and Clay. Mary Flin, Site Coordinator; 785-431-6000; maryflin@hotmail.com. Our wish list for the holiday season is for STUDENTS! TUMI-Topeka is here to come alongside the Church to equip leaders who have a passion for advancing the Kingdom of Christ, especially in the heart of the city. Second to our wish for an army of new leaders, we also welcome money for scholarships for these leaders, and are happy to provide homes for quality reference books for our library.

Does God Shrink When Success Becomes Normal?

by **John Potter | Military Chaplain**

As a nation and as a people we tend to overlook our blessings. We have abundance, comfort, and wealth like few others. Our standard of living is so good and so consistent that it becomes common place. Success becomes normal. While that sounds like a great problem to have, it can easily compete with or totally eliminate our desire for God.

We forget our beginnings. We forget the early days of struggle, strife, and bare survival. We also forget our reliance on God and the vital direction our Lord provided during those tough times in life.

When everything imaginable is working in our favor, it would seem that people should gratefully follow God. It is often during the times of plenty that we are the worst followers of our faithful King.

While these situations seem contrary, you can even find them in Scripture. Look at King Solomon in the Old Testament. The poetic man who sang and wrote of romantic love for his bride also broke records of promiscuity with 700 wives and 300 concubines. The wise man who composed so many commonsense proverbs, dispensed practical knowledge, and offered successful living

advice quickly flouted it all with horrible extravagance and greed. The devout man who built the temple of God took a final and terrible step of introducing idol worship into God's holy city to please his foreign-born wives.

Success in the kingdom of this world often crowds out interest in the kingdom of God.

Solomon got whatever he wanted. Gradually he depended less on God and more on the power, possessions, and people in his kingdom. Solomon had the world's largest harem, a house twice the size of the temple, an army full of soldiers, spears, and chariots, and a strong economy.

Success may have eliminated his disappointments with God, but it also seemed to eliminate Solomon's desire for God. The more he enjoyed the world's good gifts, the less he thought about the Giver.

Let us learn the lessons that Solomon did not. May we always count our blessings. May we be obedient servants to a Holy and Gracious God. May we demonstrate our Christian faith in times of joy and abundance. May we enjoy the gift and praise the Giver. May we always place God first and remember that I am second, no matter what level of worldly success I may find.

"Let us learn the lessons that Solomon did not."

Christian Neighbor Center

(also known as Christian Street Witness, Inc.)
107 SW 14th St., Topeka, KS 66612
785-354-8763

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:35-36 (NIV)

Our Mission: to witness the Good News of Jesus Christ, to feed and clothe the hungry, to teach the Bible and Christian conduct, to help mankind by establishing rehabilitation projects, and by engaging in business to support the above-mentioned goals.

The Christian Neighbor Center offers a safe place for Christians to become acquainted with "street people" and the difficulties they face. This in turn provides the opportunity for Christians to be a living witness to people in crisis.

Who we help: the down and out, abused women & children, drug addicts, alcoholics, widows & orphans, ex-convicts, etc.

How we help: Christian counseling, rehabilitation & support services to establish such individuals in a stable and productive lifestyle; help to find and maintain employment, Bible studies, telephone crisis counseling, and more.

How you can partner with us & God in this ministry:

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- plastic utensils
- dish soap, aluminum foil
- cleaning items, toilet paper
- 40 gallon trash bags
- stamps

Reconstruction needs:

- 30 double-pane windows
- bathroom remodel
- kitchen remodel & plumbing
- new exit doors
- new carpet for Chapel
- sidewalk replacement
- driveway repair
- new furnace
- central air installation

A Season for Thankfulness
Contact your favorite branch below to see how you can be a blessing to others during the holiday season this year!

Emphasizing the "C" in YMCA

Downtown Branch 421 SW Van Buren 785-354-8591	Kuehne Branch 1938 NW Tyler 785-233-9815	Southwest Branch 3635 SW Chelsea 785-271-7979
---	--	---

(Or call Lin McRoberts at 785-354-8591)



Climbing Higher conference explores God's influence in marketplace



LINDA FIELDS
Director of The Joseph Company

faithworks!

The IMPACT Marketplace Conference "Climbing Higher", scheduled for Nov. 6-7, hopes to

teach individuals in the business community how God can impact their operations and customers.

The Joseph Company will sponsor an international line-up of speakers who will share what God is doing in the earth in this hour. Special times of worship, stories, teaching and ministry are designed to inspire and refresh men and women in the workplace to impact their spheres of influence in great measure.

"Great change is occurring in

the nations. We see the early shakings of the Lord, yet at the same time He is speaking with clarity, pouring out His power and transforming cities and nations," says Linda Fields, director of the Joseph Company. "Gone are the days of the marketplace being viewed as secular and devoid of God's presence or purposes. It is the great mission field for which God is raising up His servants to express the kingdom in all realms of society,

including business, government, education, family, arts, and media."

Fields says the Holy Spirit is raising up individuals in the marketplace who are cultivating a life

of prayer, intimacy with Jesus, and insight into God's strategies, much like the sons of Issachar "who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do" (1 Chr. 12:32).

Role of the government, not tax reform, drives the Kansas governor election

By Dave Trabert

Much national attention has portrayed the upcoming election for Kansas governor as a referendum on the efficacy of tax reform, but that really isn't the issue. The real issue is whether government should spend whatever it wants or provide quality services at a better price in order to keep taxes low. Unfortunately, some people simply aren't going to allow that cultural shift to happen – even if it means distorting the truth.

Conservative governors are condescendingly being warned against blithely peddling tax cuts to boost economic growth. They are admonished for daring to reduce taxes because government needs every dollar to nurture growth. One can almost envision the elites angrily chastising conservatives for not being obedient disciples of their big-government teachings. "Hey, you didn't build that! Have you forgotten everything we taught you? How dare you rob government of its due?"

They falsely decry "draconian" spending cuts while Kansas is setting a new spending record this year. They rail that per-pupil education expenditures have been "devastated" when in reality, per-pupil expenditures set records each of the last two years and will set another new record this year at \$13,268 – up from \$12,330 in 2010.

If trailing national economic metrics is a sign of failure, where was the outrage in Kathleen Sebelius' first term? Private sector jobs in Kansas grew a dismal 1.3 percent between 2002 and 2006, while the nation grew 4.9 percent. Kansas' long tradition of economic stagnation is actually the reason for tax reform and reversing that trend won't happen in a year or two.

The early signs, though, are encourag-

■ Please see ELECTION next page 20

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But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream. - Amos 5:24

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opinion

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WHEN THANKSGIVING DOESN'T COME



SYLVIA
SCHROEDER

Women's Care
Coordinator at Avant
Ministries and award-
winning writer

myopinion

Is there still blessing
in life's sorrows?

Thanksgiving tangled with unanswered prayers.

I slumped against the antiseptic tiled hallway.

My stalwart, "Hang on, and hold it in," gave way to unrestrained tears like prisoners let free. Crystal rivulets dropped to the floor at my feet.

Each time I exited my daughter's hospital room at Mayo Clinic, my stiff control burst like a rubber band wound too tight. It was part of my routine, the dessert at the end of an inward tunnel of darkness.

My 19-year-old son, tall and lanky found me there. He pulled me into his embrace and wrapped his arms around me. He was twice my size and twice my strength. With man-child concern he asked what he already knew.

"Oh, Mommy, Mommy," he fussed over me as I had so often over him. "What's wrong, Mommy?"

I couldn't play his sweet role reversal game. I couldn't smile through my tears, nod my head, pat his back and say, "It will all be OK."

Because it wasn't OK, and it never would be.

Two months had gone by since our daughter Charity awoke feeling numb on one side. After a rapid spiral into complete paralysis, an army of doctors puzzled at what was assuredly sucking life out of the 26-year-old wife and mother.

"Oh, Justin." I managed a pathetic waver, weak but final. "I will never be

happy again."

Irretrievable days slid into months. Charity's six-month-old baby had gone from mommy milk to solids, from sitting to crawling. Beyond her grasp Charity's two-year-olds' verbal pirouettes vanished in a vacuum of passing time, unbeknownst to her.

Like the story of Korah in the Bible, swallowed into the earth, I felt as if my heart had suffocated in the bottom of a sealed pit. Plastic smiles and pat answers did little to touch the deep questions of soul and spirit.

"If Charity got up, swung her legs off the bed and walked away today," I thought, "healthy and healed, would she be whole? Would life be normal again? Could anything ever be the same?"

Giving thanks to God had become a jumbled confusion of faith and reality; it eked out somewhere between what was and what should be. It tangled in unanswered pleas and surrenders; twisted with the pain in my gut and the fog in my brain.

"How should I thank Him for the pieces of Charity?" I wondered as her abilities dropped away like fall leaves that fell. Could I really say "Thank you God," for the theft of her voice

devoid of expression and thought? I was losing her, and I was not thankful to let her go.

I had pleaded with God. I had believed, but in spite of all my prayers, her out of control free fall continued.

"Happy?" I questioned. "Never."

In Matthew 5, Christ's Sermon on the Mount, Jesus defined blessed as makarios, sometimes translated as happy.

While nurses poked and doctors assessed, I cried against my son's chest. God's definitions and mine didn't add up to the same thing.

Jesus described the poor in spirit, those



that mourn, those hungry and thirsty for righteousness, the persecuted and the insulted as makarios. Happy. Blessed.

Was Paul blessed when he penned the words from prison, "... always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God...?" (Eph. 5:20 NASB) Was he happy?

Is happiness a criterion for praise? In the marbled corridor full of hospital smells, beeps and whistles, I felt sure happiness would never again be part of my life, and I

wondered, "Can I live without ever being happy again?"

"Could I really say "Thank you God," for the theft of her voice devoid of expression and thought? I was losing her, and I was not thankful to let her go."

Job worshipped in response to unthinkable loss, when all he possessed was stripped away and his ten children died. Scripture says, "He fell to the ground in worship, and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." (Job 1:20-21, NIV).

Surely the emotion of happiness was as far from Job's heart at that point as it was in mine. Swirling thoughts in the winds of brokenness gathered around dawning truth.

There is never a circumstance in which we cannot worship.

"Even if God never answers another prayer of mine in the way I ask Him to," I realized, "praise remains the same when He is the object, because He remains the same."

Worship acknowledges the truths of God despite unhappy circumstances. Worship exalts Him to His rightful place. When everything is stripped away, God has to be enough.

Makarios isn't about me. It is about the incomparable treasure of knowing Him, the God of the Universe, the Christ of my redemption.

I pulled myself away from the wall, stepped into the big steel elevator, and rode it to the first floor. I walked past the lady at the reception desk. Heavy glass doors separated inside from outside. I pushed open the double doors, and gasped.

Sunshine dazzled. Vibrant hues of brilliant greens, reds and yellows took my breath away. As though the Creator splashed hope into my sorrow and surrounded me with His Presence, a dark sepulcher within opened to glorious beauty, and involuntarily my lips moved.

"Thank you God," I breathed. My heart bowed in reverent worship.

Makarios. Blessed by God.

Sylvia Schroeder is a writer living in the Kansas City area.

GOD & EBOLA



CLINT
DECKER

President and
Evangelist with
Great
Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

Clay Center, Kan. – Human history has been subjected to constant bouts of infectious diseases. Sometimes these have grown to pandemic proportions, leaving death tolls in the millions worldwide. The Black Death (the bubonic plague) dramatically affected European populations wiping out up to 50 million people in the mid-14th century. During

the early 20th century, governments battled against the influenza pandemic which took up to 50 million lives including 675,000 in the United States. Then small pox killed upwards of 300 million people across the globe throughout much of the 20th century.

Our modern world still battles infectious diseases and one getting the most headlines is the Ebola virus which was first identified in the 1970s. As I write, the virus has fortunately not reached pandemic levels yet.

When we are faced with a potential pandemic disease outbreak how should we respond? Our generation has access to pictures, videos and read real-time reports like never before. As a result it can lead to feelings of anxiousness or fear. Let me pass along a few things we can do.

Do research. Let us educate ourselves making use of the Internet, our local



library and our personal physician.

Do commonsense thinking. Exercising old-fashioned common sense goes a long way towards getting and staying healthy.

Do some filtering. Use discernment in following news reports on Ebola. Sometimes information conflicts, is not accurate or is taken out of context.

Do pray. We should do all we can in the areas of science, medicine and technology to tackle disease. However, is that enough? What about God?

God speaks of Himself saying, "For I

am the LORD, your healer" (Exodus 15:26). He wants the world to know who He is. He is the Healer. Then He invites the world to seek Him by saying, "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me" (Psalm 50:15).

God cannot be any clearer. In the face of stopping a spreading disease our first action, not last, should be to seek God for His healing. And though people of different religions and of no religion may be affected, there is only one God we must pray to and only one Who can heal. He is the God who made the heavens and the earth and gave the world Jesus. May He be your hope for today and peace in the face of uncertain times.

Clint Decker is President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc. Contact him at cdecker@greatawakenings.org.



2014 Adoption & Foster Guide

PART 2

Many reasons why Christians should embrace adoption

Despite efforts at awareness of such a miracle of life, sometimes people still don't embrace adoption. Sadly, many of those ideas emanate from Christians who are pro-life.

Recently another sad story of a "returned" child made news, leading others to question whether adoption is the best thing—at least for the parents—especially when children are difficult and need more support, whether emotionally or physically. "You don't know what you're getting," they say, often adding that an adopted child could be "damaged." He or she could make your life uncomfortable, ruin the family dynamic.

To the Christian, the answer to all of that should be, "so what?"

First, the reality for Christians is that the Bible talks of God adopting believers into his family through the sacrifice of His son Jesus Christ. This is the foundation of Christianity. To reject adoption as a special calling for "other" people, or only adequate for extreme circumstances such as for infertility, is to reject the principle that God himself modeled. The actual question should be "is there any good reason not to adopt?"

There are good reasons not to. It would be irresponsible to suggest everyone should run out and sign up for home studies and adoption lists solely because it's the model of Christianity, but the question must be an honest inventory of why not?

Second, the Bible abounds with scriptures about orphans, and it is clear that the



job of the Christian is to take care of the orphan; James 1:27 describes this as "pure religion" that God accepts. One of the most oft-cited verses is Psalm 68:6 "God sets the lonely (some versions say solitary) in families." It brings a sort of comfort into pro-life circles to know this: "God will take care of the orphan; he loves the orphan and will give him a family." But it can also become a cliché, a cloud without water, if the next question is not "Do some of those lonely belong in my family?"

God does set the lonely in families, but God is a supernatural being who uses human beings to execute his work on earth. God gives resources and love and families to people, so they may share those

things with others. To say "God sets the lonely in families" then shut the door to the lonely outside of our homes is missing a key point of the gospel.

As pro-lifers, we rightly demand abortion stop. We decry the killing and pray for hours at abortion clinics, weeping over the loss of life. We post pictures and sayings on social media and proudly announce we only vote for pro-life candidates. But beyond that, the solution for abortion remains solely in our hands. It's negligent of us to expect everyone else to do the adopting. Not all pro-lifers are Christians, but the majority of those on the forefront are vocal about their faith. That voice must translate to adoption—in one way or another.

True family can be any lifelong bond God has knit together, and blood isn't a requirement for it to be real or somehow better because some DNA connects in a special way. Birth children can end up

with severe problems just as adopted children can. Love doesn't get to choose which goods are damaged, just as God didn't dictate who was too damaged to be in his family.

Family is a committed, loving relationship that is in our power to offer and support—whether by doing the adopting or by actively, financially and emotionally, supporting those who do.

Recently a comment appeared on a public site saying that adoption wasn't a "natural" thing, but to a Christian, it's the most natural thing that can be.

God didn't have to send Jesus, and Jesus didn't have to go to the cross to allow us a

way to the Father. The goal of this was to expand God's family through adoption. That statement sometimes gets so over-used in Christian culture that it loses personal meaning, and yet it's the reality of the gospel.

Janette Pettey and her husband Tim, who adopted both of their daughters, tells the story of how her daughter Hannah used to explain her adoption: "She used to say she was 'double adopted,' referring to her adoption into her natural family and also into her eternal family as a Christian," Janette says.

And that's the most natural thing of all.

...to a Christian, adoption is the most natural thing that can be.

6,167 Kansas Children in Foster Care

Each child needs a safe, stable, loving home like yours

Churches in Kansas
What are you being called to do?

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Caring Pregnancy Options has some openings for volunteers. Please call 785-249-6130 for info or stop by our office, 2041 SW McAlister Ave, Mon - Thur 10-5. Ask for Kathy Hart.

Adoption can be messy

By Allison Schumm

Adoption can be messy! There is no doubt about this.

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, Born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." Gal 4:4-5

Redeem - such a pretty word - So pretty that we tend to forget what it means. It's the Greek word *exagorazo* meaning "by payment of a price to recover from the power of another, to ransom, buy off." This ransom cost God His only begotten son; Jesus was spit on, beat until he was unrecognizable and then He was crucified. Crucifixion was such a terrible death that it was forbidden to make a roman citizen suffer it.

God did this to buy back our sinners hearts. Galatians continues in 4:6-7: "Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave, but son; and if a son, then an heir through God."

He loved us and wanted so much for us to be His sons and daughters, that not only were we redeemed, but we were given the Spirit of His Son in our hearts, that cries DADDY! We are heirs with Christ through God!

This is such a beautiful picture of redemption, and if we look at God as a picture of what we were supposed to model then we should be caring for orphans, in accordance to James 1:27, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by that world."

It's not just a command to care for widows and orphans, it is PURE RELIGION! And I would challenge you that it isn't just prayer, it isn't just picking up a sponsored child that you send \$10 a month for their care, it

■ Please see MESSY page 15

Mom says "Don't fear a special needs adoption"

Susanna | theblessingofverity.com

If fear is keeping you from special needs adoption...

What are you afraid of?

Losing your freedom and leisure time?

Losing control of your ability to choose the life you want?

Being stretched too thin financially, or even going under?

Being unable to adequately care for a child's special needs?

Not loving an adopted child like he or she needs to be loved?

Losing some of your preferred image or social standing?

The hard work?

The future for your child with special needs when you are old or have passed away?

Or something else?

Did you know that God hasn't said, "All My people must adopt?"

But He does command us, over and over and over again,

"Do not be afraid."

Don't be afraid?

Isn't some fear good?? Can't fear play a role in helping us make wise decisions?

God's command not to fear does not mean, "Do not feel afraid." It means that we as His people can not walk in obedience to Him while we make decisions based on the wrong kind of fear. The right kind of fear keeps us from doing what is wrong, but the wrong kind of fear keeps us from doing what is right.

What stops many qualified families from taking the next step toward special needs adoption is not the obstacles themselves. What's stopping them is simply their fear of the obstacles.

And then sometimes they fear that they aren't qualified simply because they feel afraid. Or they think that their fears are a message from God telling them not to adopt. Not true!

Did we have fears throughout our adoption of Katie?

Yes, at times I struggled with terrible fear. I was afraid of the power of mere human beings to stop the adoption process. After God opened my eyes to the truth that this fear was based on unbelief in His limit-



The author's daughter, Katie

less power, I still had to battle fear. We have first-hand experience with the fact that He is not a tame lion. What if He stopped the process before Katie was our daughter? I had to have the truth ready for the fight when it came, and at times it felt like a fight to the death! Besides the truth that nothing is too hard for God, it is also true that He is good and cannot make mistakes. He gave us a fervent, over-arching desire for Him to show Himself as the God He really is, and for Him to write Katie's story and our story in the way He knew would best make that happen. No matter what.

And now? Our family has lost a lot of our former fears. But no matter how much trust we eventually learn to have in our trustworthy God, it will never come close to the enormity of His trustworthiness. In other words, His power, His grace, His faithfulness will always far exceed our faith

in Him, no matter how great our faith grows.

Do you know what fear I most commonly hear about from potential adoptive parents?

It's the fear that they might miss God's will and mistakenly adopt when He didn't want them to. As a result, they fear, their family will be miserable, or their household

■ Please see SPECIAL page 17

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Kathryn Peoples 785-207-9760
allison@projectbelong.org kat@projectbelong.org

Statewide the number of children awaiting adoption on 7/31/14 was **977**
Statewide, of the adoptions finalized, **66%** were by foster parents.

Help with finding a child their home.

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Celebrate Christmas in Downtown Topeka!

As we enter the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday season, construction on Phase One is winding up downtown and people are getting in the Holiday mood.

Christmas shopping in Downtown

Topeka can be fun, with all the unique shops and a bit of nostalgia in the air. It might remind you of a time when shopping was more exciting, more personal, and less of a chore. Following are some tidbits from some of your friendly

downtown merchants. Why not take a trip downtown and visit them? You might even run into Norman the Nutcracker! He will be showing up downtown from time to time between Nov. 7 and Dec. 24.

him, they were not leaving here until she picked out an engagement ring. She was shocked and then very happy, accepting his proposal. She also found a beautiful ring. It was so touching."

Diamonds are Forever

With the holidays approaching, you'll find many specials and gift ideas at David's Jewelers, 623 S. Kansas - a family business that has served Topeka for four generations. Diamond rings, pendants and earrings usually top the list but they also offer vivid colored gemstones in unique settings, watches, clocks, statues and fine crystal.

"Gifts can start at \$20.00 and go from there," said Mitzi from behind the

"You'll never leave empty handed."

That's what Terry, co-owner of Hazel Hill likes to say. Hazel Hill is located at 724 S. Kansas Avenue. Owners Nick & Terry Xidis invest their hearts and hands in fine chocolate and confectionery.

Hazel Hill, Terry's grandmother, is a symbol of their dedication to a family tradition of "the best in everything they do." Nick is the third generation chocolatier, and they use only the finest ingredients, chocolate, fresh cream and butter, to produce handmade treats that explode with flavor. Need a gift basket, gift box, or just a few delicious chocolates to go? They'll take care of all the packing and shipping, too!

Don't dread the dressing room!

Whether you shop 'till you drop or you'd rather drop than shop, choosing your next outfit should be a positive experience. Maricel Wilson, owner of Maricel's Closet at 924 S. Kansas Avenue, stocks her store to flatter your body and taste. You'll leave the store confident and you will look your best without the sticker shock.

"You feel most confident in your favorite outfit." Maricel Wilson says. "I



want you to feel that confidence every time you set foot out the door. Get another opinion with personalized fashion advice, and find a stylish solution for your next outing."

"Oh my gosh, I had no idea this cool place was here!"

Kymm Hughes, owner of Prairie Glass Studio at 110 SE 8th Ave., hears this daily and is happily surprised when new customers walk through the doors of her retail and working studio and express their delight. Kymm would like to invite anyone who has not visited the studio to drop by and experience this season's holiday magic with hundreds of ornaments and individually hand-made gifts out of glass. It is also a location for classes if artists are interested in glass work.

A Full-Service Florist & Gift Shop Downtown

Absolute Designs by Brenda, 629 S. Kansas Avenue, offers hand-selected flowers and exquisite designs with delivery throughout the Topeka area. They have an expansive line of floral offerings and an exceptional level of service. You can also order or wire flowers 24 hours a day at the website: www.absolutedesignbybrenda.com.

NikNaks and more

C and J NikNaks is a custom gift store located at 929 S. Kansas Avenue. Owners Jessica Doby and her mother Christine Thomas provide personalized or pre-constructed and themed gift baskets, fashion items, hand crafted diaper cakes, natural soaps, custom knit items made to order. One of their biggest movers is their custom pillow line.

"You think it, we make it," says owner Jessica Doby who continues, "If you have an idea for a custom gift but can't quite figure out how to put it together, we can make it. If you need a specific type of basket or knit piece, we can make it."

C and J NikNaks also works with local

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counter at David's. "We will be glad to help you find that special gift."

Mitzi also shared her favorite Downtown Christmas Memory: "The Christmas Parade brings many people downtown. One year, we had an elderly couple come in for hot chocolate and cookies. (We give these away every year). He sat down at the Diamond Ring Counter. She came back with their cocoa and he told her to sit down with

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Christmas Memories, Events, & Gift Ideas!

Check out the Downtown Renovation Progress and Holiday Events

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Quincy. From gas for your car to lunch at the 6th Street Deli, you'll find what you need there to fill your everyday needs!

Are you ready for some football?

If you can't get enough football in the fall and winter, stop in at the Kansas Koyotes headquarters at 123 SW 6th Street and pick up some season tickets for their spring season, for you or for a gift. they also have plenty of Koyotes apparel and other gear for the sports enthusiast.

Don't stop there!

There's plenty more to discover in Downtown Topeka!

And keep an eye out for Norman!

artists and crafts people to help them gain exposure by providing showcase opportunities in the store.

This local business' popularity has grown to the point that they are shipping their products nationally AND internationally right from their



Topeka location, and are seeing a rise in online orders and sales.

Creative Corners

In the former Hilmer's Leather building at 115 SE 6th Street you'll find all kinds of new, used and rare books at Creative Corners Gallery, as well as antiques and gifts. They also have a writer's space in the loft, providing a neutral space for writers to hone their craft.

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While you're making your way around the downtown area, check out the progress on the east side. Many of the renovations are well under way or completed. And watch for these special events coming up:

First Friday Holiday Open House - Nov. 7, 5-8:30 pm. Snacks, ciders, art, gift ideas and fun sharing and creating family traditions. Don't miss out on the fun at all the participating downtown merchants! Watch out for Norman the Nutcracker at this event!

OPEN HOUSE - Nov 5, 2-6, LifeHouse Child Advocacy Center, 303 S. Kansas Ave. Suite 2. Cake, snacks and drinks will be provided. LifeHouse Staff will be on hand to answer questions and give tours. Special announcement at 2:30pm. 785-232-5433

TOWER RUN & TOUGH TOWER RUN - Nov. 8, 9-11am. Bank of America Tower, 534 S Kansas Ave.

VETERANS DAY PARADE - Nov. 8, 11am-1pm, downtown.

DUSTIN LYNCH & CRAIG CAMPBELL CONCERT - Nov. 9, 7:30-10pm. TPAC. Tickets go on sale Sept. 19, at 11am. \$29.50 and up. For tickets and info: tpactix.org

JAZZIN IT UP DOWNTOWN - Nov. 13, 7-9:30pm. TPAC. Free jazz festival. tix.org

A CLASSIC ROCK CHRISTMAS - Nov. 22, 7-10pm. TPAC. \$28. For tickets and info: tpactix.org

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET - Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, & 19, 8-10pm. TPAC, 3028 SW 8th Ave. Dinner at 6pm, show at 8pm. For info: topekacivictheatre.com

MIRACLE ON KANSAS AVENUE PARADE - Nov. 29, 5:30-9pm. Free. Lighting of the tree at 5:30. Lighted parade follows.

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Celebrate Christmas in North Topeka!

There's lots going on in North Topeka

The North Topeka area has many activities and events planned for the coming month. Here are a few:

NOTO



NORTH TOPEKA ARTS DISTRICT
NOTO Community Arts Center
935 N Kansas Ave, Topeka, KS
Register for classes at notoartsdistrict.com
For information: 785.608.6738 or email
NOTOartscenter@gmail.com

CLASSIC ROCK & ROLL WITH THE EXCEPTIONS – Nov. 8, 7pm. Moose Lodge, 1901 N Kansas Ave. A portion of the proceeds go to "BACA." \$10 in advance, \$12 at door.

NOTO MARKET ON FIRST FRIDAYS – NOTO arts district. Enjoy arts, antiques, fine crafts, and flea market items.

FREE WEEKLY COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Sundays at 10am sharp, at Oakland Church of the Nazarene: 900 block of NE Oakland, followed by church services at 10:45am with Pastor John Menkveld - which is in turn

followed at noon by The Hope House FREE Community Food & Clothing Banks.

HAM & BEAN/VEGETABLE SOUP DINNER – Nov. 5, 3-5:30pm. Oakland UMC, 801 NE Chester Ave. Adults \$7, Children \$3. For info: 357-5290 or 235-1010

ADOPTION INFORMATION MEETING - Nov. 20, 6pm, Northland Christian Church. Find out about international and domestic adoption through Lifeline Children's Services, as well as what it looks like to care for a child in your home through Safe Families for Children. For info: 785-783-4577.

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF CRAFTS – Nov. 21, 9am-6pm & Nov. 22, 9am-4:30pm. Shawnee North Community Center. For info: 286-0676

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS – Nov. 21, 6-10pm. NOTO Art District, 935 N Kansas Ave. Lights & sounds of Christmas, carriage rides, carolers & more. For info: notoartdistrict.com

GOLDEN DINNER CLUB - Nov. 18, 12 noon, Northland Christian Church. Potluck luncheon the 3rd Thursday of each month. An informational program follows. 286-1204

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX COLLECTION – Nov. 17-24. Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Pl. For hours: 286-0601 or rhcctoepka.org

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TOPEKA WOMEN'S CONNECTION FALL LUNCHEON - Nov. 6, 11:30am, T&SC Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave. Event Cost including meal: \$14. Entertainment includes music by Rozanna Selley, style show by Findables, inspirational message by Gayla Hicks from Wichita - "Path to Perfect Peace." Reservations required by Nov 3: Ann at 266-1522 or Jeanie at 233-1387.

SATURDAY WOMEN'S CONNECTION "Strings & Things" LUNCHEON - Nov. 8, 10-11:30am, Pioneer Room at Capitol Plaza. Event Cost including meal: \$14. RSVP to Arlene, 233-0701 or email: leidacloud@cox.net. Business Feature: Sondra Harkness, a digital photo specialist with Wolfe's Camera Shop, will share stunning ideas to make special photo gifts! Speaker: Gayla Hicks: Path to Perfect Peace.

MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP - now meeting every Tuesday, 6:30pm at McDonald's, 11th & Kansas Ave. Christian fellowship & praise. All are welcome. For info: Richard Wilson at 338-3072.

WOMEN'S CLUB OF TOPEKA - Nov. 20, 10:15am, 5221 SW West Dr. Speakers: Andy Vogel, Tom Averill. Luncheon at Noon. RSVP by Nov. 18 to 273-6978

SURRENDERING THE SECRET - Hurting from an Abortion? God extends His love and forgiveness to all. Studies are now forming to help people begin the process of reconciling with God, themselves and others. This completely confidential group will meet weekly for 8 weeks. The study will help you to heal by experiencing freedom from not being able to forgive yourself from guilt and shame. There is hope! There is forgiveness! If this is something you are ready to do, call Trudy at 785-817-1577 or Diane at 785-249-6416.

PETER WHITEBIRD AT SONS OF THUNDER - Nov. 6, 6:30-9:30pm. This new group for men meets the first Thur. of every month at Crestview Shelter House, featuring an invited speaker, food and fellowship. For info: 256-0728 or go to facebook Northeast Kansas sons of

Thunder. Freewill donation.

STEP UP - BUILDING THE SMART STEP-FAMILY - Every Sun. 11am, Northland Christian Church, Room 4, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Focusing on the challenges facing step-families and blended families. Contact Thomas Munker at 249-3054 for info.

TRAIL LIFE & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROUPS - Every Mon. 6pm, Cornerstone Community Church, 7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs are kids age 5-18. Register online at cornerstonetopeka.com. For info: 478-2929.

INNOVATIVE NETWORKING GROUP OF TOPEKA - every other Wed. 11:20am - 12:30pm. www.INGTopeka.com go to Event page to see future meetings, locations and register to attend. If you do not like a whole lot of rules and costs, this group is for you!

CAPITAL CITY NETWORKING GROUP - every Thur, 7:30am, Jayhawk Tower - www.cccng-online.com. Membership cost \$37.50 a quarter.

TIBA NETWORKING GROUP - 2nd Tues, 11:30a.m.-1 p.m. MUST RSVP: Lunch is \$10. www.topekataba.org

I.N.G. WOMAN'S CHAPTER NETWORKING GROUP - every 2nd Sat., 11am. Bring your business cards, catalogs, a guest and join in the fun! - No fees. INGtopeka.com

BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF ESTHER - 6pm Sunday evenings, Cornerstone Community Church, 7620 SW 21st. For info: 478-2929

DEAF WORSHIP SERVICE - 3rd Sun., 3pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th & Gage. Also, every Sun. 9:30am service is interpreted.

FAMILY EXPERIENCE (FX) - Every Sun., 6:01pm, Fairlawn Church of Nazarene, 730 Fairlawn Rd. A time of high intensity, action packed, skit mania, worship music all centered around the word of God for 45 minutes. A free family worship event. For info: Emily Moore, 272-6322 or fxthelawn@gmail.com.

LADIES' SMALL GROUP - Every Sun., 6pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Studying the book of Esther, using the DVD series "It's Tough Being a Woman" by Beth Moore. All welcome. Info: 286-0467.

THE FORCE (Students Taking Action) - 1st Mon. & 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, Safe Streets, 2209 SW 29th St. A group committed to being alcohol & drug free. Associate with like-minded peers, plan activities & get involved in the community. Youth ages 12-18 are invited. 266-4606.

HEARTLAND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS - 2nd Mon., 11:45am-1pm. Promoting neighborhood well-being by mobilizing people, ideas & resources. 233-1365.

POINT MAN AND HOME FRONT OF SHAWNEE CO - 1st, 3rd & 5th Tues. of each month, 6-8pm, Topeka Bible Church, 1101 SW Mulvane, Potluck dinner begins at 6:10 PM. A Bible study and support group for military & veterans and their wives, moms and sisters. Contact David or Jacque Ankenman at 249-8359 or 221-1739.

TOPEKA LINCOLN CLUB - 1st Tue. of month, 7pm, Topeka Public Library. Discussing our greatest President, Abraham Lincoln, and his times. The public is welcome. For info, contact Kirk Nystrom 235-6977.

CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA (CWA) - 3rd Tue., 10am-12noon, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. 224-7126 or cwatopeka@giantcomm.net.

OUR LADY OF THE FAITHFUL - Every 1st Tues., 6:30pm Mass followed by Dinner, Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church. A Catholic group for those in their 20-30s. For info: Michelle Ann 580-3071 or ourladyofthe-faithful@gmail.com. All events are also posted on Facebook at "Our lady of the Faithful."

SUNRISE OPTIMIST CLUB - Every Tue., 6:30am, Sunrise Optimist Complex, 720 NW 50th St. Info: 246-1291.

O.W.L.S. (Older Wise Loving Saints) - meets the second Tuesday of the month. Location varies and can be found at www.faithfamilylife.com

S.W.A.G. (Spiritual Warriors Anointed by God) youth group - Wed at 7:00 p.m. 3710 NW Topeka Blvd.

AWANA - Every Wed., 6-8pm, First Southern Baptist Church, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 272-0443.

AWANA - Every Wed., 6:30pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 286-0467.

AWANA - Every Wed., 6:30-8pm, Auburn Christian Church. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 256-2515.

MACHINE EMBROIDERY CLUB - 1st Wed., 9am-2:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th Street (south doors). To teach each other, enjoy fellowship & complete projects. Call Anne 271-1567.

SAFE STREETS MEETING - 1st Wed., 11:45am, Golf Park

Blvd, 2 blocks west of Adams. Info: 266-4606.

STUDENT IMPACT - Every Wed., 6-8pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Youth games, teaching, worship, small groups. For info: 272-0443.

TGIW: "TEACHING GOD'S INFINITE WISDOM" MEN'S STUDY - Every Wed., 6:15am, Lawrence Wesleyan Church, 3705 Clinton Parkway. Affiliated with CharacterCounts.com. David Scheib, 865-5258 or dvscheib@sunflower.com.

BIBLE STUDY - every Thur. 1pm-3pm in the Prayer Rm at Faith Family Life Centre, 3710 NW Topeka Blvd.

CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE - Every Thurs. 7-9pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Worship for college students.

LIFE FEST - 1st Thurs., 10am-12:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Celebrate Senior Life. For info: 273-2811.

OPERATION BACKPACK - 1st Thurs., 6pm, Lyman Learning Center, Lyman and N. Kansas Ave. Volunteers gather to assemble Weekend Snack Sacks for low-income students. Sponsored by Topeka North Outreach. For info: 286-1370.

IMOM - 1st & 3rd Thurs., 9-11:30am, Topeka Bible Church Fellowship Hall, 1135 SW College. For all moms, helping them to be intentional! For info: 234-5545.

SINGLES BIBLE STUDY - 2nd & 4th Thurs., 7pm, Heartland Worship Center Church of God, 1401 NW Harrison. For info: 232-5503.

FULL GOSPEL BUSINESSMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - 3rd Thurs., 6pm meal, 7pm meeting, Coyote Canyon, Huntoon & Wanamaker. Kirk Nystrom, 235-6977.

BIBLES AND BOOTHS: Chapter of Cowboys for Christ Fellowship - 3rd Thurs., 7:30pm, Wamego. Call for location. All welcome, no membership dues, livestock ownership not required. Fellowship & fun! Doug Palmer, Pres. 410-9097, or Dave Boyd, V.P. 364-2779.

TOPEKA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - 4th Thurs., 7pm, Topeka Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th St. No program in Nov. or Dec. Promotes & stimulates the education, knowledge & interest of the membership & the public in family history, genealogical records & research. For info: 233-5762 or tgstopeka.org.

AGLOW INTERNATIONAL TOPEKA - A Kingdom focused ministry for men & women. Meeting once a month at Community Church, 1819 SW 21st St. Call 230-4441 or email topekaaglow@hotmail for dates/times.

KINGDOM ADVISORS TOPEKA AREA STUDY GROUP MEETING - 3rd Thu., 11:30am, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Christian financial professionals: Financial Planners, Accountants, Attorney's & Insurance Agents invited to attend. For info: kingdomadvisors.org or Jim Hanna, james.c.hanna@ampf.com or 357-6278 x19.

TOPEKA (Downtown) OPTIMIST CLUB - Every Fri., noon, Top of the Tower. Serving the youth of Topeka. Anyone welcome. 272-1099 or fostern60@yahoo.com.

VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS - Every Fri., Noon, North Topeka Baptist Church, 123 NW Gordon. FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. For Info: 286-1370.

A GOOD YARN CLUB - 2nd & 4th Sat., 9-11am, Wanamaker Rd Baptist Church, 2700 SW Wanamaker. Doing Good for Others: Knitting & Crocheting for Local Charities, free yarn, needles, hooks & patterns. All are welcome. Info: Debby, 215-4889, ddhenrikson@cox.net

BIBLE QUIZZING - 1st Sat. Learn God's Word & have fun doing it with area Christian youth ages 9-19. New teams forming now for this year's season of quizzing. YFC/YEA style quizzing & rules. For info: 913-593-6427 or biblequizzing.org.

MONTHLY SCORE MEETING - 1st Sat., 8-9:30am, Washburn Tech, 5724 SW Huntoon (enter east doors facing Huntoon). No RSVP or fee. Small business

owners are invited to a Breakfast Roundtable discussion with (Service Corps of Retired Executives. 234-3049.

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES - Every Sat. 9-10:30am, Central Congregational Church, 1248 SW Buchanan. For info: 235-2376.

RUSSIAN HOUSE OF PRAYER - Every Sat., 4pm, Williamstown Assembly of God, 1225 Oak St., Perry/Williamstown. For info: 597-5228.

SINGLES PLAY CARDS - 1st Sat., 6pm, St. Peter's UMC, NW 35th & Hwy 75; 3rd Sat., 6pm, Countryside UMC, 3221 SW Burlingame Rd. Christian singles 18 & over. Bring a snack or 2-liter soda & join the fun.

UPPER ROOM COMMUNITY - held at the Capitol Building every second Saturday of the month at 10am.

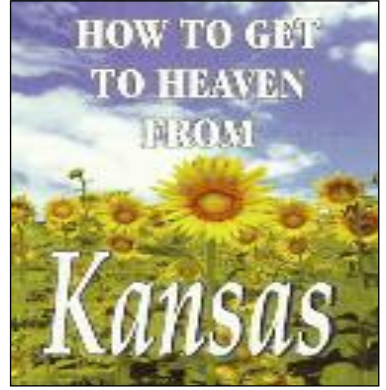
SUPPORT GROUPS

MIDLAND CARE GRIEF SUPPORT Groups: Building A, 200 SW Frazier Circle. Every Mon., 4-5pm: 12 Week Adult Group for Recent Loss 1st and 3rd Thu., 10:30am & 5:30pm—Ongoing Adult Group 1st and 3rd Thu., 5:30pm: Ongoing Young Adult Group (4-18 years of age) For All Groups: Call for start dates and info packet. Group and individual grief support available upon request. For info: 785-232-2044 ext.341

ABORTION RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUPS - A 12-step Restoring Joy recovery journey for women. Providing services for women & men who suffer from Post-Abortion Syndrome. For info: Kay Lyn, 272-6212.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS - for friends & families of alcoholics. For info: 785-409-3072 or topekaanon.org

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More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7:14). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Jn. 14:6). Jesus is the only way to Heaven and He gave these directions on getting there.

1. Realize you are a sinner. Everyone starts the same place spiritually. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of god." (Rom. 3:23). Sin's penalty keeps you out of Heaven and condemns you to Hell, separating you from God. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death." Sin brings both physical & spiritual death. "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." (Rev. 20:14).
2. Realize Jesus paid the penalty. Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection provided a way for you to go to heaven and restore your relationship with God. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8). Since Jesus, God's Son, was the only One who could pay for our sin, He is the only Way to Heaven.
3. Repent of your sin and receive Jesus as your Savior. In order to go to Heaven from KANSAS, or anywhere else, you must accept Christ by calling on Him in prayer. He tells us in Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Use the following prayer, or one similar to it, to receive Him now.
Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe that you died and rose again for me. Please forgive me of my sin, become Lord of my life, and take me to heaven when I die. I am trusting you completely, and in nothing I can do. Thank you Jesus! Amen.

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Advertisement for MIDLAND RAILWAY SANTA EXPRESS 2014. Dates: DEC. 6, 7, 13 & 14. Departures: 10:00 A.M., 1:00 & 3:30 P.M., Twilight Limited 6:00 P.M. Dec. 6 & 13 Only. Website: www.midlandrailway.org • 913.721.1211

PURSUIT FOR SEXUAL PURITY – Men struggling with pornography & sexual addiction. This bible study/accountability group uses the Pure Desire book by Ted Roberts. For info: Hunter Ruch, Topeka Bible Church, 234-5545 or hruch@topekabiblechurch.org.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUPS – Monthly support group meetings for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. For info: Alzheimer's Association, Heart of America Chapter, 271-1844 or email cindy.miller@alz.org.

"BETRAYED HEART" support group/Bible study – For women whose husbands struggle with pornography addictions or have had affairs. Videos & workbook will give you hope for your marriage & emotional healing. For info: Jane Goble, 478-9605.

BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE – NE Kansas Chapter (B.A.C.A.) 3rd Sun., 4 pm American Legion, 3800 SE Michigan. Open to the public. For info: 817-5801.

FRIENDS WITH M.S. – 3rd Mon., 6:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th St. (Enter East door). A Multiple Sclerosis support group. Donna, 266-7383.

BOUNCE BACK SELF-HELP – 3rd Mon., 6:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th St. For those living with multiple sclerosis. For info: 273-0799.

INCARCERATED PERSONS & FAMILIES – 1st Mon., 6:30-7:30pm, YMCA, 421 Van Buren. 286-2329.

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS BEREAVED PARENTS GROUP – Meets 4th Monday in Formation classroom at Most Pure Heart of Mary, 17th & Stone. Discussion starts at 7pm with fellowship & refreshments at 8:30. For info: Susan 272-4895

OVERCOMERS OUTREACH – Every Mon., 7-8:30pm, Wanamaker Woods Church, 3501 SW Wanamaker Rd. A bridge between traditional church and traditional 12 step meetings. 409-9111; wncovercomers@gmail.com.

GRIEF SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES – Sponsored by Heartland Hospice for those dealing with death or major loss: 1st Mon., 5:30-7:30pm, Individual appointments; other times are available. Call Terry Frizzell directly at (785)230-6730. 3rd Thurs., 11am, Lunch After Loss, Paisano's Ristorante, Fleming Place, SW 10th & Gage Blvd., Dutch treat luncheon to meet new friends who have sat where you are sitting. Reservations 271-6500.

OVEREATERS / UNDEREATERS ANONYMOUS:

MON., 7pm – Westminster Presbyterian, south door, upstairs in Library; 233-6724.

WED., 7pm – St. Francis Hospital meeting room 6, 2nd floor; 234-8020.

SAT. - 9am – St. Francis Hospital meeting room 8, 2nd

floor; 862-2326.

For info: 357-8774; sunflowerintergroup.org.

CHRIST-CENTERED SUPPORT GROUP – "Strong Tower" 12 step recovery program – Tue., 7pm, 1331 SW Harrison. Currently discussing the book "Living Free in Christ." For info: Tony, 620-366-1427.

NAMI TOPEKA – Every 2nd Tue., 6:45pm, lower level of Valeo, 330 SW Oakley. If door is locked, call 608-1317 to get in. The 1st hour is often a discussion of an important topic or video. The 2nd hour is usually a support talk time, w/ separate consumer & family groups.608-1317.

GRANDPARENT/RELATIVE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP – 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, 2nd floor meeting room, St. Francis Hosp, 1700 SW 7th. Join for support, information, etc. For info: Sharla, 286-2329; Jennie (English/Spanish) 231-0763.

THE GREATER TOPEKA MULTIPLE MYELOMA – 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th St. & Gage Blvd. Open to Multiple Myeloma patients, their family members & friends. Share support, information, & friendship. For info: Donna, 903-918-9553.

"HEALING AFTER THE SUICIDE OF A LOVED ONE" ("HEAL") – or Survivors of Suicide" (SOS). 1st & 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Pozee Education Center of Stormont Vail Hospital, 1505 SW 8th St. Serving anyone who has lost a loved one by suicide.

PRISON OUTREACH MINISTRY – Every Tue., 7-9pm, Topeka Women's Prison, 815 Rice Rd. Reaching out to those who can't come in, finding freedom behind bars, inspiring inmates to seek salvation during a difficult time. Providing support & guidance through the Holy Spirit to offer strength. Director: Don Garner. 286-0489 or faithfamilylifeministries@gmail.com.

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS – Every Wed, 7pm, St. Francis Hospital, meeting room #8.

JAYHAWK AREA AGENCY ON AGING – 4th Wed., 1pm, Rosehill Place Clubhouse. Monthly support group for caregivers of seniors. For info: 235-1367 ext.30.

MOMS-IN-TOUCH PRAYER GROUP – Every Wed., 2:30-3:30pm, Library at Cair Paravel-Latin School. Experience God's power through prayer as we lift our students, teachers, staff, administrators & board up to the Lord. For info: 357-0369.

DIVORCECARE PROGRAMS – locations and times:

TUE. – 7-8:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Cost \$15. Scholarships available. Also DC4K(DivorceCare for Kids) and Single & Parenting beginning May 13. For info: 273-2811

MESSY

continued from page 9

isn't just feeling good about yourself because you know someone who has adopted. This are all good things, but I would challenge you that if we look at ourselves as orphans before we came to Christ, and look at how God dealt with our fatherlessness, then we have absolutely no excuse to leave 200 million children around the world fatherless.

WED. – 6:30pm, Topeka Bible Church, 1101 SW Mulvane. Cost: \$15. Child care provided. For info: 379-0505 or www.divorcecare.org.

WED. – 6:45 – 8:45pm, Walnut View Christian Church, 3634 SE 37th St. Cost: \$10 registration (scholarships available). Video seminar series featuring some of the nation's foremost experts on divorce and recovery topics, combined with support group discussion of the materials. Free child care children up to fifth grade. Info: 266-7550 or walnutviewcc@att.net. divorcecare.org.

NAMI WASHBURN – 4th Thurs., 6-8pm, Spirit Building Room, University United Methodist Church, 1621 SW College Ave. NAMI is a student-run, student-led organization that provides mental health support, education, & advocacy in the Washburn University setting. A support group is also available during this time.

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – 1st Thurs., 7pm, 2nd floor conf. room of the cancer unit at St Francis Hospital. For info: 266-9533.

NICOTINE ANONYMOUS – Every Fri., 6:30pm, Town & Country Christian Church Renaissance Room, 4925 SW 29th St., use west door cross red foot bridge. A fellowship of men & women helping each other to live free of nicotine. No fees. 402-321-486; Laboomaha@att.net.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY – Every Fri., 6pm, 1912 Gage Blvd. A Christ centered program, based on 8 principles found in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Applying these Biblical principles, become free from addictive & dysfunctional behaviors. 272-7980 or crtopeka.org.

COVENANT KEEPERS – 3rd Sat. Group for people who want to see their marriage saved when their spouse wants out. For info: 816-453-0884 or 816-966-0927.

How did God look at you when you were fatherless? Yes, His response hurt, but He sacrificed Jesus, His beloved Son, so that not only you would not perish, but that you would become a heir in God's family. Adoption is messy, adoption can be painful, adoption finds you on your knees before the Father because getting there puts you in places that you would rather not go. You will deal with government, social workers, you will feel like your family is under a microscope, and then you have your child, and all of your dreams of having a perfect child will come crumbling down, because you were "perfect" when God adopted you, right?

These children have been places you would never wish on your worst enemy and God is calling you to care for them! According to Psalms 86:5-6a "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families." Just as God adopting us is beautiful, it's the placing of orphans in families that will pull them out of the wreckage and help them make beauty from their ashes.

There are over 1000 orphans available for adoption in Kansas, and another 6000-plus in out-of-home placements. There are more than 1000 churches in Kansas. If one family from each church would step up and take 1 child or 1 sibling group we could eliminate the orphan crisis in our state and we could move on to adopting children from



other states and countries, and we could prepare loving foster families committed to the children in their homes until they either go home or become available for adoption. I would hope that more than 1 family in each church would open their home.

I would also challenge those who are not opening their homes to realize they are still called to look after widows and orphans in their distress and this includes caring for those families who have adopted. Everybody believes that the struggles of adoption end once the paper work is finished and it is legal, but just as when Christ heals us, our children have to be given time to heal. Adoptive parents have to make themselves vulnerable enough that their traumatized children begin to believe they can trust the new home situation. It is hard, hard work, that will take many years, but it is worth it when you have a 15-year-old - who used to have screaming rages about how much she hates you and wants to go home - tell you she loves you and honestly means it.

Do you remember the transition you lived through as you adjusted to God's family, one that I hope was made easier by older believers willing to guide you? Do you remember the point where you finally felt like you were part of the family, in spite of the hurts incurred along the way? It's a very similar journey for a child being adopted and growing into a family. It takes time and often has frustrations along the way, so when you as an outsider bring your support, you can make an incredible difference to the adoptive family. No matter how God calls you to care for orphans, James 1:27 tells us that God finds pure religion to be just that.

Allison is a busy mom of 14 beautiful blessings ranging from 18 to 1 year old. She married her knight in shining armor in of May 2004 and they started the first step in their adoption journey in the end of 2005 just 18 months after they were married. Jonathan and Allison are vocal advocates for adoption, they believe that God places the lonely in families and keeping siblings together is the best course of action when possible. They have adopted 2 sibling groups of 5, with the adoption finalizations occurring five years apart, to the day. Allison is certified to teach PS-MAPP and Jonathan and Allison do everything they can to help their favorite ministry Project Belong. Allison blogs at Schumm Explosion and James 1:27 Moms, she also has a passion for her work with Project Belong and their ministry. Currently, Jonathan and Allison reside in Topeka, KS and home school all 14 of their children. Allison enjoys writing, traditional cooking, crafts and spending time with her family.

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KANSAS CITY GETS SPOTLIGHT IN FILM ABOUT 'LOST BOYS' OF SUDAN

movie review

by Phil Boatright

After their village is attacked and slaughtered by terrorists, a Sudanese refugee and his brothers and sister are allowed to enter the United States. They've come from a small plains village with absolutely no modern conveniences we take for granted in America. So imagine the culture shock they must endure as they attempt to adjust to their new home—in Kansas City.

As a critic, I've had some interesting, frustrating and even spiritually rewarding moments while attending movie screenings. One that touched me the most happened at a recent viewing of *The Good Lie* which opened in October. During the opening scenes, a village in the Sudan is attacked by terrorists, with defenseless adults and children being gunned down. This sequence had an emotional impact on the gentleman sitting next to me, which in turn affected me.

Suddenly the man began to sob. This very tall, fit young black man quickly reduced in size, completely shattered by the depiction on the screen. It wasn't an

film411

THE GOOD LIE

STARS: Reese Witherspoon, Corey Stoll, Sarah Baker
 DIRECTOR: Philippe Falardeau
 SCREENPLAY: PG-13

Indiana Jones adventure to him. This was real.

Both the man on the other side of him and I put a hand on his shoulder to in some small way offer comfort. He regained his composure and had the guts to stay there for the entire movie. Later, I was to discover that he had survived such an attack. Others he knew hadn't.

It's easy to become jaded by the blockbusters that bombard our cineplexes. Horrors and injustices taking place in our world too often serve as fodder for moviemakers who know something about placing action adventure on celluloid, but fail to relate the evil of man's inhumanity to man. And we sit there, eating our popcorn, as concerned about the death toll as we demonstrate over the fate of victimized video game pixels. Though the word may

seem overused as to how we deal with injustice, desensitized still fits.

While viewing the film's opening sequence, I suddenly became aware of the horrors being done to our fellow man all over the world. It is a bleak time, because there are several Hitlers now in power, each determined to end the existence of other religions, races or nations. I was also reminded by this film that we're not on this planet just to attend T-ball games and save for retirement's cottage by the sea. This is our time to develop our spiritual walk with Christ, draw closer to our Creator by trusting in Him, and generate a caring nature for others... Well, that's what it had to say to me.

The film's one weakness is the failing to explain why the Sudanese were targeted. The producers assume all moviegoers know the history of the Sudan. By now, we all should know not to assume.

Who are the terrorists, Mr. Filmmaker? Is this a religious cleansing on the part of the attackers? And has this situation been contained, or is it still going on? Never assume moviegoers are getting the answers from the nightly news. Many aren't watching the nightly news.

One of the inspiring aspects of *The Good Lie* is that Christian organizations



are seen taking the lead in aiding the Sudanese victims. Of course, much of the Christian involvement depicted on screen is in code, as if the producers are wary of showing Christians in too positive a light.

It saddened me that one religious organization worker (played by Sarah Baker) was portrayed as a kind of dopy (make that, dopier) version of "Bridesmaids" Melissa McCarthy. When offered tequila, Ms. Baker says "Praise Jesus," then her character proceeds to get drunk. It's the hard-bidden, non-religious

woman (played by Reese "Do you know my name?" Witherspoon) who manages to save the day.

Though *The Good Lie* (title taken from a Huckleberry Finn reference) has some brutal moments that are unsettling, it is full of humor evenly mixed with warmth and pathos. And by the end of this illuminating theatrical experience, we are also reminded of how blessed we are to be in America.

The Good Lie is engaging, enlightening and spiritually rewarding.

booknook

Unexpected Discoveries

By Andrea Vinley Jewell

I always loved reading to my children. Even when they were tiny board books, those annoying squeaky-soft books were a daily part of life. I cherished the time we could cuddle up and read, and I valued the

moments I could take a rest from my mock-speed day. As my children grew, so did their library. We'd scarf up books at garage sales and libraries and request them as gifts.

When my children were in first and third grade, we decided to read the "Little House on the Prairie" series together. I had no idea how important that would be for our family and our future.

"Yuck! Play ball with a pig's bladder? That's disgusting!" my son, Sean, said as we read *Little House on the Prairie*.

"I did as a little girl," Nana said hesitantly. She was visiting with us and had joined our reading time.

Seeing the golden moment, I ran to get my tape recorder. Nana then told her grandchildren about growing up on a farm during and after the Great Depression and about using a pig's bladder for a ball. The children were enthralled.

Every night for the next 10 days, they'd cuddle up with my mom to tape the stories she told. Those stories not only bonded my children to their grandmother but to history

itself. She connected us to history, to family and to love. She brought the war, rationing, jitterbugging and Walton-type Christmases to life. She helped us understand her, the world and her faith better.

After she left, we continued reading the series. For the children's school History/Science Fair, we built a *Little House on the Prairie* dollhouse from the descriptions in the book. What a great way to learn

about the pioneer days.

What was even more valuable than the enjoyment of that series was that my children learned to value and love reading, and they developed an interest in history.

Over the years they read more of the classics and talked to their grandparents about them. It was a special bond they shared.

Reading is a multi-faceted experience that can bond generations together. It can also expand a child's world in life-changing ways.

Sidebox

Out in the COUNTRY

by Scott Perkins



If you were to describe a country boy, you might say something like; he lives on a 140 acre farm, enjoys playing with a border collie, driving the tractor and has been hunting and fishing since he was young and loves country music. That would describe this artist perfectly. But it might surprise you to know that he is only fourteen years old.

This country boy, Isaac Cole, has been singing in church since he was four years old. His very first song performance was Josh Turner's, "Long Black Train." About a year later, Cole met Tommy Brandt and we could say that the rest is history. Brandt has become a mentor for Cole



since then. On a side note, Tommy Brandt's son, Tommy Brandt II, and Cole are good friends as well.

In 2012, Cole released his first project called, "Country Boy." From there came his first radio single that was heard on *The Country Parson*. It was called, "Faster Than a Tear Drop." Earlier this year, Cole released, "I'm Just a Kid." This is a great tune about a country boy growing up and in faith in God.

Cole has been nominated for several awards and will be one of the featured artists at the Inspirational Country Music

Awards in Nashville, TN in November.

If you haven't heard Cole, you need to listen. Have your kids listen too! Go to his website at: isaacolemusic.com.

Be Encouraged.
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Scott and Diane Perkins host The Country Parson which can be heard every Sunday morning from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. on their home station of 94.5 fm in Topeka, KS.

Contact The Country Parson:
thecountryparson.com 785.505.PERK

■ sidenote | Classic Books for Kids

Consider these time-tested classics. Below are some classic books you and your family may enjoy.* Be sure to review any book before giving it to your child to read.

- *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
- *Winnie-the-Pooh* by A. A. Milne
- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
- *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling
- *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie
- *Mary Poppins* by P. L.

Travers

- *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by Lyman Frank Baum
- *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans
- *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl
- *The Story of Babar* by Jean De Brunhoff
- *The People Could Fly* by Virginia Hamilton
- *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
- *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis

GMA DOVE AWARD NOMINEES NAMED

Well, if you haven't already heard, the 45th annual GMA Dove Awards were announced last month, and there are a few familiar faces garnering yet another (or two or three) Dove awards for this year. Here's the rundown.

Song of the year: Hillsong UNITED "Oceans (Where My Feet May Fall)"
 Artist of the Year: Hillsong UNITED
 New Artist of the Year: Ellie Holcomb
 Rock Album of the Year: "Rise" by Skillet

Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year: "Overcomer" by Mandisa

Inspirational Album of the Year: "Hymns" by Michael W. Smith

Praise and Worship Album of the Year: "Majestic" by Kari Jobe

Rap/Hip Hop Album of the Year: "Never Land" by Andy Mineo.

For more information and a listing of the contestants, visit Doveawards.com.

And... drum roll, please... as the holidays are now sliding into view there are a few recent releases worth checking out, either for yourself or for someone special.

Kirk Cameron's newest theatrical outtake, *Saving Christmas*, will be hitting screens nationwide on November



musicscene

14th. The soundtrack accompanying the movie came out October 27! Featuring contributing artists such as Steven Curtis Chapman, Casting Crowns, Tenth Avenue North, 1Girl Nation and Rhett Walker Band, to name but a few, this would be a great collection of Christmas classics, as well as a few new numbers, to bring to the family festivities.

Speaking of Rhett Walker Band (and new music, for that matter), their newest release, *Here's To the Ones* was also recently released and has gotten some good buzz. Leaning a bit more country this time, and a bit less hard rock, this album is still driving and catchy. Well worth checking out.

Another new, recent release is for King & Country's *Run Wild. Live Free.*



Love Strong. These brothers have made quite the name for themselves since releasing their debut, and pulling out from under their sister's shadow a few years back. The newest release is also generating quite a bit of attention on Amazon.com and iTunes (over 400 five-star reviews on iTunes!). For fans of deep meditational lyrics and a splash of 80s Euro-pop, this would definitely be one to look for, either for your own stereo or to wrap.

On the slightly older, quite a bit cheaper side, I dug up some great bargains in music on some of my favorite Christian music sites (I'll leave a little to the imagination, so you can do your own research). The band, and the self-titled album *Connorsvine* is not very well-known, and for that reason it's a catch for under \$5. Reviews on different

sites have given this worship collection high praise, both for lyrics and vocals, and musically they sound within the modern alternative genre.

Another band (I'm not familiar with) which has gotten some big praise online, and is dirt cheap – depending where you look – is *Hearts of Saints*. Their freshmen release has also gotten



quite a bit of attention from fans, online, and it's an easy find for only a few bucks.

Finally, getting down from my low-budget high-horse, one more place to find some great Christian music? Thrift stores! Salvation Army, Goodwill and Red Racks all have a ton of CDs for around two bucks, and they frequently have some great Christian artists, from Gospel to metal, rock to pop. Save some money and find a bargain for Christmas!

SPECIAL

continued from page 9

will be turned upside down and given to irreversible chaos, or their other children will suffer (or at least lose necessary opportunities), or the adoption will fail, or they will go bankrupt, or perhaps they will sink into deep depression. Or maybe all these things will happen and more. And the hardships will mean that they had missed God's will.

We as God's people can be confident that He will not throw us off the deep end and walk away as we drown in agony. This is the crux of the matter, really.

In order to lose all fear of accidentally adopting outside of God's will, you first need to understand that adoption is not an automatic or guaranteed process. You will not succeed in adopting if it's not God's will. He has a myriad of ways to say, "No," or "Not right now." A friend described their family's experience as jumping off a cliff, only to hit a ledge a few inches down.

If your situation is in such a desperate state that you would clearly go under if you adopted a child with special needs, any home study social worker worth his or her salt would discover that early on. And that is just a human being judging on a human level. We and countless other adoptive families have seen supernatural provision of the Lord that fills in our gaps and goes far beyond what a home study social worker could have quantified.

It is vital that we examine the foundational thinking under each fear, and hold it up to the light of Scripture.

Do you really believe that by taking steps to move forward with special needs adoption, you might displease your Father in heaven, who is also the Father of the fatherless, with the result that He'll take

■ Please see SPECIAL page 20

Massage for Health and Well Being
 by Anne Murphy

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YFC will present Comedy Cafe

When was the last time you laughed so hard it hurt? Topeka Youth for Christ will host its second annual Comedy Cafe featuring nationally known comedian Kenn Kington on Friday night, November 14 in the Fellowship Bible Church Auditorium.

Kenn Kington's comedic voice is heavily influenced by Bill Cosby and Steve Martin - great Comedy with no side effects (No blushing, No Cringing, No embarrassing situations or language). Kenn has been performing for over 25 years and is one of today's most sought after comedians and speakers. Kenn has appeared on Comedy Central, is one of the most popular comedians on satellite radio (Laugh USA & Blue Collar Radio) and is selling out clean comedy shows nationwide. A devoted family man, Kenn and his wife of 18 years, Heather, live in Atlanta, Georgia, where they are raising two teen age sons, Graham & Kody, and daughter Kennedy



As an author, his bestselling books on relationships are in their 7th printing, and Kenn's comedy projects have been featured on multiple cable networks over the past two decades. His newest award winning DVD (2N Comedy) is a compilation of comedy and content that you will find inspiring, entertaining, and unforgettable.

The YFC Comedy Café is a perfect blend of food, fellowship, fun and laughter, with a purpose that inspires people to make a difference with teens.

The evening includes delicious coffee and desserts, a program that highlights young people and tells the Topeka YFC story, and, of course, the hilarious comedy of Kenn Kington.

The YFC Comedy Café starts at 6:30 PM (doors open at 6:15) in the Fellowship Bible Church worship center, located at 6800 SW 10th Ave. in Topeka. Limited free admission tickets are available, and reservations are required. The Comedy Café is underwritten by individual table sponsors so seating is limited. To make your reservation or sponsor a table go to the YFC website at Topeka.yfc.net/comedycafe or call the YFC office at 785-232-8296.

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The Global Crisis Called Diabetes

By Eileen McGivern, BSN, RN, Director of Strategic Community Initiatives at Brewster Place

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. Everyone can likely think of someone whose life has been touched by diabetes. Diabetes is a metabolic disease known for high levels of glucose over a period of time. The blood glucose levels are high because the pancreas is not producing adequate insulin or the cells in our bodies are not properly responding to the amount of insulin that is produced. The three common types of diabetes are Type 1, Type 2 and Gestational Diabetes.



•Type 1 diabetes results from the pancreas failing to produce enough insulin. This type is often called insulin dependent or juvenile diabetes. The cause is unknown but often diabetes runs in families, lending thought to genetics. Infections and environmental toxins are often suspect. A definitive cause is unknown and

subject of ongoing research.

•Type 2 diabetes often begins with a "insulin resistance" or our bodies cells inability to respond and use insulin efficiently. As the disease progresses, the amount of insulin produced may decrease. This type of diabetes is often called non-insulin dependent or adult onset. The primary cause is excessive body weight and lack of exercise.

•Gestational diabetes is the third form and occurs during pregnancy. In this type, women who have had no previous history of diabetes, develop high glucose levels. Often, the blood sugars will return to normal after the delivery of the baby.

Prevention and treatment involves a healthy diet, exercise and maintaining a normal body weight. Diabetics must carefully monitor their blood sugars and for those with Type 1, manage

insulin injections. Type 2 diabetics may be able to exercise and diet to decrease blood levels. Oral diabetic agents are also prescribed. Monitoring of blood pressure and foot care for diabetics is important.

Diabetes is a global emergency as it is estimated that in 2013 there are 382 million people with diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is almost 90% of that number. Women and



men are equally affected. The economic costs of diabetes globally in 2013 was estimated at \$548 billion. It is the 8th leading cause of death in the world.

What can we do this month to increase our awareness? Healthy

SENIOR HUMOR

They weren't in my pockets. Suddenly I realized I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the parking lot. My husband has scolded me many times for leaving my keys in the car's ignition. He's afraid that the car could be stolen. As I looked around the parking lot, I realized he was right.

The parking lot was empty. I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen.

Then I made the most difficult call of all to my husband:

"I left my keys in the car and it's been stolen."

There was a moment of silence. I thought the call had been disconnected, but then I heard his voice.

"Are you kidding me?" he barked, "I dropped you off!"

Now it was my turn to be silent.

Embarrassed, I said, "Well, come and get me."

He retorted, "I will, as soon as I convince this cop that I didn't steal your car!"



diets are key as well as exercise which lowers blood sugar levels. Talk to your doctor and partner with him to form a plan to manage your weight. Prevention is

possible with Type 2 diabetes with lifestyle changes. Reading about this disease and talking with your doctor increases your awareness of this. Knowledge is power.

12 Fascinating Aging Facts for Older Americans Month

Aging is an inevitable part of living, and can be fascinating for people of any age. Lives change, minds and bodies change, and time goes on. Here we will take a look at 12 interesting facts about aging in honor of Older Americans Month.

Population

Aging Americans are an important part of the population-learn about their impact here.

1. The over 65 population should reach 86.7 million: Estimates put the 65+ population at 86.7 by 2050.

2. Life expectancy is increasing at a faster rate: Between 1900 and 1960, life expectancy increased by 2.4 years, but since 1960, it has increased by 3.5 years.

3. The older population is nearly 40 million strong: In 2012, there were 46 million people aged 65 and older.

4. Minorities make up almost half of the older population: 42% of people 65 and older in the US are part of minority groups.

5. There are more people over age 60 than under 15: Those over age 60 outnumber those under 15.

6. The elderly are the fastest growing age group: The US Census Bureau indicates that individuals 85 and up are the fastest growing age group by percentage.

by these facts.

7. Poets, philosophers, and writers can create at a late age: Emmanuel Kant published his greatest works between 60 and 80.

8. About half of the employed elderly work full time: Of those who are working past 65, 55% work full time.

9. The number of 65+ veterans is estimated to be about 9 million.

10. 15 million older persons volunteer: Nearly half of all adults 65 and older volunteer in some form.

11. The elderly vote more than any other age group: 70% of citizens 65 and older voted in 2008, with the highest turnout rate of any age group.

12. There are millions of elderly in the labor force: That number should reach 11.1 million by 2018.





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Societal Contributions

Growing older doesn't have to mean shrinking away from society, as evidenced

Few adults taking advantage of new KanCare dental coverage

TOPEKA — About 6 percent of eligible adults took advantage of new dental coverage offered under KanCare in the first year of the managed care Medicaid program.

The switch to managed care Medicaid administered by three private companies extended basic dental cleanings to more than 130,000 adults age 19 to 64.

According to Kansas Department of Health and Environment statistics, about 7,600 adults had a cleaning paid for by one of the managed care companies in 2013.

Representatives of the managed care companies and dental providers offered several possible reasons why the rate of use of the cleanings, which dentists recommend twice a year, was not higher.

Ray Munoz, a coordinator at Douglas County Dental Clinic, said adults on KanCare might not know they now have insurance coverage for the cleanings.

"We do have to tell a lot of people that their coverage will cover certain things," said Munoz, whose clinic serves low-income and uninsured residents of Douglas County. "It doesn't seem like they're aware of that before we tell them."

The three managed care companies responsible for KanCare administration are Amerigroup, Sunflower State Health Plan (a division of Centene) and United HealthCare.

Denise Malecki, a spokeswoman for Amerigroup, also said she thought

lack of awareness of the new coverage was a factor. The company has better rates of use for its children's dental coverage, she said, but "adult dental services are a new KanCare benefit, so many adult recipients, who have never had access before, may not know how to use the services."

As new benefits go, she said, the rate of adult dental use so far has been "better than expected," citing the city of Iola as a region where use has been particularly high.

She said her company is working to make more adults aware of the dental benefits, in both written materials like member handbooks and one-on-one interactions.

"Our case managers and service coordinators conduct proactive outreach to encourage use," Malecki said. "Also, our call center representatives are trained to provide information about available services and access when members call with questions."

Need for higher-level care

Kendra Davis, who also works at the Douglas County Dental Clinic, said some KanCare clients who are aware of the new coverage can't take advantage of it.

Davis said customers who have been without regular checkups for extended periods of time often need higher-level dental care like periodontal maintenance, scaling or debridement - services that are not covered - before they can receive a basic cleaning.

Consequently, the clinic can't order

the covered services until a customer pays out of pocket to get caught up on years of higher-level dental care.

Malecki confirmed that some Amerigroup clients go to clinics for their cleaning only to "leave knowing that they need advance dental work and are unsure if they can afford it."

"We want members to at least start with accessing basic screenings, so they know where they stand with their oral health and how it can impact their physical health," Malecki said. "From there, we may be able to assist on a case-by-case basis so they can access advance services, especially when special circumstances exist or when there is medical necessity to avoid more serious health setbacks."

Malecki provided three examples. In two cases Amerigroup helped clients find referrals so they could get their advanced dental work done at lower out-of-pocket costs. A third client received coverage for her fillings because she was undergoing chemotherapy that made it imperative that her teeth not be allowed to decay to the point of extraction.

"Extractions are a covered benefit, but fillings are not," Malecki said via email. "However, in this situation, the chemo and radiation had made the member's bones so brittle that extracting her teeth would cause her jawbone to crumble, resulting in the need for oral surgery and wires to hold her jaw together. Because of the medical necessity, we were able to help this member get special approvals to cover the cost of fillings, and the result was that more costly and painful oral surgery and services were avoided."

Kevin Robertson, executive director of the Kansas Dental Association, said his organization would like to see Medicaid cover more services in KanCare. But he said the group's members are pleased with the addition of basic adult dental coverage and encourage those who received it to take advantage.

Not doing so, he said, will end up costing more in the long run.

"If people take care of their teeth, brush regularly and seek preventative treatment from a dentist, dental services don't have to cost that much," Robertson said. "When things get out of control, now suddenly they've got cavities that linger and start having other problems."

Robertson said he's aware of "some different pockets" of the state where

it's difficult to recruit dentists and other areas where dentists did not join the managed care networks.

A September network report for the three managed care companies stated that 96.6 percent or more of KanCare clients in each of the companies had access to a dental provider. But the dental coverage

map attached to the report shows many of the counties in western Kansas have only one provider who accepts Medicaid or none at all.

Amerigroup's dental network is most robust, with 425 providers at 305 locations. Sunflower State Health Plan is close behind with 413 providers at 300 locations, and United HealthCare has 391 providers at 287 locations.

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Knocking On Heaven's Door - BY FAKES/BLAZE

sports

Thoughts on Faith & Sports

by Ed Stetzer

Right now, many of you are gathered around the TV, surrounded by bowls of dip and chips, platters of wings, and other tasty treats as you watch The Game. Are you getting your Superbowl on? Some people watch mostly for the commercials, and at least one spot has already generated a lot of controversy because of an athlete's pro-life stance in it.

Most guys like sports, and Christians aren't any exception. In fact there appears to be a real influence of faith in sports, and even (for good or bad) sports in faith. There's even a new book covering the subject (with a negative view).

We've all seen teams pray before the game, players credit God with the win, and many athletes openly talk about their religious convictions. I know it's cool these days to dump on celebrities and athletes when they "thank God." Newscasters, and even many Christians, roll their eyes. But the truth is many athletes who wind up in the

spotlight believe such opportunities must be taken to publicly give God thanks or even tell others about Jesus.

Look, you can't ask for someone's thoughts and expect them to leave out their core convictions that determine how they interpret the events (or games) of their lives. Even if the press doesn't get religion, they have to know enough to cover the motivation of these athletes. Sarah Pullman Bailey has written a good article on this in the Wall Street Journal.

...reporters have found it hard to ignore Jesus-professing athletes like the quarterback Kurt Warner, who retired on Jan. 29. Mr. Warner, who went from stocking shelves at a grocery store to winning two MVPs, is outspoken about his faith. When a reporter attempts to separate the high-caliber athletes from average ones, they begin to look for some intangible qualities, and faith is sometimes a part of that. "There is dishonesty in telling his story if you ignore what drives him, especially if

you accept its role in one of the NFL's great success stories," the Arizona Republic's Paola Boivin wrote before last year's Super Bowl.

Sports journalism often lends itself to lengthy profile-driven features. Sportswriters have some of the best opportunities to tell human-interest stories, and in some cases that means connecting the religious dots for people. But when you look closer into what it means to be religious, it usually involves divisive opinions on matters like heaven, hell, or abortion.

One of the funnier moments I enjoyed was the shock that a nationally known athlete would live different because of his faith. Tebow's response to a journalist's question is priceless.

Now, this has to apply to all. If an athlete wants to thank Allah, Vishnu, Mother Earth, or the power of Grayskull, so be it. If you don't like it, quit making athletes into role models and interviewing them. When you ask them, they just might tell you what they believe.

ELECTION

continued from page 6

The private sector only added 2.3 percent more jobs between 1998 and 2012 while our income-taxing peers gained 3.4 percent; Kansas was only 68 percent as good as our peers in the past. But since December 2012, Kansas is at 88 percent of our peers' growth, growing 2.5% versus 2.9 percent. Private sector GDP growth beat the national average last year and Kansas had the fourteenth best personal income growth rate in the second quarter of 2014. Creighton University's Mid-America Business Conditions Index has Kansas leading a nine-state region for September.

So how does a state rationally reduce taxes? James Carville might say, "It's the spending, stupid." Every state provides education, social services, highways, etc. but the low-tax states provide those services at a better price. In 2012, the states that tax income spent 49 percent more per-resident than those without an income tax. Kansas was 37 percent higher.

Kansas does have a structural budget issue because of bi-partisan resistance to reducing the cost of government when taxes were reduced. Fortunately, the budget can be balanced without any service reductions or tax increases by making better use of existing resources.

SPECIAL

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vengeance on you by withholding the resources you need to care for your adopted child? When it's stated that way, you can see that it doesn't fit with the character of our God as He has revealed Himself to us in His word. He doesn't play manipulative games to hide His will from us and then ZAP us and say, "Ha! You missed it! Too bad for you! Now you'll have to bear the consequences forever!" No, no, no! He wants His children to know His will!

Most of the time we won't know for sure what He wants us to do next unless we are moving. He is more than able to direct our steps as we are walking.

We aren't urging you to walk in paths of rebellion and evil! That kind of walking is the only walking that should cause us to fear!

His people simply don't need to be paralyzed by the fear that if we start out to do something He says is a good thing, that He will punish us for that! Imagine people with the living God inside them curled up

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

You would be hard pressed to find someone that wasn't caught up in Royal mania right now. What a run they had. Now understand this, I am writing this after game six of the World Series so by the time you read this, a champion will have been crowned, the Royals or the Giants. Either way, this has been a great postseason and we couldn't have asked for more.

To see the way the Royals played throughout the entire playoffs was nothing short of amazing. I remember sitting on my couch during the Wild Card game against Oakland being grateful that they were in the playoffs and I was already looking ahead to next year. But, as everyone knows, they came back in dramatic fashion and won, then swept a VERY good Anaheim Angels team then swept a VERY good Baltimore Orioles team. But even if they lost game seven, how can we, as Royals fans, be disappointed? They had a GREAT season and we all enjoyed the ride.

But, let's look ahead to next year. I hope that you're ready for the long haul because I believe that the Royals are going to stick around for a few years. Don't be surprised if they make another run into October next year as well. There are a couple of reasons for that. First, the Tigers are falling apart and many of their players will be leaving via free agency this offseason. The Twins and the White Sox will be better, but they are still a few years off. Cleveland is an improving team and they could

make a run at the American League Central title, but I think that it's the Royals to lose.

James Shields will probably leave through free agency, which will leave a huge hole, but the other players whose futures are uncertain are Nori Aoki, Josh Willingham and Raul Ibanez. The Royals can get by without any of them; however, I would like to see Aoki stay around for a few more years.

The only other player swirling around in uncertainty is Billy Butler. He has a pricey club option for next year, which means he will probably test the free agent market as well. Don't be surprised, however, if he returns to the team at a much cheaper price. I can't imagine there would be much interest for him in the free agent market.

The rest of the core guys are signed and ready to go. In addition, they are relatively young. Alex Gordon will be 31 next year, one of the oldest on the team. Salvador Perez will be 24. Eric Hosmer 25 and Mike Moustakis 26. Greg Holland and Wade Davis will both be 29 and Kelvin Herrera will be 28 as will Lorenzo Cain.

So enjoy the Royals now. Celebrate their World Series appearance and their postseason ride. Buy your tickets for next year and hang on to all the gear you bought during October because you'll need it again next year and the year after because these guys are here to stay for a few years.

Our 5-year plan identifies large, unnecessary cash surpluses that could be returned to the General Fund. A half billion dollars of sales taxes are annually sent directly to the Department of Transportation without being budgeted, and some of that money results in surplus balances; annual transfers can be reduced without impacting highway projects. Placing new hires in a 401(k) plan would save \$147 million in the first four years.

Implementing these and a few other

opportunities would more than resolve the structural issue and leave very healthy ending balances. And even if revenue estimates decline, state government would only need to operate less than 5 percent more efficiently under our plan.

Kansas and other states can reduce taxes by providing the same or better quality service at a better price. Legislators and media just need to remember that government is supposed to work for citizens.

inside coffins of stifling fear, waiting out their lives until they can die and be buried. Does that picture look tragic to you?

I want to encourage you that if you have an open heart toward God, He will make His path clear to you as you walk, and if He wants you to adopt, He will make it possible. If He does not have adoption for your family, He will close the door on it either temporarily or permanently, and that would be His perfect will for you.

So if you have God's heart for adoption, and you think you qualify, you can take the next step without fear, knowing with confidence that He will be guiding your steps 100%. And that will continue to be true after the adoption is final, if He allows the process to get that far.

Don't be afraid, God says. No fear. Not with Me in charge. Don't allow fear to rule your decisions. Eyes wide open? Yes. Expecting difficulty? Yes. Paralyzing fear? No.

Ask yourself what you would choose if you had total trust in your heavenly Father and no fears. If you took the wrong kind of fear out of the equation, what would you

choose? That decision will be made out of pure love and faith, and your Father will not fail to direct you exactly where He wants you to go.

What decision would you make if you took out the fear?

"Does God have a secret will of direction that He expects us to figure out before we do anything? And the answer is no." ~Kevin DeYoung, in his book, Just Do Something

"Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread."

This is not intended to be a comprehensive treatise on fear, nor even a complete treatment of the fears commonly related to special needs adoption. Maybe someday when I've grown all the way up...oh, and've grown back a few of the brain cells I donated to my children, heh heh.

If you have thought about adopting a child with special needs, but your fears have stopped you from taking the next step, this is from me to you, with love and understanding. What decision would you make if you took out the fear? That's the decision our family is praying you'll make.

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Tips to Maximize Space in Every Room

(Family Features) Current trending of lifestyles, whether it may be empty nesters, first time home buyers or the economy, have left people with smaller spaces. There are several ways that you can maximize storage just by thinking ahead and taking steps to stay organized.

Designate a spot

A crucial rule to always follow when trying to conserve space is to give every item its own location. Yes, this may seem like an effortless task; however, how many of your measuring cups or hair products are the exact way you had them when they were first organized? Take the extra time to conserve organization by storing them correctly, and you will be surprised how much time you will actually save when it comes to locating them.

Most frequent in the front

Arrange items by how often you use them by simply placing the items that are used most in the front. This will save time because you will know exactly where to find them without the hassle of digging to the back of the cabinet.

Sliding shelves are super

To get the most out of your cabinets, use sliding shelves. Not only does this eliminate having to kneel and stretch to the back of the cabinet to reach that cake pan that fell behind everything else, but it gives you access to use every inch of space because with a simple pull, everything is brought to you. Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. provides storage solutions such as sliding shelves for maximization of space.



Remain or remove

Everyone has those items that have not been touched in years and are the best dust collectors. It is time to decide what remains and what needs to be removed. This is often associated with closet clean outs, but every room can use an annual clean out. Clutter and lack of organization results from an excess of objects. This simple clean out will make a huge difference in maximizing space.

Find more products to help maximize space at www.wellborn.com.

More Organizing Tips

Before leaving a room, take 30-60 seconds to pick up items that are out of place. This little bit of time will make a huge difference.

- Arrange objects creatively. Maximize space even if it means hanging hooks on cabinet drawers to hang pot holders or utensils.

- Labels can be your best friend. Be innovative and use them outside of the office. They are perfect for locating items in the pantry, closet, laundry room and more.

- Put a weekly pantry and refrigerator cleanout on your to-do list. This gives you time to throw out the old items and empty containers to make clutter-free room for new groceries.

- Be socially responsible and recycle. Keep a few bins around to recycle your cans, plastic and paper. This is such an easy way to teach children responsibility while keeping the earth clean.

Tools to help

Technology

The advances in technology have allowed products to be made that make life a little easier on you. Cooking and many other activities, a lot of times, leave you with your hands messy or full. Features like touch to lift, touch to light, touch to open and touch to close by Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. provide the solution to this mainstream problem in any room.

Lighting

The right amount of lighting complements cabinets to show the true beauty of the wood while also providing the function to make things easier to see. This alone can save space because it gives you access to locate items in all areas of the cabinetry. When paired with organizational solutions, you are guaranteed

to get the most out of your space.

Accessories

A wonderful way to be a creative organizer is by putting accessories to use. These can range from those that are built into cabinets or even a few strategically placed bins to keep everything together. This is especially great for drawers, making them easier to clean out.



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Annette's tip

If tiny chickweed or henbit weeds are appearing on the surface of your lawn, it's time to use Weed-Free Zone (as recommended by K-State) to kill these weeds now while they are young. It will also kill clover and dandelions if they are still present.

It's time to plant spring-blooming bulbs and time to fertilize trees and shrubs. Plant perennials, trees and shrubs now for better growth next year. Finally, it's time to NOT plant a yard. Wait until after Thanksgiving to overseed using the dormant seed method.

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www.church4bikers.org
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785-234-5545
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Sunday School & Bible Studies:
9:30 & 11am
www.discovertbc.com
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- 12. BUCK CREEK COUNTRY CHURCH**
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- Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.
Contacts: Logan Barnett 785-597-5498,
Scott Bond 423-0406, Jack Snavelly 760-3513
- 13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE**
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Wed. 6:30 pm Adult & Teen Life Groups
Wed. 6:30 pm Kids University
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 - 14. FAMILY LIFE CHURCH - Nazarene**
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Computer Store will build one for you, with a warranty, and it will be serviced locally in the store if ever necessary. They have used computers and laptops for sale also.

The Computer Store now also repairs all mobile devices like cell phones, tablets and iPads, including damaged screens. Driggers said the new service is available at a very reasonable price, and has been very well received.

The Computer Store has been in business since 1999, and is located at 21st and Gage in Seabrook Center. You



can reach them by phone at 785-267-3223, or visit their website online at www.thecomputerstoreks.com.

The Computer Store is a member of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, the Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce and the Topeka Independent Business Association.

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Rockstar Detailing is a family run auto detailing business that was started in 2008 and has been serving the needs of Topekans ever since. At Rockstar Detailing, they make it their business to continually research and find the most effective and beautifying auto detailing products, according to owner Trevon Ewing.

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