

metro kansas city
EDITION

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 VOICE

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STEWARDSHIP
 PAGE 5

Expo set for
February 28

Metro Voice will hold the 2015 Christian Education and College Expo Saturday, February 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Colonial Presbyterian Church.

Parents looking both at K-12 options and high school students scouting colleges can come with specific questions in mind, said Anita Widaman, who started the Expo in 1999.

“Parents of younger students want to know: what curriculum is used? What is the worldview of the school? Is there an established fine arts program? What testing measure is used? What about sports and extracurricular activities? and, of course, can I afford it?” she stated. The area’s best Christian private K-12 schools have booths and faculty and administrators will be ready to answer questions.

The free Expo also features 50 Christian universities from 15 states and free mini-seminars on everything from homeschooling to finding financial aid.

“For high school students, prayerfully choosing the right college can still be a daunting task,” said Dwight Widaman, Metro Voice editor and Expo coordinator. “There are so many excellent choices”.

This is the 17th annual expo. More information is available at www.metrovoicenews.com

EACH OF US IS A
 MASTERPIECE
 OF GOD'S CREATION.

RESPECT LIFE

by Dwight Widaman

For 25 years, Metro Voice has worked with local, state and national organizations in an effort to educate the public on the value of all human life—born and unborn, young and old, able and physically challenged. Our efforts would not be possible without the support of these organizations.

by Mindy Belz

(WNS)--In the subterranean reaches of ancient churches in Mosul, Iraq—turned suddenly and in broad daylight to ISIS shrines—the captives of the 21st century met an abyss of medieval-minded militants, and the unenlightened dawn of a new dark age.

The year turned on regifting. Like the stiff-necked aunt who keeps handing out fruitcake after all the relatives say, “Enough!” 2014 gave us ample taste of old and familiar history only wrapped in new paper. With Ferguson, Mo., the streets of America demanded a new civil rights era, six years into the first African-American presidency and half a century since legal remedies took shape to end a long U.S. history of injustice to blacks.

Vladimir Putin took us back to Cold War days with an audacious takeover of Crimea and continued provocation in eastern Ukraine, blaming his actions on “the enemies of yesteryear.”

They serve all communities regardless of color or economic status. Their tireless work does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. And their work could not be possible without you.

Our special 2015 Respect Life Guide begins on page 6.

2014: Back to the future

The year that jerked us back to a past we thought we'd left behind: Beheadings, race riots and runaway epidemics

by Mindy Belz

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Metro Voice
 PO BOX 1114
 Lee's Summit, MO 64063

newsbriefs

Bill would criminalize human trafficking ads

A Missouri state representative wants to make it a crime to post an ad on the internet if the person posting it knows it could result in human trafficking.

It could be an ad anywhere - on websites such as Craigslist or Backpage, or even on a gas station bathroom wall.

If the person who posts that ad knows that it might result in human trafficking, House Bill 152 would make that person guilty of sexual traffick-



HAAHR

ing of a child; a felony that carries a penalty of up to life in prison.

It's been filed by Springfield representative Elijah Haahr.

"Not only would these be the people that are providing the victim but it would also go after some middle people. Some middle men that be profiting from putting the

victims in contact with the people that are using them," Haahr told Missourinet.

Haahr says the idea is based on the SAVE Act making its way through Congress. He decided a similar law should be in place in Missouri.

"I recognize it's a fairly serious epidemic nationally, internationally, but also in the Midwest," said Haahr.

It will be considered in the legislative session that begins in three weeks.

Kansas City is one of the worst areas in the nation for human trafficking.

- Mike Lear



Participants from North St. Louis County LCMS congregations meet Nov. 18 to discuss short- and long-term plans for supporting the communities surrounding Ferguson, Mo.

LUTHERANS PLAN SHORT AND LONG-TERM WORK IN FERGUSON

by Megan Mertz

Months after the Aug. 9 shooting of black teen Michael Brown Jr., a group of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pastors and vicars — led by LCMS Missouri District President Rev. Dr. Ray Mirly — continues to look for ways to bring hope and healing to their communities.

The men serve five LCMS congregations in St. Louis' North County area, where Ferguson is located. The congregations are Grace Lutheran Chapel, Immanuel Lutheran Chapel, Salem Lutheran Church, Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church and Blessed Savior Lutheran Church.

"I have been impressed by how the pastors have been recognizing community needs, identifying local and/or Synod resources to apply to the needs and especially engaging the community with the Gospel and lifting it up in prayer," Mirly said.

To aid that work, the LCMS Office of National Mission provided a \$25,000 grant to the group. The money will be used for both short- and long-term work in North County.

During a November meeting, members of the group agreed that they would reach out to anyone in need — residents, business owners or first responders — following the announcement of the grand

■ See FERGUSON page 4

"You want to prepare people for work, but they often are in communities with few jobs. It's something we are starting to tackle."

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www.storlingdance.org

Police officers help shoplifting dad instead of arresting him

A New Mexico man arrested for shoplifting baby formula received a surprise when police officers arrived.

Instead of carting the man to jail, Roswell police bought \$80 worth of baby formula for him and are helping him find a job.

The act of kindness occurred in late December, when a 23-year-old was spotted stealing formula at Albertson's. Officers called to the scene felt they couldn't arrest the young father in good conscience.

"Everybody just kind of had that look on their face like, 'we got to do something here,'" Officer Joe Mason told KOB Eyewitness News 4. "I mean, it wasn't like he was shoplifting liquor, he didn't have any criminal intent. He wanted to feed his kid."

Mason and Officers Chris Bradley, Anthony Armijo and Arturo Alvarado decided to help the man.

"We went and talked to the store; they said they would agree not to press charges," Mason said. The officers bought formula for the desperate dad, and Albertson's also donated formula to him.

"He was very appreciative; he told me he would never look at cops the same way again," the officer said.

"It felt great," Officer Bradley added. "It's why I signed up. I know it sounds corny, but I want to help people as much as I possibly can, especially in my own community."

Bradley is a father himself and said he can relate to the young man's need to



Officers Joe Mason and Chris Bradley, instead of arresting shoplifter, purchased the stolen baby formula to feed his child.

provide for his 11-month-old.

"I put myself in his shoes, just what I would do in that situation," he said.

"I mean, when you're put in a situation for your kids, you being a dad... he had no criminal intent; he was just trying to feed his kid."

Officers discovered the man had a barber's license, and recently lost his job.

"So there's a few of us that are contacting some people that we know in the community trying to see if we can help him find a job," Mason explained. "Officer

Bradley and Officer Armijo gave him quite a bit of information on public assistance and things that he can do," he added.

The man was banned from Albertson's, but officers believe he learned his lesson without having to be arrested.

"Everybody learns their lessons different ways," Bradley explained.

"I think this way, the guy realized that people actually do care and they want to help him. I think with him knowing that, he's going to better himself."

"It's why I signed up. I know it sounds corny, but I want to help people as much as I possibly can, especially in my own community."

newsbriefs

VeggieTales Makes a Comeback on Netflix

(WNS)--Thanks to the success of small-budget indies like *God's Not Dead*, big-budget TV miniseries like *The Bible*, and the return of Old Testament movie epics like *Noah* and *Exodus*, much has been reported in the last couple of years about the growing power of the Christian purse in Hollywood.

Yet the starkest example of the entertainment industry's newfound interest in building bridges to churchgoers may be a property that's been around for decades: *VeggieTales*. Now owned by DreamWorks, the faith-inspired anthropomorphic vegetables have gone through multiple incarnations since their debut in direct-to-consumer videos in 1993, including leaps to the big screen and broadcast television.

Nov. 26 marked yet another milestone as the characters premiered in a 22-minute, Looney Tunes-style cartoon series on Netflix titled *VeggieTales in the House*.

Joplin Catholic Church celebrates reopening

JOPLIN, Mo. - Members of a Catholic parish in Joplin that had its church, rectory and elementary school destroyed in a May



2011 tornado have celebrated Mass at their new church for the first time.

The Joplin Globe (<http://bit.ly/13fVvTK>) reports hundreds of residents on Wednesday packed the new St. Mary's Catholic Church for a dedication service and its first Mass. The

service was led by the Most Rev. James Johnston, bishop of the Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese, and the Rev. Justin Monaghan.

Parishioners applauded as Johnston was presented with the key and blueprints of the new 750-seat church. He then blessed the church, sprinkling water over the walls and the altar.


A multimillion dollar fundraising campaign, insurance proceeds and hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations funded the construction of the new church.

Arise 2015

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■ FERGUSON

continued from page 2

jury's decision on whether to indict police officer Darren Wilson.

"We're in a ministry of hope and reconciliation," the Rev. Roosevelt Gray Jr., director of LCMS Black Ministry, said during the meeting.

"We will bring to bear the Gospel and other resources that can heal the community."

In addition, the grant will provide initial funds for the group's long-term goal: to open an outreach center in the area.

They are currently looking for potential locations where they could provide educational opportunities such as tutoring and job training, as well as spiritual care.

Eventually, the Rev. Steven Schave, director of LCMS Urban & Inner-City Mission, said he hopes this work will address the "bigger mercy issues" in the community, such as the availability of jobs, in conjunction with nearby Word and Sacrament ministries that transform city communities.

"You want to prepare people for work, but they often are in communities with few jobs," he said. "It's something we are starting to tackle."

Early on, Mirly invited Schave and Gray to provide their expertise in addressing the situation. Interest in developments related to Ferguson has expanded far beyond its borders.

"We are happy to partner in support of the local response with the district and local congregations and pastors," said the Rev. Bart Day, executive director of the LCMS Office of National Mission and interim chief mission officer for the Synod.

"We pray this grant will allow the Lutheran community to be proactive in our response of love and mercy to a hurting community with the Gospel in word and deed."

Megan K. Mertz is a staff writer for LCMS Communications.

Area organizes to participate in March on Washington

Kansas City area residents have multiple opportunities to participate in the 2015 March for Life in Washington D.C. The annual , which has drawn up to one million marchers, will be held January 22—the 41st Anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion in all 50 states.

Metro Voice publisher Anita Widaman and daughter Emma attended the march in 2013.

"It was an awe-inspiring experience," said Widaman. "To be there with my daughter and hundreds of thousands of others who value life almost takes your breath away."

This year, local and state organizations will again organize busses to make the all-night trip to the nation's Capitol then return. Some trips include an overnight stay.

The day includes:

11:45 a.m. Musical Opening

12:00 p.m. Rally

1:00 p.m. March



Headed for the march. Kansas Citians gather for a group photo before loading busses headed to Washington D.C. last year.

3:00 p.m. (approx) Listen to Silent No More testimonies outside U.S. Supreme Court

3:30 p.m. Visit your representative or Senator to advocate for life

For those not able to attend, the rally and march are often carried on C-Span and on the satellite network EWTN and streamed online at www.ewtn.com/prolife/.

■ sidenote

For information about available options visit one of the participating organization websites below.

General info on the March
<http://marchforlife.org/details/>
www.facebook.com/TheMarchForLife

Travel Opportunities:

Area Catholic Opportunities

www.archkck.org/MFL

www.diocese-kcsj.org

Missouri Right to Life

www.missourilife.org

In addition, some individual churches are organizing bus transportation. For information contact Missouri Right to Life Western Region office for info.

MRL Western Region

Call 816-353-4113 or visit
www.mrlwesternregion.org

Acclaimed "Underground" returns to Kauffman Center

by **Metro Voice Staff**

After being dubbed one of the Top 10 performances of the decade by The Kansas City Star (2000-2009) and gaining a large local following, Störling Dance Theater's "UNDERGROUND" will return to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m. March 6th, 2015.

This year, however, there's even more to the story. In light of the national tragedies and conversations about race in American culture, Störling Dance Theater is showing that Kansas City has been forging a path of unity and compassion for years as Un-

Störling Dance Theater to bring history of slavery for growing audiences

expressed so powerfully years ago and model to the country what a unified community looks like. The Underground Railroad harbors the clues that we need to revisit once again."

The Inspire Freedom Gala held prior to the performance will feature national speaker, Alpha Blackburn, CEO of Blackburn Architects, clothing designer and philanthropist.

Störling created the Underground Curriculum Guide with Donna Davis and Marie McCarther, both

"This is not just black history. It is...the history of mankind."

—Jeremiah Enna

Underground: a story of humanity.



project. A black woman and white woman aside, these are two women who see the choices that life brings to them each day.

"This is not just black history," Störling-Enna said. "It is one of many dark moments in the history of mankind. We have to look back, we have to remember and then prepare ourselves and teach our children to value the life of a person who is different because they, too, are created by God. Many people want to ask God about the atrocities in the world. What will we say when He asks, 'What did you do about it?'"

Having partnered with his wife for many of Störling's productions like "The Prodigal Daughter," "Butterfly" and "Suspended Grace," Jeremiah Enna originally played the role of instigator for "UNDERGROUND."

"History recalls how evil men have crafted great destruction, and good ones have overcome them," said Enna, executive director of The Culture House in Olathe, Kan., where Störling Dance Theater is based. "The Underground Railroad is a

■ See UNDERGROUND page 22

newsbriefs

Christian governor takes helm in Muslim nation

JAKARTA, Indonesia -- Despite opposition from Islamic extremists, the capital city of the world's most populous Muslim nation now has a governor, and he's a Christian.

Members of the Islamic Defenders Front protested the swearing in of ethnic Chinese Christian, Basuki Purnama.

He became governor of Jakarta late last month after his predecessor was elected president.

Muslim hardliners find it very difficult to accept that after 69 years of Indonesian independence, a Christian now sits in this governor's office.

But most Muslims welcome Purnama. They believe that he is a man of action and integrity who can solve their problems.

"We have been requesting to be recognized as state teachers since 2003 but still nothing happened. But today we have hope that Basuki

will be able to help us because he is a good leader," Indria, a Muslim teacher, said.

From the post of vice-governor, Purnama automatically became governor after his predecessor, Joko Widodo, was declared the new president of Indonesia in July.

Political analyst, Pastor Bigman, believes the hand of God opened the door for Basuki.

"As a pastor I am very happy, because there is hope and an open door for other Christians to be leaders in this country," Bigman said.

Purnama was born to a Christian family and served as an elementary Sunday school teacher and an elder at the Evangelical Reformed Church of Jesus Christ.

As a church leader, he expressed an interest in politics.

"Basuki loves Indonesia. He loves God. In

Basuki Purnama



every meeting he always says that he's just an extension of God to bless the people in Indonesia," Ardes Goenawan, Purnama's churchmate, said.

It may seem improbable for someone like Purnama to run the capital of the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, but the new governor says he considers neither his faith nor his ethnicity to be a political handicap.

"We don't talk about religion. If you ask me about my character and what I do for the people, it's for the nation," he said. "We are not for the position and the power, what's important is what you do for humanity and service for others."

So what are his future political aspirations? "Every politician should dream to become president," he replied.

Most Indonesians would probably say the election of a Chinese president would be unlikely. But then again, few people expected a Christian to ever become governor of their capital city.

Move forward with IMPACT in 2015

As a leader, some core principles are found in Proverbs to apply as you begin a new year. This process applies to an individual, a team or a business.

1. Define Your Destination: Describe where you want to be in 12, 24 and 36 months. Paint a clear picture of the best outcome you desire to bring. (Prov. 16:3)

2. Create a Compelling Vision: Capture your vision in a short, clear phrase or sentence. Your vision statement should be passionate so it inspires you as well as those you share it with. You must believe in your own vision. Without a vision, we are without restraint and meander aimlessly. (Prov. 29:18)

3. Share Your Vision with Your Inner Circle: Surround yourself with a few trusted advisors who know you well. Ask them to engage with you in a meaningful conversation about your vision at least every quarter. (Prov. 15:22)

4. Create Your Action Plans with Prayer: Make a plan for what it will take to execute your vision. Describe the action steps, the resources required and the due date for each item. (Prov. 16:3)

5. Create Your Budget: Finances and stewardship of those finances will enable you to fulfill your plan. (Prov. 10:22)

6. Find a Business Buddy: Your business buddy will understand the practical steps of your business, help you solve problems and find outside help as needed. (Prov. 9:9)

7. Communicate Your Vision to your Audience: Consider the

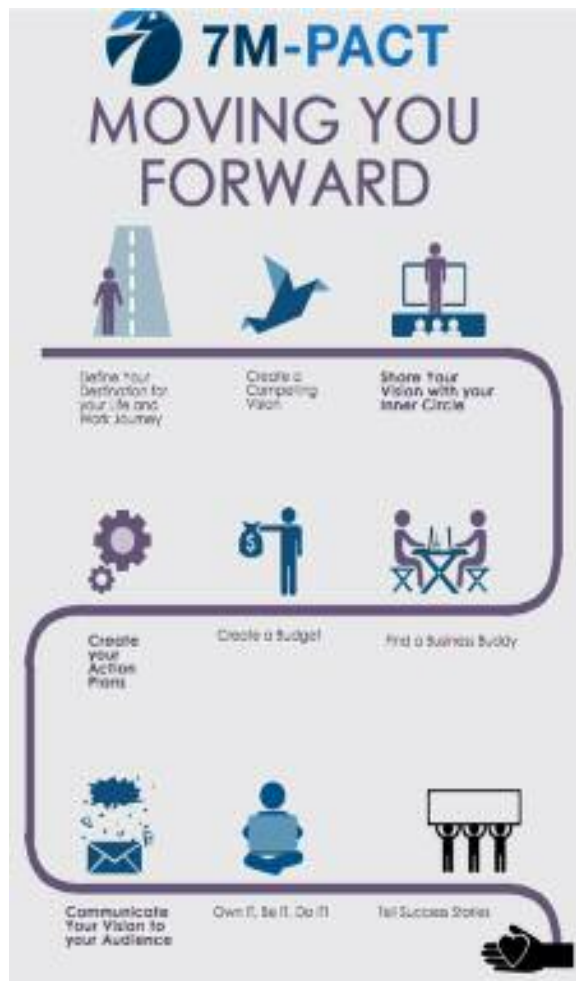
■ See IMPACT page 14



LINDA FIELDS

Director of The Joseph Company

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The benefits of an annual insurance review

Many homeowners purchase an insurance policy when they first move in, but they may not understand the importance of periodically reviewing it or reassessing their needs. It's an oversight that can ultimately lead to a gap in their coverage.

For instance, you may have insured your home for \$200,000 when you first bought it. A decade later, your home may cost \$300,000 to rebuild. That's a \$100,000 gap in coverage—which could leave you without the proper resources to rebuild in the event of a loss.

A home renovation or upgrade is another reason you may want an insurance review. It can help ensure that your home and belongings are fully protected, and that your coverage is keeping up with your current needs. Everything from new furniture to a kitchen upgrade can affect the value of your family's home, and may even qualify you for additional discounts on your insurance policy.

Tips for talking with your insurance agent

An insurance review doesn't have to be an involved, time-consuming endeavor. A single conversation or a visit



ALLEN WALDEN
Insurance Expert

guestcolumn

with your agent can help make sure that you're knowledgeable about your coverage and comfortable that your limits are meeting your current needs.

Here are some ideas on what you might want to discuss:

"Does my policy provide enough coverage to rebuild my home today?" Many homeowners are surprised to learn that their policy is outdated and does not provide sufficient coverage to rebuild their existing home. Upgrades to a kitchen or bathroom, new kitchen appliances and changes in construction costs can all affect the cost to repair or rebuild your home.

"How does a newly finished base-

■ See INSURANCE page 14

5 steps to being financially fit in '15

It's another new year, and that means it's time for yet another set of resolutions. But if you're like most Americans, you'll probably forget your goals by mid-February. So how can you turn your financial resolutions into reality in 2015?

Make a plan. The number-one mistake people make with their money is they don't bother with a plan. They have no idea where their money is going! The money comes in and the money goes out, and only the names are changed to protect the innocent.

You have to do a budget! Put a name to every dollar you earn. Tell your money what to do instead of wondering



DAVE RAMSEY

Financial author, radio host, television personality

davesays

where it went. Remember, it takes at least three months of practice and dedication to really make your budget work.

■ See RAMSEY page 14

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What does it mean to support 'life?'



**KRISTIN
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Fellow with John Jay
Institute

mythoughts

You have probably heard the story before: American pro-life Christians only care about human life before birth, and afterwards, they turn their backs on the child and mother. The only thing that matters to these heartless hypocrites is making people take responsibility for



their own poor decisions.

This cliché is spouted endlessly by pro-abortion activists frustrated by their primary opposition – Evangelical and Catholic Christians – but one doesn't expect to find such flat stereotypes peddled in the pages of popular Christian publications. Relevant Magazine online published such an article, titled "Pro-life is

More Than Anti-Abortion," which made serious accusations with no supporting evidence, that "the Church" has done no more than yell about abortion while abandoning women and children in need. The story is so common it is almost unworthy of response, but it does provide a good frame to highlight the reality of

■ See RUDOLPH page 12

Abortion clinic worker quits after seeing 'The Faces of God's Children'

by **Steven Ertelt**

The pro-life movement is blessed to have quite a number of former abortion practitioners, abortion clinic operators, and abortion facility staff who are now passionately pro-life. They are some of the leading figures talking about the horrors of what goes on in abortion clinics — where unborn babies and women are both violated by abortions.

In many cases, what led them to exit the abortion industry was a confrontation with abortion itself and a final awakening of their senses that they were involved in the sad and tragic destruction of human life.

On her Facebook page, Abby Johnson shares the story of an abortion worker who called it quits on August 8th. She was concerned about quitting because of the adverse financial impact it would have on her family. After all, the abortion industry and jobs in it are lucrative.

Here is her story:

"I left the abortion clinic I worked at August 8th. My husband and I were in no shape financially for me to leave, and there were many great perks that came with my job there. I had excellent pay, health and life insurance that were no cost to me, three weeks of paid vacation annually, tuition reimbursement, and a 401k that they would match dollar for dollar to what I contributed.

Every morning as I walked in, I would hear a kind voice outside the fence, a bit distanced from the shouting crowd that would offer to help me find a new job. I usually ignored it. I sat behind bullet proof glass every day and watched the sad, hardened faces of so many women walk up the steps to the clinic and walk out drugged, teary eyed, and heartbroken.

I was set up to start training in the pathology lab in the coming weeks and

■ See WORKER page 12

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ANNUAL KANSANS FOR LIFE

Valentine Banquet

Tuesday, Feb. 10 (4 days before Valentines!)

Special Speaker
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Nominated several times as Country Male Vocalist of the Year, Collin will be sharing his pro-life testimony and feature some of his most popular, beautiful songs. Although recognized for his issue-oriented music and tireless charity work, what many don't know is that he has important pro-life testimonies related to both the beginning and end of life. In 2011 he released his first inspirational album, His Love Remains, which quickly shot to #1 on Amazon.

Ritz-Charles, 137th & Antioch, Overland Park

5 p.m. Silent Auction & Social Time
6:30 Seating
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RSVP REQUIRED: by seat, small group or table of 10. Tables of 10, or smaller group can be reserved under one name now with number in party, but you must report names of all in party by Feb. 3 to insure seats via 913-642-5433 or kansansforlife@aol.com.

RSVP by Feb. 3 at 913-642-5433 or kansansforlife@aol.com

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www.kcsl.org

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www.infg.org

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Mary Kay Culp
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kansansforlife@aol.com
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■ See DIRECTORY pae 11

Kansas Pro-life News in 2014



KATHY OSTROWSKI

Kansas for Life
legislative director

viewpoint

2014 saw many victories for LIFE in Kansas. Pro-lifers can proudly claim credit for the fact that pro-life candidates won all of Kansas' statewide offices, along with 94 of the 125 seats in the Kansas House of Representatives in the 2014 elections. Notably, pro-life stalwarts Gov. Sam Brownback and U.S. Senator Pat Roberts won re-election over their radically pro-abortion challengers.

No late-term abortions (after 22 weeks pregnancy) are allowed in Kansas due to a 2011 pro-life law acknowledging the unborn child's ability to feel pain. As officially reported by the health department, the number of Kansas abortions dropped to 7,485 in 2013, from 7,598 in 2012 (2014 numbers aren't available til March, 2015). Many reasons can be attributed to the continued drop, including the improved availability of informed consent information online and increased utilization of pregnancy care centers statewide.

Kansas is now down to three abortion clinics. The Kansas City Aid for Women abortion clinic closed abruptly at the end of July. It claimed the reason for the sudden closure was the retirement of its 73-year-old abortionist, but this clinic was notorious for its string of abortionists with lengthy histories of malpractice cases and disciplinary actions issued by the state medical board. Not surprisingly, Aid for Women failed to attain a state-issued license in June 2011 after passage of the Kansas clinic licensure and regulation law - yet another pro-life law currently under legal challenge. The clinic admitted it would "have to gut the place" to be in compliance and thus Kansas women and unborn children are safer with the closing of this substandard clinic.

Kansas also had a major pro-life legal win in early May when Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri dropped its 2011 lawsuit in federal court. They had sued against the Kansas budget provision that prioritized federal family planning funds be given to public full-service clinics rather than "specialty" clinics like Planned Parenthood. After the Kansas budget authority was upheld, Planned Parenthood's already-failing Hays "abortion-feeder" clinic closed its doors - showing that this clinic relied on government money to survive.



In December, Planned Parenthood also backed out of another lawsuit, just days before it was headed to trial. At issue was their past refusal to obey a provision of the 2013 Pro-Life Protections Act that required that every abortion clinic website have a live link on their home page that connected to the state's Woman's Right to

Know website. The law intends that there be "one-click access" to sonogram images and information about the development of the unborn child to anyone remotely, or directly, considering abortion.

Planned Parenthood is now compliant with that live link. This is the fourth success for defense attorneys under Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt in defending sound pro-life laws promoted by Kansans for Life.

moreinformation

For more information or to be involved visit, www.KFL.org.

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January 22nd

March for Life Washington, DC
Prayer Vigil
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Prayer Vigil
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Brianna's Story of Hope

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And they took advantage of her in the worst possible way.

Naively, she was lured away from family and friends ... and into a strip

club. She quickly realized she was required to do more than just dance.

Thankfully, Brianna's family did not give up on her. They enlisted the help of a local police officer who understood sex trafficking, and who, in turn, enlisted Shared Hope's help to extract her from the situation.

Brianna was rescued!

Today, Brianna still has nightmares that "they" have found her again ... but she has become an outspoken activist, sharing her personal experience to save others. She recently

even allowed her story to be told on a billboard in Times Square, desperately hoping her warnings will be heeded.

Shared Hope International strives to prevent the conditions that foster sex trafficking, restore victims of sex slavery, and bring justice to vulnerable women and children. We envision a world passionately opposed to sex trafficking and a committed community restoring survivors to lives of purpose, value and choice - one life at a time.

Call Mike Parris, KC Area Ambassador of Hope, for Speaking Opportunities: 816-982-1042

WWW.SHAREDHOP.ORG

Jesus is there ready to help a mom and her child



CLINT DECKER
President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

Clay Center, Kan. – Jill, a high school senior, took the emotionally wrenching drive to the clinic. Nervously she sat, seeming unsure of herself. It felt like there was no other way to handle her unplanned pregnancy.

Millions can identify with Jill. It might be a pregnant college girl and boyfriend who are not ready for the challenges of parenthood, a pregnant single mom who cannot afford another child or a couple who knows the baby they are carrying will likely have a lifelong disability.

Hope is that intangible thing you

need when you feel overwhelmed by your circumstances. It is that gentle voice inside that in our moment of crisis, challenges us to believe in someone that is greater than our self.

If you are pregnant, living in a very difficult set of circumstances and wondering what to do, let me say, "There is hope!"

Have hope for your baby. Any ultrasound or a simple hand on the belly will prove it is not just an "it" or blob of tissue. You. Are. Carrying. Life! Let your mind dream of what your baby could grow up and become. Imagine. Dream great dreams for that little one you are carrying.

Have hope for yourself. Choosing an abortion tosses those dreams away and will etch a tragic memory on the walls of your mind. This baby can be a new beginning. Like the start of a new year. Determine to accept this child and be the very best father or mother your baby could ever have. Another way is adoption. Perhaps you could fulfill the wish of a couple out there. Maybe there

is a loving husband and wife who would welcome your baby into their home.

Have hope through forgiveness. Maybe you have already had an abortion and the sense of guilt and shame weighs heavy on your shoulders. What can you do to find relief from this burden?

Centuries ago, Jesus provided a way for complete forgiveness. His sacrificial death on a cross atoned for all our sin. His blood that was shed covered our sin, removed it and washed us clean. The atoning work of Jesus and the relief it

brings is waiting for you. If you call out to Him, He stands ready to forgive. God says, "I will be merciful toward their iniquities [sins], and I will remember their sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12). Imagine having your sins remembered no more. The peace. The joy. May Jesus be your hope for today and in the choices you face.

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

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42nd Anniversary of Roe v. Wade: 60 million U.S. Abortions

Learn, Pray, March

RALLY FOR LIFE!

Topeka, Kansas: Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015



Bring baby items for crisis pregnancy centers and drop them off at Registration!

8:30 AM **REGISTRATION:** 1st Floor of the Capitol Rotunda! Donuts, visit booths.

8:30-NOON **LOBBY YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE & SENATOR**

8:45-9:30 AM **WORKSHOPS:** Topics and capitol room numbers to be announced.

9:45-10:30 AM **WORKSHOPS:** Earlier workshops repeated.

10:00-11:30 AM **MASS & PRAYER SERVICE:** Topeka Performing Arts Center (TPAC)

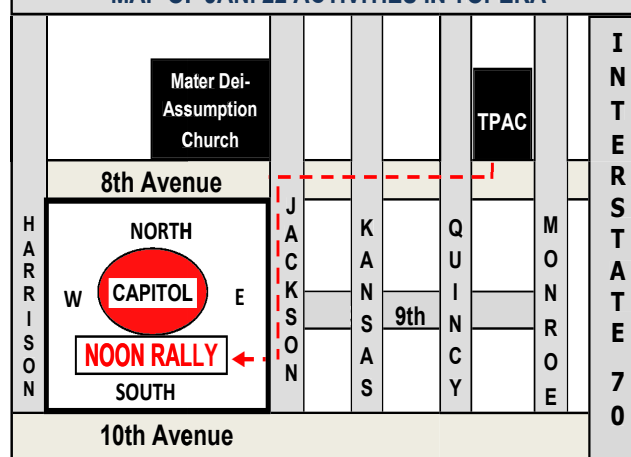
11:30-NOON **MARCH FOR LIFE** from TPAC to the South Capitol Steps

NOON RALLY FOR LIFE on the south Capitol steps featuring **KANSAS GOVERNOR SAM BROWNBACK**, pro-life state legislators, and more.

1:00-2:30 PM **LUNCH:** Basement, Mater Dei-Assumption Church, Cost: Free will donation.

2:30-3:30 PM **WORKSHOP:** Topic and location to be announced.

MAP OF JAN. 22 ACTIVITIES IN TOPEKA



For more or updated information or to volunteer:

www.kfl.org or contact Jeanne Gawdun (785) 234-2998 or kfltopeka@gmail.com

KFL-PAC Prayer Breakfast with Kansas Legislators

Saturday, January 31, 7:00 a.m. at the Topeka Capitol Plaza

Featured Speaker: Father Ben Shockey of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Kingman.

Tickets: \$25 if reserved by January 25; \$35 after Jan. 25; \$40 at the door. 1-800-928-5433.



Kansas City 2015 Media Campaign



Website Development/Optimization and Internet Optimization
This allows abortion-minded women to connect with a Pregnancy Help Center (PHC) and receive the help needed to make an informed decision.

Mobile Advertising

This is geo-targeted mobile advertising that displays on applications targeting our specific demographic of women. A woman would see a list of PHCs near her and have the option to "click to call" or "click for directions."



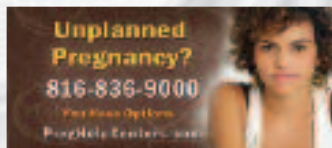
Display Video Ads



15-second video ads, which cannot be skipped over, would appear on specific websites that our target demographic of women would be visiting. The ad would direct the woman to a PHC website.

Traditional Media

Billboards and/or TV



Wallet Cards and Campus Flyers



Vitae Foundation
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VitaeFoundation.org

Missouri Pro-Life News for 2014



SUSAN KLEIN
Missouri Right to Life

myview

Together, we are making a difference and saving lives! In Missouri, 2014 saw an amazing amount of pro-life legislation passed and, overwhelmingly, pro-life candidates were elected in November. Here are the highlights of the work to protect life in Missouri:

■ Extending the 24-hour reflection period before an abortion to 72 hours – Sponsors Rep. Kevin Elmer, and Rep. Keith Frederick and Sen. David Sater.

■ Raising the cap from \$2 million to \$2.5 million on tax credits for contributions to Pregnancy Resource Centers and Maternity Homes. These became omnibus benevolent tax credit bills that included other social services. Sponsors Rep. Kevin Engler and Sen. Gary Romine.

■ Increased funding for the Alternatives to Abortion Program. Sponsors Rep. Rick Stream and Sen. Kurt Schaefer.

■ Continuation of pro-life protective



President Pro-Tem of the Missouri Senate, Senator Tom Dempsey, Susan Klein with Missouri Right to Life, and Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, Representative Tim Jones at the ceremonial bill signing of HB 1307 & 1313 – the 72 hour reflection period bill passed in the 2014 legislative session.

language in the Department of Economic Development Appropriation Bill on the one line item of state monies given to the Missouri Technology Corporation. Monies in this one line item cannot be used or given to life science research businesses that could do human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. Sponsors

Rep. Rick Stream and Sen. Kurt Schaefer.

■ Defeat of the Early Stage Business Economic Development Bill specifically for Life Sciences Research and the Missouri Technology Corporation (MTC) with no pro-life protections. Sponsor Rep. Noel Torpey and handled by Sen. Bob

■ See MISSOURI page 10

Comedy Show to Support LIFE

What do you get when you mix a boatload of impersonations, audience participation and customization with skits and singing? A show that leaves everyone in the audience breathless. The 101 voices and faces of Brinnon & Marks is a customized Branson/Vegas style musical comedy act that is described as super clean and non-offensive. It comes to Abundant Life Church, 414 SW Persels Rd., Lee's Summit, February 20 as a fundraising effort for Alliance for Life—a network of more than 60 partners that include pregnancy resource centers and clinics, maternity homes, adoption agencies and post abortion recovery.

Reviewers say the act appeals to people of all ages from all walks of life and leaves the audience with the same condition - face and belly pain from so much laughing. The comedy duo has performed all over the USA and parts of the world for companies that include Discover Card, GE, Nestles, Sara Lee and more.

Reviews of the show say it all—“These guys are as good as Danny Ganns & Rich Little.

The Alliance for Life unifies the individual ministries into a team that produces co-operation, collaboration and connection toward the core mission of saving and changing lives. The organization is dedicated to the quest for statewide excellence. Education opportunities for the network to equip them to achieve the highest possible standards of practice is a major area of focus.

Tickets are \$12.50 in advance or \$15 at the door. Tickets go on sale January 5 and can be purchased online at www.allianceforlifemissouri.com or by calling the AFL office at 816-806-4168.

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Ten amazing things that happen to all babies before they are born

by **Kristi Burton Brown**

(LiveActionNews) — With today's modern technology and medical information, we have a real-time window into the womb. What happens to babies before birth — all the ways they move, grow, and change — is nothing short of amazing.

Here are just 10 things that happen to babies before birth. These 10 things demonstrate their uniqueness, value, and of course, their humanity.

What's more, each of these 10 things happen in the first trimester — when approximately 90% of abortions in the U.S. occur.

1) "On the first day following fertilization, the human embryo is identifiable as a specific individual human being on a molecular level."

A South Dakota legislative task force, appointed to examine the science behind unborn life, found that "the new recombinant DNA technologies indisputably prove that the unborn child is a whole human being from the moment



of fertilization, that all abortions terminate the life of a living human being, and that the unborn child is a separate human patient under the care of modern medicine."

2) A Baby's Heart Begins to Beat at 21 Days.

According to The Endowment for Human Development, "between fertilization and birth, the heart beats approximately 54 million times..."

3) At 2 to 3 Weeks, a Baby's Brain is the "First Organ to Appear."

4) A Baby May Feel Physical Pain as

■ See **TEN THINGS** page 21

MISSOURI

continued from page 9

Dixon in the Senate.

■ Requirement for the Dept. of Health and Senior Services to set up collection and transportation sights across the State of Missouri for umbilical cords to be delivered to the St. Louis Cord Blood Bank. This bill was sponsored by Rep. Jeff Roorda, but did not pass; however, the language was amended on to the Senate's Omnibus Public Health Bills which did pass. Sponsors Sen. Dan Brown and Sen. David Sater.

■ Approved the Show-Me Healthy Babies Insurance Program for insurance for unborn babies of low-income mothers. Two stand-alone bills sponsored by Rep. Jeff Grisamore did not pass; however, the language was amended on to the Senate's Omnibus Public Health Bills and passed. Sponsors Sen. Dan Brown and Sen. David Sater.



Pro-Life candidates prevail across Missouri

Missouri Right to Life PAC, Missouri's most active and successful social policy political action committee, congratulates the pro-life candidates who ran and won their elections in November 4. MRL PAC proudly stands alongside these principled Missourians who support the protection of innocent human life from conception to natural death.

Missouri Right to Life
Political Action Committee got out the Pro-Life vote for **Success across Missouri!**

89+%

112 of 125 endorsed pro-life candidates won their races

85+%

6 of 7 endorsed pro-life candidates for the U.S. Congress won their races

84%

In MO House races between a MRL PAC-endorsed candidate and one with an anti-life or unknown position, the MRL PAC endorsee won

MRL PAC endorsed candidates in a total of 125 races statewide. In these races, MRL PAC supported the winning candidate in 112 of those contests, making our success rate 89+% in all races in which we were involved.

Although there were a few disappointments, MRL PAC is grateful that not one MRL PAC-endorsed incumbent lost their seat. Several anti-life candidates, including some incumbents, lost to pro-life, MRL PAC endorsees.

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2015

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Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Registration

1st Floor Rotunda - 10:30 a.m.

Selinger Center - 9:00 a.m.

Rally

12 noon - 12:30 p.m.



Special Guest Speaker

Carol Tobias, President National Right to Life

Sponsored by Missouri Right to Life

For information, contact MRL State Office
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DIRECTORY

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Their "Rescuing Hug" stunned the world; now the twins are all grown up

Steven Ertelt | LifeNews.com

When preemie twins Brielle and Kyrie Jackson were born, doctors weren't sure they'd make it, until a smart nurse placed the girls together in one incubator.

These iconic twins were born 12 weeks premature in 1995. They're lying on their bellies, and the slightly larger baby has her stick-thin arm around her sister. One baby was not expected to live, hospital nurse fought to put them in the same incubator.

The stronger baby wrapped her arm around her sister, and her touch allowed the struggling baby's heart to stabilize and her temperature to return to normal.

Today, they're all grown up.

Kyrie and Brielle Jackson were born on October 17, 1995, a full 12 weeks ahead of their due date. The standard practice, that time, at The Medical Center of Central Massachusetts in Worcester, where the twins came into the world, was to place them in separate incubators in order to re-

duce the risk of infection. Both babies were placed in separate incubators, a standard practice to reduce the risk of cross-infection. Kyrie, who weighed 2 lbs 3 oz, was making good progress and gaining weight, but her tiny sister had breathing and heart-rate problems, there was little weight gain and her oxygen level was low.

On November 12, tiny Brielle went into critical condition. Her stick-thin arms and legs turned bluish-gray as she gasped for air. Her heart rate soared. The Jackson parents watched, terrified that their little daughter might die.

It is said that desperate moments call for desperate measures. Nurse Gayle Kasparian, after exhausting all the conventional remedies, decided to try a procedure that was common in parts of Europe but virtually unknown in the United States. With parental permission, she placed the twins in the same bed. No sooner had she closed the incubator door, Brielle snuggled up to Kyrie and began to calm down. Within minutes, her blood-



(Right): Brielle and Kyrie Jackson with the famous 'hug' photo shot.

oxygen readings improved. As she dozed, Kyrie wrapped her left arm around her smaller sister. Brielle's heart rate stabilized and her temperature rose to normal.

In due time, the twins went home. Their parents placed them, once again, in the same bed where they continued to thrive. Even after five years, according to mom and dad, the twins still slept together and, not surprisingly, still snuggled.

The photograph of Kyrie hugging her little sister, dubbed the "Rescuing Hug," appeared in both Life magazine and Reader's Digest. It brought fame to the pair and spurred a growing interest in co-bedding premature twins, triplets, and

quads. The University of Massachusetts Memorial, for example, has co-bedded at least 100 sets of multiple birth preemies. Observing this practice over a period of five years, the hospital staff there has not found a single case of twin-to-twin infection. In addition, clinical studies have shown that premature twins enjoy substantial benefits when they are placed in the same bed together.

more information

To watch the CNN report, visit www.metrovoicenews.com/rescuehug/

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- Brannon & Marks appeals to people of all ages from all walks of life.
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Saving and changing lives by equipping people, empowering ministries and engaging communities toward a culture of **LIFE**.

RUDOLPH

continued from page 6

Christian responses to abortion in light of the wave of new regulations and abortion clinic closures.

The authors, Haley Henderson and Stephen Boyd, assert that because Texas's regulations mean only five abortion providers will remain in the state, the resulting increase in "unsolicited [lives]" demands that "The Church needs to abandon the harsh rhetoric and manipulation that sways instead of secures. It needs to be prepared to offer help and options for women." They claim "most

Christians and church-goers would say to the same people who choose to have their baby instead of turning to abortion—that they should take responsibility for their poor choices and not expect the government to provide for them . . . Ironically enough, the Church's opposition to abortion has all too often resulted in the abandonment of several Biblical ideas; namely love, grace, compassion and humility."

The authors write the law will save lives from "unsolicited death. [Which] is a very positive development. But it may also force children into an unsolicited life." They continue: "There will be an increased risk for babies to be born to young

mothers, teenagers and abusive homes. These are needs the Church must be ready to meet."

Further, they write: "It's easy to hold up a sign with a picture of a dead baby on it. It's a lot harder to actually sympathize with a woman who got pregnant and has to keep her baby because there's no abortion clinic nearby."

Despite the cliché, Christians overwhelmingly do live out their pro-life convictions beyond merely spouting anti-abortion "rhetoric." The largest adoption agency in the United States is Bethany Christian Services, which also offers foster care services and support for women with unplanned pregnancies. Religious Americans are also more likely to take in foster children. Recently an evangelical adoption movement has swelled throughout America, with conferences and summits drawing thousands of believers each year.

Additionally, pregnancy care centers (or crisis pregnancy centers) outnumber abortion clinics in the United States, and are usually run by Christian organizations. (You'll see many of them in the Kansas City area sponsoring this month's Metro Voice). They do not abandon

women the moment they give birth, but rather offer steady support and education for them. There are an estimated 2,000 to 2,500 of these centers throughout the U.S., with hundreds in Texas, Missouri and Kansas. Surely there is room for more outreach to women considering abortion, but it is factually wrong to claim all "the Church" does about abortion is shout and wave signs with bloody photos.

These examples barely scratch the surface and say nothing of the countless untold stories from families and churches that have actively cared (not merely sympathized) for vulnerable women and children. Just this year, hundreds of people lived their pro-life convictions, offering at a moment's notice to adopt a baby with Down Syndrome to save the child from the parents' plans to abort.

This is not to say things are perfect. There is always more work that can be done, and there are valid points of criticism concerning the strategy, focus, and message of the pro-life movement. Not all Christians or churches are consistently pro-life.

A consistently pro-life Christian cares deeply for babies and their mothers and fathers throughout their entire lifespan. In

contrast, there is nothing "pro-life" about caring for an unborn child's potentially poor "quality of life" and implying the alternative of death by abortion may be preferable to poverty.

The point of being "pro-life" is not to merely stop abortions in the abstract. Fighting for the unborn child's right to life flows from a Christian's conviction that God is the author of all life, and it is not for us humans to determine whose life is worth living. Life is inherently good and sacred, and the most vulnerable and weak are precious to God.

Relevant Magazine's rant illustrates all the stereotypes and assumptions about pro-life Christians commonly parroted in secular publications. I expect this from a culture that accepts abortion as a given and emphasizes personal choice and autonomy as sacred values, thus can't understand that there is any substance to pro-life beliefs beyond moralistic power grabs. But Christians writing on the subject should put thought and research before making such harsh accusations at the Church.

—Kristin Rudolph is a fellow with the John Jay Institute and a former Evangelical Program Coordinator at the IRD.



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for *life*.



The Missouri Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission and *The Pathway*, the official newspaper of the Convention, are proud to work side-by-side other Missourians in the effort to promote adoption and foster parenting.



WORKER

continued from page 6

I was scheduled one day just to "sit in" and see what happens in there.

In a tiny room with a "Biohazard" sign on the door I met God. In tiny little petri dishes, neatly displayed with a patient's name sprawled on each label with the giant letters POC printed on them were the tiny little faces of God's children. Some of them weren't recognizably human but most of them clearly were. There I sat face to face with about twenty people. Twenty people who you couldn't see walk through the door, 20 people who didn't get to plead their case in the counseling room, 20 people whose little hearts were barely able to beat, 20 people who didn't get a choice, 20 people who would be tossed in a freezer at the end of the day to wait and be carted off to a burn site as medical waste. Medical Waste or Product of Conception were the only names these people would ever be given.

I left work that day with such a heavy sorrow in my heart. I have never felt those type of intense emotions before. I prayed to God that night to show me a way out. I shamefully went into work the next morning, and I heard the kind voice outside the fence again. But everything was different that day. I decided when I left I was going to reach out to these people and I wasn't going to remain a part of this."

opinion

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VOICE

PUBLISHERS

Dwight & Anita Widaman

MANAGING EDITOR



Dwight Widaman

dwright@metrovoicenews.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS EDITOR



Anita Widaman

metrovocalendar@gmail.com

EDITORIAL SUPPORT

Contributing Editors: Dan Jeanes, Kharissa Forte, Alan Goforth.

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Is God finished with the Promised Land?



ELWOOD McQUAID

Consulting editor for Israel My Glory Magazine of Friends of Israel Ministry

myopinion

Israel still has more friends than foes

The New Year is upon us and, no doubt, headlines will continue to tell the frightening stories of the genocidal slaughter of believers abroad. Israel, too, is under attack—literally and figuratively. Part of this battle involves evangelicals turning away from Israel to support the creation of a Palestinian state.

This anti-Israel campaign repudiates biblical doctrine, endorses Arab revisionist propaganda and claims Israel is illegally occupying Arab land and imposing apartheid-like conditions on the Palestinians. Furthermore, Millennials are being recruited to fashion a pro-Palestinian evangelical opinion regarding the Israeli-Arab peace process.

While social media highlight this movement, they do not change the fact that the argument that evangelicals are deserting Israel is flawed.

Devotees of "Christ at the Checkpoint," a group of evangelicals dedicated to reclaiming the "prophetic role in bringing peace, justice and reconciliation in Palestine and Israel," are clearly pro-Palestinian. They embrace Replacement Theology, the belief that God is finished with Israel as a



nation and has installed the church as the true "Israel of God." This position negates God's promises, etched in Scripture, of (1) Israel's future restoration; (2) a Messianic

rael is theologically unsettling to Replacement practitioners. And gentlemanly disagreement has turned into a united front among Replacement adherents to dis-

absurdity. Purportedly, the agreement includes working toward a two-state solution that recognizes Israel's existence.

Yet, Hamas has fired thousands of missiles into Jewish towns in an attempt to kill as many Israeli men, women and children as possible. Hamas's very charter enshrines its commitment to eradicate Israel. Additionally, Abbas oversees an unremitting incitement campaign against Israel, praising suicide attackers who have drenched Israeli streets with innocent blood.

Professing believers in Christ (who align themselves with anti-Semites) defame Bible-believing Christians and demonize Israelis.

In a culture obsessed with radical change, fighting for the underdog is fashion-

"In a culture obsessed with radical change, fighting for the underdog is fashionable. But we must ensure the underdog is truly an underdog and not the fabrication of propaganda."

Kingdom on Earth; and (3) glory for Jacob and his posterity, including full land rights to the inheritance in the Middle East. Undoubtedly, the Jewish return to Is-

credit the opposition. This spring's reconciliation between Hamas leaders in Gaza and Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas is a terrorist union based on

■ See **PROMISED LAND** page 22

An NFL player's amazing response to Ferguson



DR. JIM DENISON

Cultural apologist, engaging contemporary issues with biblical truth

viewpoint

Benjamin Watson plays football for the New Orleans Saints. After the grand jury in Ferguson chose not to indict Officer Darren Wilson in connection with the death of Michael Brown, Watson posted a response on Facebook. His post has gone viral and led to national media appearances, including an extended CNN interview.

I urge you to read Watson's entire statement, as it expresses eloquently the pain, conflicted emotions, and confusion so many feel in reacting to this tragedy and its aftermath. Here's how it closes:

"I'M ENCOURAGED, because ultimately the problem is not a SKIN problem, it is a SIN problem. SIN is the reason we rebel against authority. SIN is the reason we abuse our authority. SIN is the reason we are racist, prejudiced and lie to cover for our own. SIN is the reason we riot, loot and burn. BUT I'M ENCOURAGED because God has provided a solution for sin through his son Jesus and with it, a transformed heart and mind. One that's capable of looking past the outward and seeing what's truly important in every human being. The cure for the Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice and Eric Garner tragedies is not education or exposure. It's the Gospel. So, finally, I'M ENCOURAGED because the Gospel gives mankind hope."

Benjamin Watson has spoken God's word to our fractured world. Consider some headlines: a Palestinian woman stabbed an Israeli yesterday and was wounded by security forces. Eleven Israelis have been killed in five separate



Palestinian attacks over the last six weeks. Protests continue in Hong Kong. Suicide bombers killed 70 last week in Nigeria. A suicide bomber killed nine in Afghanistan yesterday. A Canadian woman has reportedly been kidnapped in Syria.

What do these conflicts have in common? Sin. What is the hope? The gospel.

In 2 Kings 22 we find the nation of Israel on the brink of divine judgment

and enslavement to Babylon. Workers cleaning the temple found "the Book of the Law," most likely the book of Deuteronomy. When the king read the word of God, he tore his clothes in repentance and commanded the high priest to seek God's grace for the nation. The priest went to Huldah the prophetess, who warned of imminent judgment. But because the king responded to Scripture

■ See **BENJAMIN WATSON** page 22

It's all in the planning

by **Senora Kelly**

Planning a vacation can be so stressful for some people. Whom do I call? Where do I look? Which website is the best? Where do I go? How long do I stay? These are just some of the questions that plague the average person when trying to plan a vacation for themselves or their family.

Here are some tips to take the stress out of the planning:

1. Importantly, contact a travel professional. Most of us have the knowledge needed to help you make choices that are best for you and your family.
2. Start early. You can book vacation packages a year or more in advance.
3. Have the dates you want to travel in mind. All travel, no matter where to, is priced by dates.
4. Be flexible. Some of the time, it may be less expensive to travel during the week rather than on the weekend. Also, travelling around holiday time and during the summer will always be more expensive.
5. Be prepared. When travelling



in and out of the country by air, you will need to have a current passport. Check the date of your passport and make sure it is not due to expire in six months. If so, time to renew.

At Paradise, we take the stress out of your vacation planning. Let us do the work so you can relax and enjoy the vacation rather it be a cruise, trip to an all-inclusive resort or weekend trip to Branson. For more information about our company, call at 816-765-7020 or email at paradise-cruises@hotmail.com.

Submitted by Senora Kelly, Regional Director of National Association of Career Travel Agents.

■ RAMSEY

continued from page 4

Save for emergencies. Murphy is going to visit. You know Murphy: If something can go wrong, it will. I promise you it's going to rain from time to time, so you'll need an umbrella. Save \$1,000 in cash as quickly as possible for an emergency fund before you begin attacking your debt.

After you pay off all your debt except for your mortgage, increase your emergency fund to cover three to six months of expenses. Layoffs happen, cars break down, and kids get sick. A fully funded emergency fund can turn these disasters into nothing more than minor inconveniences.

Don't make the mistake of putting life's emergencies on a credit card. You'll end up paying on them for months or even years to come. An emergency fund gives you the peace of mind that comes with knowing you can handle whatever life throws at you.

Use the debt snowball. List all of your debts, except your house, from smallest payoff balance to largest. Make the minimum payment on every debt except the smallest and put every extra dollar you can find toward the smallest debt until it is paid.

If you can find a way to generate extra income, do it! Take on a part-time job for a while or have a big yard sale and get rid of that stuff you never use, wear

or didn't want in the first place! Then focus on paying off the next smallest debt, then the next, then the next, rolling the money over each time.

Have plastic surgery. Cut up all of your credit cards. We call this a plasectomy. Everyone says they pay off their credit cards each month, but the truth is virtually no one does.

Carnegie Mellon conducted a study that showed when McDonalds began accepting credit cards, the average purchase increased by 47 percent. People are more reluctant to spend money when they see tens and twenties leaving their wallets and going into someone else's. You really feel it when you have to lay out cash. Get rid of the credit cards!

Invest for the future. When you're debt-free and have a fully funded emergency fund, you're ready to start planning for the future. Invest 15 percent of your income in a 401(k), Roth IRA and other tax-advantaged retirement plans. Why not more? Because the extra money you'll save can go toward saving for college (if you have kids) or paying off your home early.

Do these things sound like a dream? Well, I can tell you from experience that some dreams do come true. If you're willing to be disciplined and focused, live on a budget, and have a plan for your money, the sky's the limit. Make 2015 the year you begin to live like no one else, so later you really can live like no one else!

Need Some Financial Peace? Join Financial Peace University this winter!

These area churches invite the community to join them for these popular financial classes using Dave Ramsey's famous Biblically-based curriculum.

Metro Voice thanks these churches for sponsoring our Dave Ramsey Christmas column this month. Support them by joining their class!

Woods Chapel United Methodist

4725 NE Lakewood Way, Lees Summit, MO Starts: Jan 8th at 6:30pm, Childcare. (816) 795-8848
www.WoodsChapelChurch.org

Olathe Bible Church

3700 W 151st St, Olathe, KS Starts: Jan 15th at 6:30pm (913) 764-8280
www.OlatheBible.org

First Baptist Church of Olathe

2024 East 151st Street, Olathe, KS Starts: Jan 7th at 6:00pm
Michelle Green, Coordinator (913) 764-7088
www.FBCOlathe.org

■ INSURANCE

continued from page 4

ment affect my policy?"

A finished basement may not only increase the cost to rebuild your home, but it may also require additional coverage to protect items from water damage. For example, optional water backup coverage will help protect new furniture and carpet in your basement if a sump pump breaks or a drain backs up.

"Do I need extended coverage for valuables?"

Your existing policy provides standard coverage for your home and belongings, but this coverage may not be sufficient for all your valuables and is frequently overlooked. For instance, you may need additional coverage

for wedding rings, valuable golf clubs or other sports equipment, family heirlooms and antiques, musical instruments or artwork in your home. If you have a new home office that you run a business from, you might consider extended coverage to protect your business property.

Like home maintenance, an annual insurance review is something that can go a long way to protecting what is likely your biggest investment. Your local agent will know the details of coverage for your neighborhood, and can help make sure this is a New Year's resolution you actually cross off your list.

When was the last time you reviewed or updated your homeowners insurance policy?

Questions? Call Allen at 816-875-4927.

■ IMPACT

continued from page 4

needs, language and solutions for your ideal customer. Craft messages and marketing tools to enable your customer to find you and access your solutions. (Prov. 15:2)

8. Own it. Be it. Do it! You are living your vision with confidence at this point. (Prov. 3:26 and 4:25)

9. Tell Success Stories: Share the good news and enjoy the fruit of your labor. (Prov. 18:20)

Have a wonderful year of IMPACT in 2015.

For more information, please visit: Ihopkc.org/josephcompany/events or 7M-pact.com



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JAN 25 WINTER JAM LIVE AT THE SPRINT CENTER, 1407 GRAND BLVD., KCMO. LINE UP INCLUDES FOR KING & COUNTRY (PICTURED), SKILLET, JEREMY CAMP AND MORE.

CONCERTS

GOSPEL JAMBOREE WITH PAM AND PHIL MORGAN. January 8, 7:00 pm. Life Christian Center, 1650 East Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO. 816-525-2568

SWEET SPIRIT & FRIENDS MUSIC OUTREACH. January 17, 6:00 pm food, 7:00 pm music. Moment of Truth Bible Baptist Church, 310 Randolph Road, Claycomo, MO, 64119. Come on by and let the music warm your heart.

OXANA ELIAHU WORSHIP CONCERT. January 17, 7:00 pm. 7029 W 74th St., Overland Park, KS. Easy on the ear lyrics and melodies with a mix of Western and Middle Eastern themes are very anointing. Oxana will be singing in Hebrew, English, Russian and Spanish. 913-383-8448.

WINTER JAM. January 25, 6:00 pm, doors open at 5:00 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64106. \$10 at the door. Line up includes: Skillet, Jeremy Camp, Francesca Battistelli, Building 429, Family Force 5, Newsong, For King & Country, and more.

LAND AND HILDEBRAND. January 30, 7:30-9:30 pm and January 31, 7:30-9:30 pm. Homer's Coffee House, 7126 W. 80th St., Overland Park, KS. 913-381-6022.

LOVE RAN RED TOUR. March 27, 7:00 pm. Independence Events Center, 19100 East Valley View Parkway, Independence,

MO 64055. Chris Tomlin, Tenth Avenue North, and Rend Collective.

SOUTHERN GOSPEL (CALL FOR GROUPS)

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

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

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE CHURCH. SECOND SATURDAY, 6pm. 341 S. 72nd St., Kansas City, KS 66111. Praise and Worship

songs of Zion. 913-334-1009.

CGMA NW MO CHAPTER MEETING, GOSPEL MUSIC AND POTLUCK. SECOND SATURDAY. Faith Assembly of God Church, South 13 Hwy, Polo, MO. Travel North on I-35 North, go North of Liberty to the Polo/Lathrop Exit. Turn right onto 116 Hwy. Go 12 miles to 13 Hwy. Turn left and go 1/4 mile. pegcla@msn.com.

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

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

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

■ calendar continued on next page

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CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

PATHWAY TO HOPE. Wednesday evenings, 6:30 pm. KC First Church of Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. This fall, KC First Church of the Nazarene will be hosting sessions of Pathway to Hope's E3 curriculum—a tool to assist families by encouraging, educating, and empowering families as they cope with a loved one's mental health struggle. Topics include: mood disorders, thought disorders, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, co-occurring disorders, dealing with psychiatric emergencies, and the world of mental illness. ahardy@kfcf.org 816-942-9022.

AVOID PROBATE SEMINARS. January 6 & 22. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 M.E. Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. Free. 816-524-3200.

PASSAGES. Through January 3, 2015. 3534 E. Sunshine St., Springfield, MO 65809. 1-888-297-8011.

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION. January 5. Kansas City College and Bible School, 7401 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66204. Free. Join us for a hybrid (online and on-campus) class that teaches you how to read the Bible and apply it to your life. Free undergraduate college credit will be given to those who complete this course. kccbs.edu

HEART OF AMERICA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY. Now enrolling, January 5. Heart of America Christian Academy, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. 816-356-6380.

ABORTION RECOVERY HER CHOICE TO HEAL CLASS. January, 12. This 9 week class is provided by If Not For Grace Ministries www.infg.org. For more info contact Jama at jedlund@infg.org.

ROUGH CUT MEN. January 16, 6:00-9:00 pm. January 17, 8:00 am-12:00 pm. North Cross United Methodist Church, 1321 NE Vivian Rd., Kansas City, MO. \$25 per person. The purpose of Rough Cut Men Movie Experience is to get guys to begin engaging in authentic ways...to get guys talking. 816-808-9368.

GOOD NEWS CLUB TEAM ORIENTATION TRAINING. January 17, 9-4:00 p.m. (8:30 a.m. registration begins.) Blue Ridge Bible Church, 8524 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO. Register by January 15. Cost is \$6.00 (pay at the door). Lunch is provided. (816) 358-1138

2015 NEW YEAR CAMP MEETING. January 18, 10:00 am & 6:00 pm. January 19, 7:00 pm. Victory Temple Christian Life

Arise 2015
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
JANUARY 22-25, 2015

JANUARY 22-25 ARISE 2015 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. JAN. 22, 7:00 P.M. TO JAN. 25, 1:00 P.M. AT WORLD REVIVAL MINISTRIES, 9900 VIEW HIGH DRIVE, KANSAS CITY, MO.

Center, 3301 E., 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64127.

SPRING CLASSES. Begins January 20. Heart of America Bible College & Theological Seminary, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. 816-356-6380.

ARISE 2015 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. January 22, 7:00 pm-January 25, 1:00 pm. World Revival Network of Ministries, 9900 View High Drive, Kansas City, MO. Speakers include Kathy Gray, Diana Trout, Barb Rudoski, Nancy Thomason, and Satara Brown-Glasco. Arise to your position in the army of the Lord. 1-877-804-5433.

UNWIND! January 23, 7:00 pm. Liberty Chapel Calvary Bible College, 15790 Elmwood, Kansas City, MO 64147. Recharge as you join fellow believers for an evening of student-led worship to our God and fellowship with one another. Calvary students will lead in a time of worship, and a speaker will share a devotion from God's Word. 816-425-6180.

ADOPTION INFORMATION MEETING. January 29, 6:30-8:00 pm. Sponsored by Holt International Adoption Agency. 816-878-7864.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY. January 29, 6:30 pm. Country Meadows Baptist Church, 4309 S White Sands Ct., Blue Springs, MO. Sponsored by Country Meadows Baptist Church. 816-876-9749.

PURE JOY. February 6, 7:00 pm. February 7, 9:00 am. Woods Chapel Church, 4725 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. \$25 for both days includes box lunch, \$20 for Friday only. Friday doors open at 6:00 pm; Salad Bar available. Saturday doors open at 8:00 am sweet rolls, fruit and coffee available. Worship and Breakfast sessions featuring Tammy Trent and other Special Speakers. 816-795-8848.

GOOD NEWS CLUB TEAM ORIENTATION TRAINING.

February 7, 9-4:00 p.m. (8:30 a.m. registration begins.) Second Baptist Church, 2324 Ruby Ave., Kansas City, KS. Register by February 5. Cost is \$6.00 (pay at the door). Lunch is provided. (816) 358-1138

DR. LUKE BOBO: The Path Forward. Feb. 7, 7 p.m. The Culture House, 14808 W 117th Street, Olathe, KS. Join us for an inspiring and honest approach to the concerning break down in the race discussion in America. The Culture House Lecture Series. 913-393-3141.

VISIONARY MARRIAGE CONFERENCE. February 21, 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Grace Family Fellowship Church, 125 N. Armstrong, Pleasant Hill, MO 64080. Facilitated by Author Speaker and Pastor Dr. Rob Rienow. FREE childcare offered both days! 816-540-5872.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY. February 21, 9:00-10:15 am. Deerbrook Covenant Church, 200 NE Tudor Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64086. Sponsored by If Not For Grace Ministries. infg.org

17th MIDWEST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EXPO. February 28, 9:30 am-2:00 pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, Kansas City, MO. FREE. 50 Christian Colleges from 15 states, 25 K-12 Schools from Metro KC area, and MO & KS Homeschool Organizations. Preparing for College; Finding the Most Financial Aid; History, Mission, and Vision of Homeschooling; Homeschooling 101 and the Law; K-12 Options: Parent Panel Discussion a.m. 816-524-4522.

DARE 2 SHARE'S 2015 STUDENT CONFERENCE - THE FEARLESS TOUR. March 20, 6:00 pm doors open & March 21, 8:00 am doors open. First Baptist Church Raytown, 10500 E. State

Route 350, Kansas City, MO 64138. \$55 until 03/06/15, \$59 at door. Speakers: Greg Stier, Zane Black, The Digital Age, Esteban Shedd, and Alert312. 1-866-448-0272.

IF NOT FOR GRACE MINISTRIES/RECONCILIATION WEEK-

END. March 20-22. Early Bird Registration starts January 23, 2015. Are you looking for spiritual and emotional peace after experiencing abortion? We are here to help, contact Jama at

■ calendar continued on next page

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SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

IF NOT FOR GRACE MINISTRIES VOLUNTEER. Would you like to partner with us to impact God's kingdom using your time and talents? Whether you have a few hours once a month, quarter, or year, this could be a place for you to invest in the lives of the abortion-wounded. infq.org or Jama at jedlund@infq.org.

GOSPEL SKATE NIGHT. Every 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. Skate City Shawnee, 9800 W. 62nd Terrace, Merriam, KS 66203. Admission \$6 and skate rental \$2. 913-788-7788.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION BY HARVESTER'S. Every 3rd Thursday of the month at 4:00 pm. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. 816-796-5879.

NEW BEGINNINGS NYE CELEBRATION. Through January 1, 8:00 pm-1:00 am. 2505 SW Wintercreek Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64081. \$30 pre-registration required online at newbeginningsnye.eventbrite.com. For singles in their 40's and 50's. Set in a Christian environment, singles will enjoy games, D.J., dance floor, Karaoke, photo booth, prizes, chipotle buffet and champagne toast at midnight. NYEnewbeginnings@yahoo.com.

LOVE'S OUTREACH COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION. January 10, 10:00-11:00 am. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO. Free food for families in need. Valid ID and proof of residency needed to participate. 816-246-7625.

ONE GENERATION AWAY SIMULCAST EVENT. January 13, 7:00 pm EST live and 7:00 pm PST replay. Featuring Tony Perkins & Rick Santorum. www.frc.org

42nd ANNUAL NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE. January 21-23. The Annual Bus trip to Washington, DC. Missouri Life Caravan Contacts 314-434-4900.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE. January 22, Mass at 10:00 am and Vigil at 11:30 am. Catholic Center, 20 West Ninth Street, Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by MRL Western Region. 816-353-4113.

THE 42ND ANNUAL NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE. January 22. Washington D.C. www.marchforlife.org.

KANSANS FOR LIFE LOBBY, MARCH, PRAY & RALLY. January 22, 8:30 am. South Capitol Steps, Topeka, KS. Registration not required, 8:30 am Capitol Rotunda, Rally at Noon. kftopeka@gmail.com

PRAYER VIGIL. January 22, 12:00 pm. Illus Davis Plaza, 400 E 9th Street, Kansas City, MO (across from the Federal Building). 816-353-4113.

VIGIL FOR LIFE. January 22, 6:00-7:00 pm. Noland Road & 24 Hwy, Independence, MO. 816-353-4113.

PRAYER VIGIL. January 22, 7:00 pm. Children's Memorial Service University of Central Missouri, University Chapel, Warrensburg, MO. 816-353-4113

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER AND DANCE. February 13, 6:00 pm. Truman Memorial Building, 416 West Maple Avenue, Independence, MO 64050. \$12.50 per person. Sponsored by Independence First United Methodist Church. Enjoy a lovely meal with your loved one(s), time with others and dancing with a DJ. 816-863-4662.

LOVE'S OUTREACH COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION. February 14, 10:00-11:00 am. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO. Free food for families in need. Valid ID and proof of residency needed to participate. 816-246-7625.

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR. February 15, 10:00 am. New Life Assembly of God Church, 801 SW 1st St., Oak Grove, MO. 816-690-3514.

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR. February 15, 6:30 pm. First Baptist Raytown Church, 10500 E State Route 350, Raytown, MO. 816-353-1994.

KINDERGARTEN PREVIEW. February 24, 8:45-9:45. Maranatha Christian Academy, 15000 W. 63rd St., Shawnee, KS 66216. Interested families, who want to know more about Maranatha Christian Academy's Kindergarten program.

FINE ARTS

RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER: THE MUSICAL. Through January 4. The Coterie Theatre, Crown Center, 2450 Grand Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-474-6552.

SANTA CONQUERS THE MARTIANS, OR, CLAU ENCOUNTERS OF THE 3RD KIND! Through January 4, 2015. All matinees are at 3:30 pm, all evening performances are at 7:30 pm. There are no performances on December 24, 25, or 31st. Great Plains Mall, 2700 W. 151st St, Olathe, KS. Join the galaxy goofiness in which Santa spreads Christmas joy all over the universe

and finally persuades the Martians themselves to be good little boys and girls and share in the holiday hi-jinx as well. 913-642-7576.

WORLD WAR I AND THE RISE OF MODERNISM. Through July 19. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, photographs, and decorative arts by many of the most esteemed European and American modernists are exhibited. 816-751-1321

HUNGRY AS A BEAR PUPPET SHOW. January 17, 11:00 am.

Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E Winner Road, Independence, MO 64052. \$5 per person. An original Punch and Judy puppet show for all ages. 816-833-9777.

GISELLE. January 18, 3:30 pm. Kauffman Center, 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO. \$30, \$50, \$60, \$70, and \$80. Performed by Russian National Ballet Theatre. Presenter: Harriman-Jewell Series.

AN ILIAD. January 23-February 15. Spencer Theatre, 4949 Cherry Street, Kansas City, MO 64110. 816-235-2700.

YUN-CHIN ZHOU DISCOVERY CONCERT. January 24, 7:00 pm. Folly Theatre, 300 W. 12th St., Kansas City, MO. Free. 816-474-4444.

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE. January 27-March 1. Coterie Theatre, 2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-474-6552.

NEW MOVES. February 6-14. Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity, 500 W. Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO 64108. A chance for audiences to see the next big choreographer before they are considered the next big choreographer. 816-931-2232.

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA. February 12, 10:00 am School Day Performance; February 12, 7:00 pm; February 13 7:00 pm; February 14, 2:00 & 7:00 pm; February 15, 2:00 pm. Bell Cultural Events Center Mid-America Nazarene, 2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS 66062. www.cytkc.org

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. February 19, 7:00 pm; February 20, 10:00 am School Day Performance; February 20, 7:00 pm; Feb-

■ calendar continued on next page

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JAN 17

THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS, 2:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M. AT THE SPRINT CENTER, 1407 GRAND BLVD. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT 816-949-7000.

ruary 21, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; February 22, 2:00 pm. Bell Cultural Events Center Mid-America Nazarene, 2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS, 66062. www.cytkc.org.

UNDERGROUND. PRESENTED BY STÖRLING DANCE THE-ATER. March 5 & 6, 9:30 am (school performances); March 6 & 7, 7:30 pm (public performances. Kauffman Center, 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-994-7200.

FAMILY OUTINGS

JERUSALEM. Through January 5, various times. Extreme Screen Union Station, 30 W. Pershing Rd., Suite #400, Kansas City, MO 64108. Discover why this tiny piece of land is sacred to three major religions through the stories of Jewish, Christian and Muslim families who call Jerusalem home.

THE KCP&L PLAZA LIGHTS SHINE. Through January 18, daily from 5:00 pm-3:00 am. Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, MO.

FOOD COLLECTION AT THE ICE. Through February 17. The Ice at Park Place, 11551 Ash St., Leawood, KS. Offering \$1 off admission when you bring a canned or non-perishable food item for the JFS Food Pantry. www.parkplaceleawood.com 913-451-4600.

WAR & ART. Through February, 18. National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial, 100 W. 26th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108. During the First World War even Italy's historical and artistic heritage became powerful propaganda tool for the country affected by the war. The art and beauty destroyed during air raids or land battles were further proof of the "enemy's barbarity". 816-888-8100.

DESERT IN BLOOM CONSERVATORY EXHIBIT. January 10-February 22. Powell Gardens, 1609 NW U.S. Highway 50, Kingsville, MO 64061. This fascinating exhibit features cacti and succulents from plant families ranging from the daisy, lily, and milkweed families to orchids and beyond. 816-697-2600.

DRIVING RISK AWARENESS: FOR TEENS AND PARENTS. January 11, 10:00-11:45 am. Jewish Community Campus, Conference Room C, 5801 W 115th St., Overland Park, KS. Open to 9th and 10th graders and their parents. This workshop includes: providing a realistic picture of the risks of teen driving, providing practical advice on ways families can reduce teen driving risks, promoting tee-parent involvement and cooperation in teen driving, and creating a tee-parent driving agreement.

2015 MID-AMERICA RV SHOW. January 15-18. Bartle Hall, 301 West 13th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. RV Show is the largest consumer show dedicated to the RVing lifestyle and everything associated with it like traveling and outdoor activities in the Mid-

west. 847-229-6730.

HARLEM GLOBTROTTERS. January 17, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm.

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LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. January 19, 10:00 am. John Gano Memorial Chapel, William Jewell College, Liberty, MO. Free Admission. 816-415-5223.

SESAME STREET LIVE: LET'S DANCE. January 30, 10:30 am & 6:30 pm; January 31, 10:30 am, 2:00 pm & 5:30 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64105. 816-283-7311.

JIM BRICKMAN IN CONCERT: LOVE AROUND THE PIANO. February 13, 8:00 pm and February 14, 8:00 pm. Kauffman Center, 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64108. www.jimbrickman.com

2015 WATCHMEN ON THE WALL BRIEFING. May 20-22. Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. Speaker include: Lt. General (ret.) William Boykin, Senator Ted Cruz, Ambassador Ron Diermer, Dr. David Jeremiah, Pastor Greg Laurie, Dr. Erwin Lutzer, Tony Perkins, and other. www.frc.org

MONTHLY MEETINGS

BUILDING BETTER MOMS. The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS. For local moth-

ers of children in early childhood, elementary school, middle school, high school, and for single moms, with both day and evening meeting times available at the Leawood campus. www.cor.org 913-897-0120.

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

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

MONTHLY - MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE CHAPTERS 816-353-4113; KANSANS FOR LIFE CHAPTERS 913-268-8486.

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

2ND & 4TH SUN. -METRO CITIZEN'S COALITION, 2:30 pm. Trails West Library, 11401 E. 23rd, Independence, MO. Free. Open to public. Rear parking & entrance. 816-781-6394.

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

MON. - JOB TERMINATION SUPPORT GROUP. 7PM. Christ's Church, 5500 W. 91st St., (91st & Nall), OPKS. If you've been laid off or terminated and are looking for peer support please join us. We pray for each other and are doing readings from "Battlefield of the Mind". 913-648-2271.

1ST MON. - CHRISTIAN BUSINESS CONNECTIONS NETWORK. 9am. Country Club Café, 21911 W. 66th St., Shawnee, KS 66226. 913-441-2444.

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



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entertainment

MOVIE OFFERS POWERFUL MESSAGE

moviereview

by **Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat**

In 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., (David Oyelowo in an Academy-Award caliber performance) and his wife Coretta (Carmen Ejogo) are preparing for their trip to Stockholm, where he will receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

The previous year King had aroused the conscience of the nation with his "I Have a Dream" speech at a rally in Washington at the base of the Lincoln Memorial. But the South is still in the grip of racial hatred as demonstrated by the bombing of a church in Birmingham that kills four black girls.

Black citizens, like the hospice nurse Annie Lee Cooper (Oprah Winfrey), have been repeatedly intimidated and turned away in their attempts to register to vote. Now King is planning to rally blacks in Selma, Ala. to engage in large-scale demonstrations, including a march from Selma to the capitol of Montgomery. His goal is to convince President Lyndon Johnson (Tom Wilkinson) to get behind voting rights legislation that will be enforced with the full power of the law.

The substantive screenplay of Selma, written by Paul Webb, vividly conveys the complex struggles faced by King as he and

film411

SELMA

STARS: David Oyelowo, Tim Roth, Giovanni Ribisi, Cuba Gooding Jr, Martin Sheen, Carmen Ejogo

DIRECTOR: Ava DuVernay

RATED: PG-13

other members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference contend with the youthful members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee over the right strategy to win the allegiance of a majority of Americans to their cause. In a moving vignette, Coretta King listens to Malcolm X (Nigel Thatch) as he admits his differences with her husband over the practice of nonviolence but promises to support the Selma demonstrations. Meanwhile the pressure of hate calls and threats of death bother King and his wife who grow more anxious in "the constant closeness of death."

The most powerful point in this compelling drama is the depiction of the violent attack on the marchers by police on the Edmond Pettus Bridge. In this sequence, Henry G. Sanders turns in a touching performance as the 82-year-old father of one of the young men who had been killed in a previous demonstration.

We are also impressed by the passion of other members of the leadership team, including John Lewis (Stefan James) and Rev. Hosea Williams (Wendell Pierce).

In several meetings at the White House, King pressures President Johnson to send a voting rights bill to Congress. He asks how the President can fund a war in Vietnam while refusing to fight against the crimes perpetrated against his own people. King's energy is also drained by a crusade of hatred by governor George Wallace (Tim Roth) and the secret campaign of J. Edgar Hoover (Dylan Baker) to discredit him.

The best thing about Selma is that it is so convincing in its portrayal of how non-violent action can effect social change. It is an inspiring moment when the Selma community is joined by priests, nuns, ministers, and rabbis on the march from Selma to Montgomery, united in their pursuit of freedom, equality, and justice. Here we see the important roles of prayer, Scripture passages, hymns, and community solidarity.

In these times, when government leaders seem all too quick to use violence against their perceived enemies, and indi-

MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE!



viduals all too often rely on guns to settle grievances, we look back at the civil rights movement with admiration and the utmost respect. The leaders in Selma are the kind of leaders we need today.

Going Deeper

It is fascinating to watch the end credits for Selma where we learn the fates of those we have traveled with in this soul-stirring drama. While allowing the film to simmer in our minds, we came across this spiritual rule used by Dr. Martin Luther King to guide the nonviolent protests of the civil rights movement. As you ponder these ethical precepts keep in mind how timely they still are:

"Meditate daily on the teachings and life of Jesus.

Remember always that the nonviolent

movement in Birmingham seeks justice and reconciliation, not victory.

Walk and talk in the manner of love, for God is love.

Pray daily to be used by God in order that all might be free.

Sacrifice personal wishes in order that all might be free.

Seek to perform regular service for others and the world.

Refrain from violence of fist, tongue, or heart.

Strive to be in good spiritual and bodily health.

Follow the directions of the movement and the captains of a demonstration."

— from *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life* by Marjorie J. Thompson

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All vehicle donations are processed as quickly as possible. Typically, a donated vehicle is picked up within 2 or 3 days after the title is received by our process center. Online donations speed up the process and special arrangements can be made if a vehicle needs to be picked up more quickly.

What documents do I need to donate my car to Heartland Habitat?
The online Donation Wizard will tell you what documents are required in your state. Most states require that you have a clear title to the vehicle; some states also require a notarized signature to transfer a vehicle.

What are the tax benefits of donating my car?
Habitat for Humanity is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. If you itemize your deductions on your income tax return, you may be entitled to deduct the gross sales value of your donated vehicle. Donors will receive appropriate receipts and should consult their tax advisor and/or the IRS to determine benefits.



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Oxana Eliahu

Worship concert

Saturday, January 17, 7 P.M.

Oxana Eliahu is a Russian born Jewish Messianic believer, worship leader, composer, songwriter, and producer of many Messianic CDs of praise and worship. Oxana lived in Israel for twenty years. Unique melodies and deep meaningful lyrics of her songs are truly inspired by the Holy Spirit and the Word of G-d. Full of deep emotions and passion, Oxana's songs are very touching and powerful. Easy on the ear lyrics and melodies with a mix of Western and Middle Eastern themes are very anointing. Each song is in itself a message of faith and hope, with a cry of a soul longing to come closer to Adoni. Oxana will be singing Hebrew, English, Russian and Spanish!

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2015 will be busy year for concerts



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Happy New Year! I hope you've had a good transition from 2014 to 2015 so far. God's plans do not change because of time or any other measurable constraint that we've concocted, AMEN? He knows, day-by-day, what we need, and He provides. Here's to looking forward to what He has in store for us this coming 365 days! Here's also a brief list of the music news early in the New Year!

Chosen by votes from fans and peers, Phil Keaggy was named the greatest Christian Rock Guitarist of all time by the Classic Christian Rock Zone. created to remember pioneers of Christian rock from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s, Christian Rock Zone website was created in 2011. Notable voters at the site were HM Magazine's Doug Van Pelt, Classic Christian Rock Radio's William Schaaff, and Billy

Glover of Petra. The site conducted the survey in early December, with over 24,000 voters contributing.

"Many thanks to the voters first of all," Keaggy said recently. "Polls and award shows make me nervous at times, because truly gifted and hardworking artists and guitarists often get overlooked. But I am humbled to even be on this list."

Having had the chance to see Phil Keaggy perform, in person, once, I can attest to the incredible ability God has granted him with the six-string. Considering, also, missing the middle finger on his right hand, it's amazing what he can do on the guitar! Congratulations, Mr. Keaggy!



In further music news, one of the favorite places to eat around town will also be releasing an in-store-only release of Hymns by one of the favorite artists in the CCM catalogue! Casting Crowns will be releasing a "very special" Casting Crowns album, exclusively through Cracker Barrel, sometime this year. Not only that, but Stu G, known for his guitar handiwork with Delirious will also be contributing his talents to the recording! Definitely something to look forward to in the New Year!

Also early this year, will be the 2015 Jam Tour coming to Kansas City on January 25 and Wichita, KS March 6. Celebrating twenty years of noisemaking and praise, notable contributors in 2015 include Jeremy Camp, Building 429, Skillet, Family Force 5, For King & Country, and Francesca Battistelli! This will be a concert worth checking out!



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TEN THINGS

continued from page 10

Early as His Fifth Week.
After examining scientific resources and hearing medical testimony, the South Dakota Task Force found that “(the necessary pieces) for pain detection in the spinal cord exists at very early developmental stages.” Babies have also been documented moving away from unwanted or painful touch in their first few weeks of in utero life.

5) A Baby’s Kidneys are Present at Only 5 Weeks.

In fact, by eight weeks old, all of the baby’s organs are in place and only need to be fully developed.

6) A Baby’s Brainwaves Can be Measured at 6 Weeks Old.

7) At 6 Weeks, a Baby Will Move Away if His Mouth is Touched.

The Endowment for Human Development has a video of a six-week-old baby responding to touch here.

8) A Baby’s Ear Can Begin to be Seen Around 6 Weeks.

9) A Baby Has Fingerprints at 9-10 Weeks.

These fingerprints will be the same throughout the baby’s life. His permanent identification is already developing. Watch a video and see an unborn baby’s fingerprints here.

10) A Baby Can Suck Her Thumb and Yawn at 9 1/2 Weeks Old.

According to The Endowment for Human Development, most babies prefer their right thumb. At this age, plenty is going on. A baby’s vocal cords are forming, her bones are hardening, and



her toenails and fingernails are emerging. See a video of a ten-week-old baby yawning here.

Editor’s Note: The information here has, in large part, been studied and documented by The Endowment for Human Development (“a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health science education and public health” that has cooperated with National Geographic to put out a video about prenatal development) and The South Dakota Task Force to Study Abortion.

LifeNews Note: Kristi Burton Brown is a pro-life activist in her home state of Colorado, a pro-bono attorney for Life Legal Defense Fund, and a stay-at-home mom. This column originally appeared at LiveActionNews.

Book, movie hero’s greatest victory came through faith in Christ

Jamie Dean | World News

[Editor’s note: The book *Unbroken* has been adapted to the screen by director Angelina Jolie and is appearing in theaters across the country.]

When I met Louis Zamperini at the Billy Graham Library in 2011, dozens of eager fans had already formed a long line outside, clutching water bottles and copies of the book that had made the World War II veteran famous.

The decorated war hero—who died last summer – was in town to sign copies of Laura Hillenbrand’s best-selling account of his extraordinary life. *Unbroken* had already topped the New York Times bestseller list, and it remains on the list today, ranking No. 4. Only four other nonfiction books in history have remained on the list longer.

The book sketches the remarkable tale of Zamperini’s experiences as an Olympic runner and a World War II soldier who courageously survived a plane crash, 47 days on a raft in the Pacific Ocean, and two years of brutality in Japanese prison camps.

Zamperini recalled that Hillenbrand, author of the bestseller *Seabiscuit*, had spent seven years painstakingly piecing together an account of Zamperini’s life while combating a debilitating case of chronic fatigue syndrome.

Extreme weakness and vertigo confined Hillenbrand to her home, and she never met Zamperini in person while she worked on the book. Instead, she spent hundreds of hours interviewing Zamperini and others by phone, and researching archive materials and official documents via the internet and mail. The pair became friends without meeting, and Hillenbrand once called Zamperini “a virtuoso of joy.”

“Now that’s a courageous lady.” He was so struck by her perseverance

through her illness, Zamperini did what seemed most logical to him: “I sent her one of my Purple Hearts.”

When Hillenbrand, then 43, didn’t have strength to travel for a book tour, Zamperini took on the job for her.

The then-94-year-old embarked on a book-signing excursion that took him to stops all over the country, where he spent hours giving media interviews and meeting admiring fans.

Zamperini became a Christian during a Billy Graham crusade in Los Angeles in 1949. A huge, black-and-white photo of a young Graham preaching to thousands hung on the wall as Zamperini remembered his conversion to Christianity. He had returned from the war traumatized and

depressed from the extreme abuse he endured, and he had turned to alcohol for relief. He initially resisted his wife’s suggestions that the pair attend Graham’s tent meeting, but he eventually relented.

Hillenbrand located the sermon Graham preached that October evening in 1949, and included the scene in *Unbroken*. As Zamperini battled anger and bitter memories of the hellish ordeal of war, Graham preached:

“Here tonight, there’s a drowning man, a drowning boy, a drowning girl that is out lost in the sea of life.”

The next night, Zamperini returned

to the tent, and Graham again preached the gospel of salvation from sin through faith in Christ. This time Zamperini responded. He and his wife both embraced Christ.

Zamperini said he was thankful for Graham’s ministry, and thrilled that Hillenbrand included the account in her book. Shortly after the release of *Unbroken*, Zamperini found a letter in his mailbox from Graham. “Dear Louis,” it began. “My associate read me parts of the new book about you yesterday. What a life you have lived. What a

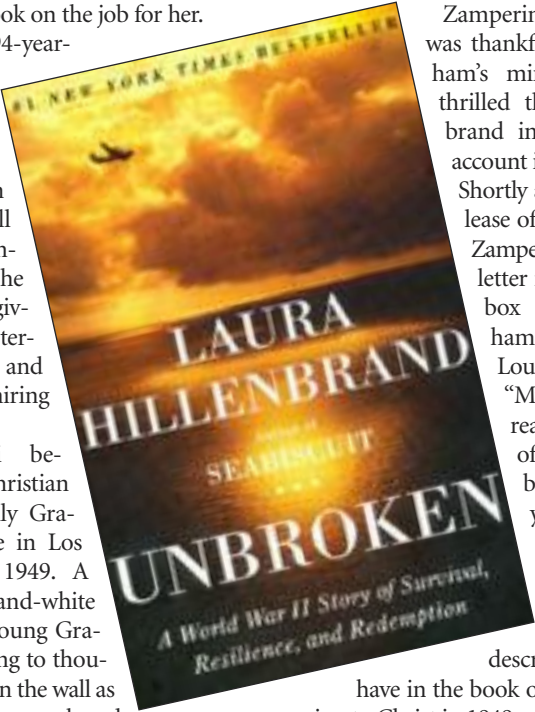
description you have in the book of your conversion to Christ in 1949, and the great part that [your wife] Cynthia played in it. ... I had tears in my eyes and praise in my heart for what God has done through you.”

I asked Zamperini—who maintained a devout Christian faith and service throughout the rest of his life—how important it was for the story of his conversion and faith to make it into the book. His reply was simple: “There wouldn’t be a book without it.”

Zamperini saw his conversion as the hinge for all that went before it, and all that followed in his long life. He wanted as many other people as possible to hear about salvation through Christ through his own story: “That’s the message of the book.”

Indeed, when Zamperini reflected on the best day of his life, he didn’t mention the day he was liberated from a Japanese war camp.

Instead, he said, “It was the day I came to Christ.”



“Zamperini became a Christian during a Billy Graham crusade in Los Angeles in 1949.”



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PROMISED LAND

continued from page 13

ionable. But we must ensure the underdog is truly an underdog and not the fabrication of propaganda.

Accusing the Jewish people of duplicity and treachery is a tactic as old as time. The "wandering Jew" characterized the general Jewish condition until May 14, 1948. With the restoration of part of the Jewish homeland, it appeared a new era of peace and stability might be at hand.

After World War II, few people, particularly Christians, would have questioned recognizing a legal Jewish nation. Unanticipated, however, was the radical Arab inhabitants' genocidal fervor.

The Israeli struggle for survival suddenly became a fact of life. Against insurmountable odds, Jewish perseverance and ingenuity made Israel a model of progress, humanitarian excellence, technological innovation and medical achievement.

The world should accept and admire what this tiny refugee country has accom-

plished.

But in a world with an inexorable sin problem, old specters never die. Recent incidents offer disturbing reminders. In countries where Jewish people were murdered by the millions during the Holocaust, anti-Semitism lingers.

A recent Anti-Defamation League survey found 45 percent of Poland's citizens, 41 percent of Hungary's and 37 percent of France's have anti-Semitic attitudes. And in Ukraine, political upheaval and anti-Semitism have sent Jewish emigration soaring.

The increase in anti-Jewish, anti-Israel incidents underscores the necessity of a secure Jewish state.

God has issued a promise and a land deed to Abraham and his descendants in perpetuity: "And the Lord said to Abram ... 'Lift up your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever'" (Gen. 13:14-15).

Considering Israel is the only true

democracy in the Middle East and the closest ally of America and the West, the clamor to dismantle the state seems demented. Israelis have long asked that armistice lines where fighting ceased in 1948-49 be exchanged for negotiated, safe borders so they can maintain security without the constant threat of annihilation. For professing Christians to side with jihadists who vow to erase Israel from the map is, at minimum, bewildering.

Israel still has more friends than foes. Although opposition exists, we must not become agitated by stories of massive evangelical defections from loyalty to Israel. It is a concern, but the movement is a noisy, activist sliver among evangelical Christians. The mature remnant of believers stands firm with Israel's right to the land. These Christians have wisely chosen truth over fabrications. That will not change.

Elwood McQuaid is consulting editor for Israel My Glory Magazine of The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, and a former executive director of the worldwide ministry.

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BENJAMIN WATSON

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with remorse and humility, disaster was averted (vs. 8-20) and a great spiritual awakening swept the nation (2 Kings 23).

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace. How can we bring his peace to our conflicted culture? By using our influence to share his word. When Benjamin Watson signed with New Orleans, he said that his purpose was "not just to play football, but to minister in the locker room and also be involved in the community of New Orleans and serve where we can, and tell people about the Lord where we can. Something my wife always says is, 'Benjamin, it's not always about you, and what you want.' God has a way of moving us to where He wants us to be and He expects us to serve Him where we are. So that's been our approach since I've been in New Orleans."

Let's take the same approach where we are today, to the glory of God. *Jim Denison, Ph.D., is a cultural apologist, building a bridge between faith and culture by engaging contemporary issues with biblical truth. www.denisonforum.org*

UNDERGROUND

continued from page 4

shining example of how good will always triumph over evil regardless of having a human leader or not. God has set in the hearts of good men and women the value of all of life that resists evil."

Jeremiah Enna initiated "UNDERGROUND" in 2000, when he started to see the current debate digressing back to a "white vs. black" tone. His inspiration continued as national leaders like Bill Cosby and Juan Williams began to speak a new word of hope into our disintegrating situation.

A power team of artists and producers was assembled to pull this very complex project together. With Mona Störing-Enna at the helm, composer Jay Pfeifer was commissioned to write a score that intelligently and inspirationally binds the sounds of the various cultures together to project one story.

James brings her fresh approach to choreography having graduated from the Martha Graham School of Dance in New York, danced with Philadanco and choreographed for national tours of gospel concerts.

Störing-Enna, famous for her costume designs, created the costumes for "UNDERGROUND."

"In this modern age it is disheartening to see so many injustices continuing all around us," said Kipton Blue, executive producer. "It is encouraging to look back at these inspiring stories of how individuals can make a difference and change history. Underground will truly inspire all of us to not only learn from the past, but actively participate in the future."

Tickets are \$75, \$35 and \$20, and are available by contacting the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts box office at 816.994.7222.

Launched in 1996, Störing Dance Theater is Kansas City's emerging neo-classical dance company. In addition to its local performances, the group has toured the United States, Canada and Central Asia. Störing Dance Theater is in residence at The Culture House, one of Kansas City's premiere arts centers located in Olathe, Kan.

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

continued from page 1

Africa's Ebola epidemic proved resilient to the world's best public health protocols—affecting more than 25 countries on six continents and continuing unabated, with more than 18,000 cases and nearly 8,000 confirmed deaths by year's end.

A long-ignored ISIS rebranded itself as the Islamic State and served notice on the United States with the August beheading of journalist James Foley that war in Iraq was not over.

President Obama, who came into office pledging to end that war, found himself standing before the American people ordering airstrikes and then more military personnel to Iraq again. He pledged a “relentless effort” to help ensure that “those who offer only hate

and destruction [are] vanquished from the Earth.”

Despite that pledge, ISIS by year's end controlled nearly all the same territory it captured in 2014. With oil supplies and other revenue, it appeared poised to mount a bigger threat than al-Qaeda prior to 9/11.

Lost in the takeover: the destruction of Christian institutions in Syria and Iraq—a civilization stretching back to the first century. In Mosul the militants destroyed or converted to mosques 45 Christian churches or institutions, all now flying the black ISIS flag.

During a standing-room-only service in Rome that included Pope Francis, the Orthodox bishop of Damascus Jean Kawak recounted stories of starving, homeless Christians: “How much longer denied, we believers? We are not resigned to the darkness of evil. We are

not people of resignation or despair. Christians are the people of faith and hope.... The anonymous prayer of many people has changed the course of history.”

Domestically amid a growing world disorder came midterm elections securing Republican control of Congress (with a record number of conservative Hispanic, Asian, and African-Americans elected), falling oil prices, and signs of economic recovery. Unemployment rates dropped but remain stubbornly high for 20- to 30-year-olds (in some places above 10 percent).

With a changing economy, plus changing values, the American family slid further into decline—under half as many new households (559,000) formed in the United States in the five years ending with 2014, compared to the five years before 2009 (1.2 million).

At the same time America's “non-religious bloc” has nearly doubled to over 17 percent, prompting researchers to conclude, “The religious canvas of American life is being repainted before our eyes.”

In this sea of old and new, there is a gift we never tire of, and a Regifter who breaks through our retrograde tragedies moment by moment. One who knows our frame and remembers we are dust. “The answer to the WHY is WHO,”



Most Religious US states. Red states are the most religious. Orange states are highly religious. Yellow states are average. Green states are below average. Blue states are the least religious.

wrote Iranian-American pastor Saeed Abedini from prison in a September letter on his daughter's eighth birthday. “The confusion of ‘WHY has all of this happened?’ and ‘WHY your prayers are not answered yet’ is resolved with understanding WHO is in control... LORD JESUS CHRIST, our GOD!”

But in a new millennium, we learn from a prison epistle the story of triumph despite a year's suffering. “And so I want you to know that the answer to all of your prayers is that God is in control,” wrote Abedini, “and He knows better than us what He is doing in our lives and all around the world.”

Here are some of the key players and events in the year gone by:

ISIS: Islamic State militants on June 30 take part in a parade in the Raqqa province of northern Syria to celebrate the declaration of an Islamic caliphate. Throughout the year the al-Qaeda offshoot gained territory while fighting against Syrian, Iraqi, and Kurdish forces, brutally ousting Christian and Yezidi residents from the region.



Flight 370:

A Boeing 777 that went missing over the

Indian Ocean. Search efforts in the months since have failed to locate the plane, which had 239 persons on board, or any wreckage from it.

Midterms: U.S. Sen.-elect Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from Iowa, and her victory was part of a nationwide wave that handed Republicans control of the U.S. Senate for the final two years of the Obama administration.



Ebola: The deadliest outbreak of Ebola on record infected 18,000 persons in Africa in 2014, killing more than 6,000 of them, and for the first time spread to the United States and other Western nations.

Canada: On Oct. 22, a Muslim terrorist, Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, shot and killed Cpl. Nathan Cirillo at the National War Memorial and then entered the Parliament buildings where Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Vickers shot and killed the assailant.



Nigeria: Muslims from the terrorist group Boko Haram on April 14 abducted more than 200 other Christian girls from a school in Chibok.

ObamaCare: On June 30 the U.S. Supreme Court's decision protected the religious freedom of employers to opt out of the requirement to provide contraception to employees under the Affordable Care Act. The case involved the craft store chain Hobby Lobby.



IRS Scandal: Former IRS official Lois Lerner swears to tell the truth before invoking her Fifth Amendment right not to testify at a House hearing on March 5. The hearing investigated whether the IRS had targeted conservative groups based

on their political beliefs. The IRS later reported pertinent emails from Lerner had disappeared in a computer crash. A Treasury inspector general in late November found the emails.

South Korean Ferry: On April 16 a ferry sank off the coast of South Korea. Only 172 of the 476 passengers and crew survived the sinking. The ship's captain, Lee Jun-Seok, later received a 36-year jail term on convictions of gross negligence and dereliction of duty.



Immigration: U.S. Border Patrol agents on May 23 arrested migrants trying to cross the border illegally in McAllen, Texas. Tens of thousands of mostly unaccompanied minors from Central America crossed into the United States, causing a humanitarian crisis on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Ukraine: Russian soldiers seized control of Crimea, Ukraine. As part of ongoing violence there, Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down by forces linked to Russia. All 298 persons on board were killed.

Iraq: Tens of thousands of Yezidis and Christians fled Iraq this year from advancing Islamic State forces, which brutalized and killed Yezidis and Christians in their path.



Year in Review 2014 What Was Hot?

Tech: Apple led the way once again with wait-in-line technology, this time breaking ground in its iPhone6 with Apple Pay—an attempt to use existing technology to change the way we buy things. With fingerprint identification to access a default credit card, customers at select retailers can now pay without their wallets.



Laser tag, for real: The U.S. Navy's newest weapon is ready for deployment. A laser weapons system dubbed LaWS performed flawlessly in tests aboard a ship in the Arabian Gulf in late 2014. It can shoot down drones and helicopters, performed perfectly even in high winds, and costs less than a dollar a pop.

Youth mandate: Powerful emergency contraceptives became easier for young girls to obtain thanks to a decision by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In a February letter to drug manufacturers, the FDA said it would allow pharma-

cies to sell generic versions of Plan B One-Step—known as the morning-after pill—over the counter without age restrictions.



Same-sex marriage march:

At the start of 2014, 18 states had overturned marriage amendments or had legalized same-sex marriage—and by year's end with more marriage amendments overturned or ruled unconstitutional, 35 states had some form of legalized same-sex marriage. Judges acting at all levels kept the state of marriage in some states in legal limbo. Until 2003, same-sex marriage was illegal in all 50 states.

Hacked: Cyber attacks were a common trend on various company credit cards. Michaels, P.F. Chang's, and Home Depot were among the retailers that had millions of customer credit card numbers stolen in data breaches. Hacking touched Hollywood as Sony Corporation had employee emails and passwords leaked which led to the cancellation of the movie The Interview. Security experts expected such attacks to continue in 2015.



Finding limits in space: Commercial spaceflight faced major setbacks, as disastrous accidents dealt a blow to the private industries that make up “New Space.” An unpiloted Antares rocket operated by Orbital Sciences Corp. exploded on launch Oct. 28—part of a \$1.9 billion NASA ferry cargo to the International Space Station. Only three days later, Virgin Galactic's test vehicle crashed in the Mojave Desert, killing the pilot. All the while, India and Russia succeeded in launching their own spacecraft.

Touchdown on a comet: The Philae lander heads to comet 67P. The comet was traveling at 80,000 miles per hour about 300 million miles from Earth—and the European Space Agency managed to land a probe on it. Physics World called the successful landing of the Philae probe the “breakthrough of the year.”



Words of the year:

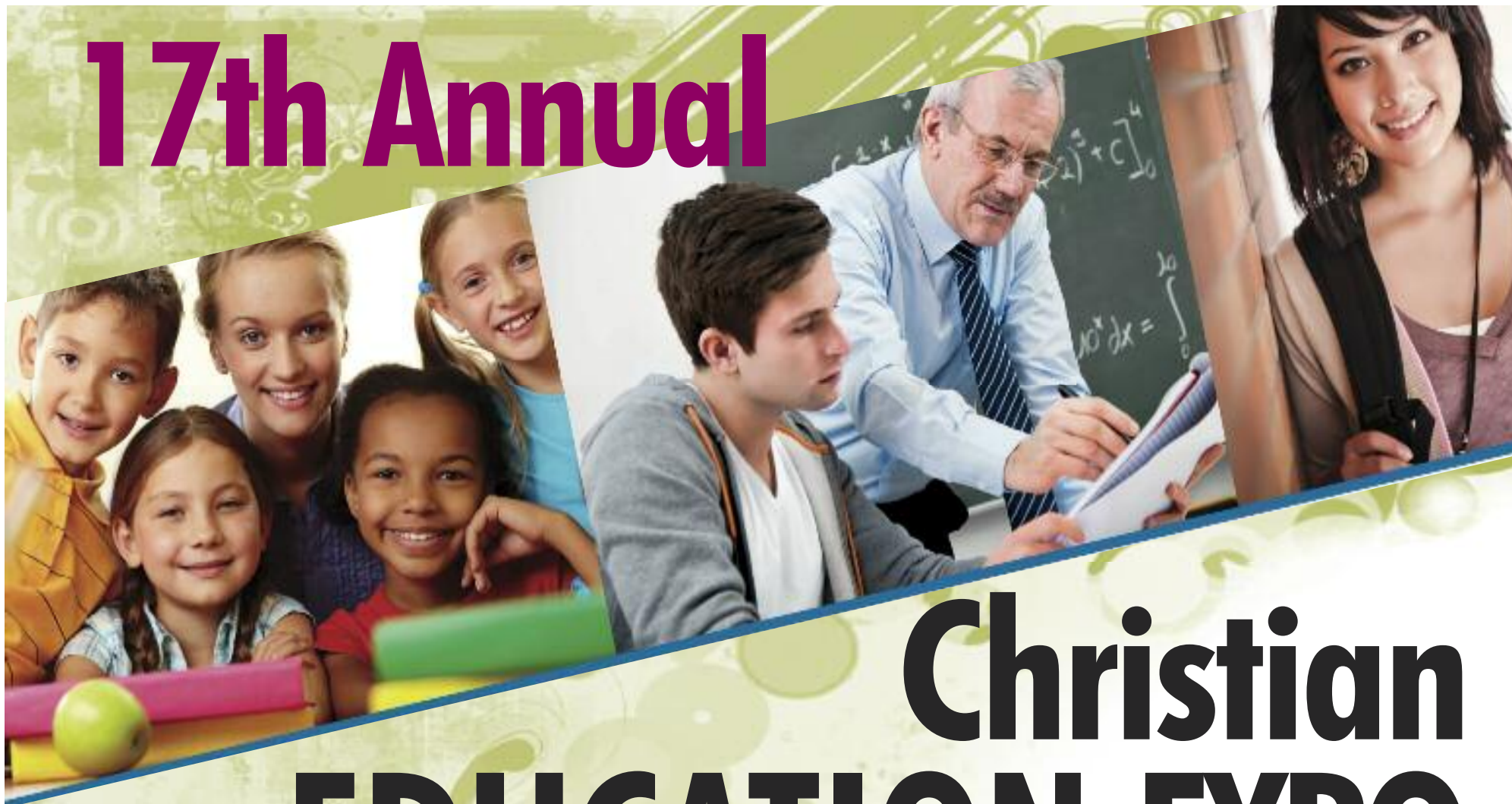
Oxford Dictionary: VAPE (as in vapor, trending in the e-cigarette movement)



Meriam-Webster: CULTURE (based on the biggest spike in look-ups this year, up 15 percent from a year ago)

Dictionary.com: EXPOSURE (as in, to Ebola)

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