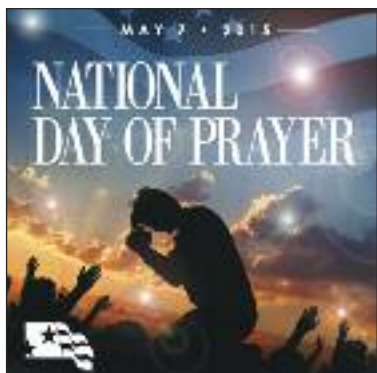




Unspoken April 18 | PAGE 13



2015 National Day of Prayer theme: “Lord, hear our cry.”



by **Dwight Widaman**

The 64th annual National Day of Prayer, May 7, will have profound significance for our country. It is an unprecedented opportunity to see the Lord’s healing and renewing power made manifest as we call on citizens to humbly come before His throne.

The theme for 2015 is “Lord, Hear Our Cry”, emphasizing the need for individuals, corporately and individually, to place their faith in the unfailing character of their Creator, who is sovereign over all governments, authorities, and men. To further highlight the theme, the National Day of Prayer organization has chosen I Kings 8:28 as their scripture for this year: “Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.”

Honorary Chairman, Dr. Jack Graham, wrote a special prayer to be simultaneously

■ See **DAY OF PRAYER** page 22



by **Dwight Widaman**

SEE OUR
SPECIAL
CAMP SECTION
ON PAGE 6

April showers bring May flowers but also thoughts of summer camp for the kids. The Midwest offers countless options—both close to home and a half-days drive away—that each provide life-altering experiences for the spirit and body. This month we begin a two-month special feature on summer camp options with

helpful tips to make finding the one best suited to your child and values. In May we’ll explore dealing with separation anxieties, the types of camps available and a story highlighting the best of area and regional camps.

You may be asking yourself “Should I send my child to camp?” Our answer—a resounding “YES!”

TRANSFORMED LIVES

At camp, young people have the mental room to consider

■ See **CAMP** page 6

Many will miss humor, witness of retiring Senate chaplain

by **Tobin Perry**

TOPEKA, Kan. (BP) -- Humor, poetry, God and state legislatures don't seem like a match made in heaven, unless you've been anywhere near the Kansas State Senate for the past three decades.

That's thanks to Fred Hollomon, the Georgia native who served 31 years as chaplain of Kansas' upper house. After kicking off state senate sessions for most of the past three decades with his poetic and humorous prayers, Hollomon retired at the end of the last legislative session.

Hollomon, 88, started his now famous tradition of mixing humor and rhyme with his prayers soon after getting flak for his first prayer. Two people complained it was too long.

"I've found that people will read or fol-

low you when you're rhyming, because they want to see how it ends," said Hollomon, who was a North American Mission Board-endorsed chaplain.

Born in Georgia and raised in Alabama during the Great Depression, Hollomon's call to ministry didn't come until after he had begun a career in banking. Unfulfilled in that role, he talked to his pastor, who pointed him toward ministry. After graduating from seminary and serving as a pastor in Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas, he was asked to serve as an aide in the Kansas State House and later in the state senate.

In 1979, as the small church he pastored in Kansas grew large enough to ask him to serve full time, the state senate president asked him to be the institution's

■ See **HOLLOMAN** page 23



Fred Hollomon

Seeking God's heart

For Lynda Randle, conference is a personal passion

by **Kharissa Forte**

Known for her anointed vocal ability as a Gaither Homecoming artist, Lynda Randle is also passionate about connecting women through worship. For that reason, Randle created the Woman after



RANDLE

God's Own Heart conference, which returns to Kansas City next month.

A weekend event, the conference was created eight years ago with the biblical story of David as its premise.

"After all of his sins, all of the mistakes David made, God said, 'He is still a man after my own heart,'" she explained. "God's desire for the heart of His children is for us to be focused toward him.

■ See **RANDLE** page 23

VOLUNTEERING CHANGING THE FACE OF AMERICA

by **Dwight Widaman**

April marks a commemoration that is changing our nation: As part of National Volunteer Month, National Volunteer Week is April 12-18. It's about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities. The National Points of Light Foundation says, "It's about demonstrating to the nation that by working together, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals."

National Volunteer Week is about taking action and encouraging individuals and their respective communities to be at the center of social change – discovering and actively demonstrating their collective power to make a difference.

■ See **VOLUNTEER** page 8

Billy Graham chaplains return to Ferguson

by **Abigail Robertson**

As unrest continues in Ferguson, Mo., the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team has returned to the area at the request of the community.

Tension heated up again in Ferguson after two police officers were shot at a rally in March.

New waves of protests took place last month after the Justice Department released a report claiming the Ferguson Police Department had a history of racial profiling.

Many top city officials resigned in response, including the police chief and city manager.

With the latest round of protests and riots, members of the Ferguson community reached out to the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team. They asked for crisis-trained chaplains to help quell the disorder.

Since then, at least four chaplains from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association have returned to Ferguson,



Chaplains talk and pray with members of the Ferguson, Mo. community outside the Rapid Response Team mobile command center, which provided a neutral setting for private meetings that brought together people considered to be on opposite sides of the tension.

and more may follow. This is the team's second deployment to Ferguson in four months.

The chaplain team first went to the city in November as protests heated up over the grand jury's decision not to

convict the officer who shot 18-year-old Michael Brown.

The team stayed there though the start of the new year.

During that six weeks, 81 chaplains from the team talked and prayed with more than 1,200 people in all parts of the Ferguson community.

Some of those counseled included law enforcement officers and members of Brown's family.

Tensions appeared to cool until the Justice Department released their report on racial bias in the police department.

The situation escalated in March when two police officers were shot during an anti-police demonstration outside the police department.

As tensions grew, uniformed BGEA chaplains walked out into the protests to calm people down by praying and sharing the love of Jesus with them.

Since then, the chaplains have not gone far from the protestors and continue to minister to the community.



Local family helps revitalize church and the history behind it

A local family is helping a church that was more than 100 years old rebuild after being leveled by a tornado a year ago this month.

"It was cold and rainy, and we couldn't see a whole lot until the next morning, until we could see all the damage it had done...but there wasn't any part of it left," Ola May Earnest said.

Earnest said when the Pleasanton, Kan. church was destroyed in the tornado on April 27, 2014, it left a hole in the community. Earnest has lived in Linn County for 65 years and said the loss of the original church is devastating. A remodel of the church was completed in 2011 using all of the funds they had.

"It was just landmark there, you know, we expected to see it there," Earnest said.

Earnest is one of the individuals who helped create the Fairmount Community Association in January and organized the meeting to help build support in rebuilding the church, and Earnest said that although the church was no longer active, it served as a gathering place for the community.

"So it was really more than a

■ See TORNADO page 3

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Springfield citizens to vote on ordinance repeal

After fallout from community, citizens responded to city council's actions

by **Brian Koonce**

Citizens of Springfield, Mo. will vote "yes" April 7 to restore religious liberty protections or "no" to keep an "equal rights" ordinance that extends nondiscrimination protection to include sexual orientation and "gender identity." Critics of the ordinance say Missouri already has laws on the books offering protections, and that the ordinance goes too far at the expense of religious liberty.

The city's council voted 6 to 3 Oct. 13, 2014, to approve Ordinance 6141, which codifies protection in housing, employment and public accommodations. It went into effect immediately. Council members Doug Burlison, Mike Carroll, Craig Hosmer, Jan Fisk, Cindy Rushefsky and Jeff Seifried voted for the bill. Council members Jerry Compton, Craig Fishel and Bob Stephens voted against it. There is a church exemption, but there is no accommodation for Christians who own a business or otherwise want to exercise their faith outside a church setting.

Those against the ordinance, including many in the religious community, immediately began gathering signatures to put the issue to a vote of the people. They needed 1,144 valid signatures and submitted 2,550 to be verified two weeks later. The approved language for the ballot question has been called confusing by both sides of the debate, but voters will vote "yes" to repeal the measure, and "no" to retain it.



The timing is noteworthy as various battles between religious liberty and so-called gay rights flare up around the country. New stories of florists and bakers accused of illegal discrimination against homosexual couples pop up weekly as state judges in Alabama uphold traditional marriage and the U.S. Supreme Court takes up the issue this summer. The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals is expected to begin hearing arguments in May on cases involving Missouri, Arkansas and South Dakota couples.

"The mayor 'shall' have access to your business and /or house..."
Ordinance wording

Two Kansas City couples who were denied marriage licenses are included in that case. A federal judge sided with the Kansas City couples, striking down the constitutional amendment excluding gay and lesbian couples from marriage. But the judge also said that his decision would be stayed until judgment is final.

The possible intrusive implications of an equal rights bill became clear in a dramatic fashion last fall when the openly gay mayor of Houston, Texas, and the city's attorneys demanded pastors turn into authorities sermons that may be critical of the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO) or behavior the Bible calls sinful.

The city is fighting efforts to repeal the law, and subpoenaed "all speeches, presentations, or sermons related to

HERO, the Petition [to repeal the law], Mayor Annise Parker, homosexuality, or gender identity prepared by, delivered by, revised by, or approved by you or in your possession." In Houston, the legal battle over the validity of signatures on a ballot petition there wages on. A repeal question may appear on the ballot in November.

Springfield Attorney Dee Wampler, wrote before the issue came to a vote that the ordinance gives Springfield's mayor power similar to that just used in Houston, powers that go beyond violations of the first amendment.

"The mayor 'shall' (not 'may') have access to your business and/or house to seize records and documents and to question or search an individual for 'possible sources of evidence,' he wrote in an op-ed in the Community Free Press. "Forget about your protections under the Fourth Amendment to our Constitution."

Wampler called the religious exemption very narrow, saying it is limited to churches in hiring and firing staff.

"Missouri law already prohibits unfair treatment in employment, housing and public accommodations based on age, gender, race, color and national origin, as does strict federal law," he continued.

The equal rights ordinance has been bubbling in Springfield since at least 2012. In August of that year the city council voted 7-2 to table a proposed ordinance when Christians made their voices heard at city council meetings. At the time, Mayor Bob Stephens complained to the Springfield News-Leader of "unrelenting harping" from the pro-biblical marriage advocates and silence — at the time — from ordinance proponents.

—Brian Koonce writes for the Missouri Pathway.



TORNADO

continued from page 2

church to us," Earnest said.

Earnest said everyone in the community had ties to the church and wanted it back after it was destroyed.

"The old church had been there for 119 years," Earnest said.

Earnest's son, Rod, also helped organize the rebuild and serves as the Fairmount Community Association board president.

"All of the board members, the majority of them, are fourth, fifth and sixth generations of the community that built it," Earnest said.

Earnest said he thinks the restora-

tion of the church is going to revive the whole community.

The community, which is 55 miles south of Olathe, will hold their annual Easter sunrise service at the church on April 5, just like the last several decades, according to Earnest.

"It was cold and rainy, and we couldn't see a whole lot until the next morning, until we could see all the damage it had done..."

The Fairmount Community Association is still fundraising to help pay for the rebuild of the church. If you would like to contribute, you can contact the FCA at 913-259-1144 or 913-471-4350. Anyone wanting to donate can

make checks payable to Linn County Community Foundation, P.O. Box 277, Mound City, KS 66056, make sure to write Fairmont in the Memo.

newsbriefs

Parents win fight to end teen sex conference

(WNS)—Families in Oregon scored a victory when the controversial Teen Sexuality Conference in Seaside, Ore., was canceled. The conference, which has been held for more than

20 years, faced a firestorm of public outcry after local news station KOIN 6 released a series of investigative pieces on the sexually explicit material being supplied to students as young as 11.

Activists say this is only the beginning of a



growing awareness of systemic problems in the way healthcare and sex education are handled in Oregon's school system. "We understand that this is really just the tip of the iceberg as far as the kind of K-12 education that is being promoted in schools across the district and across the state," Lori Porter, director of Parents' Rights in Education, told me.



Pastor stops seeking donations for private jet

NEW YORK - The ministry of evangelist and megachurch pastor Creflo Dollar is no longer seeking donations to buy a luxury jet valued at more than \$65 million.

A video on the website of Creflo Dollar Ministries asked people to help the ministry buy a Gulfstream G650 airplane. In the video, Project G650 manager Rick Hayes said, "If all of our existing partners were to sow \$300 each, from all over the world, we'd be able to acquire this jet in a very, very short period of time."

That video has since been taken down, and Dollar's publicist, Juda Engelmayer, now says "there is no campaign for a jet." He says the evangelist is taking commercial flights.

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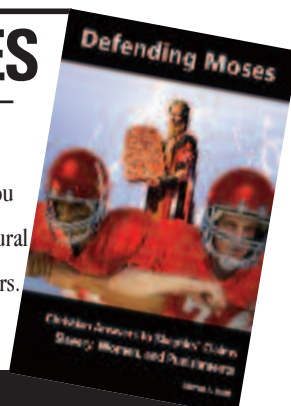
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By Steven A. Scott

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What do Americans ask for in prayer

Americans tend to be self-focused in their prayer life, asking God for personal desires more often than people in crisis or the unsaved, according to a recent survey from Nashville-based LifeWay Research.

"Most people pray when they need the red phone for help," says Ed Stetzer, executive director of LifeWay Research. "But their prayer life isn't a habit rooted in a relationship with God."

John Maempa, director of the AG Office of Prayer and Spiritual Care, says, "While for many people praying tends to be a pragmatic means to an end, according to Scripture we are invited to ask for things we need and perhaps even want (Psalm 37:4; Matthew 6:33; 7:7; etc.). However, the key to effective prayer is relationship — drawing close to God so He can

draw close to us."

In the online survey, Americans spend the most time focusing on friends and family (82 percent of all respondents) as well as their own problems (74 percent).

Just more than half (54 percent) pray for good things to happen in their life, while more than one third (36 percent) ask God to bless them with future prosperity.

"James Nicodem, in his book 'Prayer Coach,' states that Jesus readily responds to our prayers when we 'start to value our relationship more than our requests; until we want more of Him than we want from Him,'" Maempa observes.

"When we're in proper alignment with God's relationally, we are more inclined to pray His will than focus on things we want."

But not all prayers are self-centered. Americans say they also spend time petitioning God about their own sin (42 percent), those in natural disasters (38 percent), people of other religions or no faith (20 percent), and government leaders (12 percent).

And as Jesus' taught, 41 percent say they have prayed for those who mistreat them while 37 percent acknowledge praying for enemies.

On the other hand, 21 percent admit to asking God to win a lottery, 13 percent have sought the Almighty's help for their favorite team to win a game, and 7 percent have wanted God's favor in finding a good parking space.

About half of Americans survey (48 percent) say they pray at least every day, while a third (31 percent) say they pray repeatedly during the day.



Gov. Scott Walker on discerning God's will

Presidential hopeful waits on God before he makes a decision

(WNS)—Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker moved closer to a 2016 White House run by hiring more key staffers. A pair of Washington veterans have signed on to help coordinate the governor's foreign and domestic policy. He also added more political staff in New Hampshire. In March, Walker spoke at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention. Walker is a rare breed these days.

A Republican governor who has won two runs for governor and a recall election in a liberal state. He's done it, say pundits, by standing by his principles, thus drawing support from independents and Democrats who, like Republicans, just want someone who can get the job done.

You said you haven't yet decided whether to run for president. What's going to help you make that decision? I think getting around the country, talking to people. I just sense ... that people want new leaders with big, bold ideas from outside of Washington. And I sense that they're actually going to have the courage to act on them. We feel that's something we can potentially bring to the table, but we want to make sure that, not only are we hearing from the people, but we want to discern that this is God's calling, not just man's calling.

"God's will may be to run and not win. Who knows? But in all of that, we try to keep Him the center."

Scott Walker

In Wisconsin, you've made national news with the 20-week ultrasound bill. You talked about your pro-life views and your son's ultrasound picture. Explain your pro-life views and that particular bill. I think particularly about Matthew—our first born who's now 20, he'll be 21 this June—and just that first picture from



our own ultrasound that Tonette and I looked at and shared, to just seeing him turn sideways where he had his hand completely out, thumb in his mouth. Clearly he had been sucking his thumb, and you just think about that. That was long before he was born, yet there he was, just like a baby would be outside of the womb. And that was just such a powerful reminder to us personally, but also in terms of my elected position, about how important protecting life is, and that's what we've tried to do. We know these are simple things. It's funny how the left gets upset. But giving somebody more information about the health of their unborn child, it's just such a remarkable thing. And we know when people get the facts it makes a difference.

Some of the national media have talked about your lack of a college degree. What have you learned by having gone to the school of hard knocks? I would ask people, if you were hiring a CEO for a company today, would you look at their track record in the last few jobs they had, or would you just base it on what they did in college? I think you'd want to look at their track record. In our case, like a lot of people in America, I left my senior year to take a job. A lot of the friends of mine who were a year or two older were still looking for work at that time. I jumped at the chance for a job. I value a

college education, though. I've got two sons in college today. I want them both to finish up and have the chance to get a degree that I didn't. But I understand that in America there are great options for everyone. Some people are going to follow a path like I did, others are going to have a technical college or two-year degree, others are going to have an apprenticeship. We need to do more things to get people ready for a career.

You said to these national religious broadcasters that you've got to be crazy to run for president if God is not specifically calling you to do it. How will you know if God is calling you? Part of it's the feeling. You know, we even looked—my wife and I, when we sat down even after November—and tried to sense what God's call was. Instead of realizing how hectic it was to go through the last four years, part of our early assessment was, was this God's providence? Did God put us through the pressure, the protests, the recalls, the re-elect, all the trials and tribulations we went through the last four years? Maybe that wasn't just for naught. It wasn't just to be elected governor. Was it preparing us for something else? And so, really, it's trying to be humble and discerning what God's will is. And God's will may be to run and not win. Who knows? But in all of that, we try to keep Him the center.

What do you do for fun? I ride a Harley. I've got a 2003 Road King. I am not a golfer, but I love to ride my motorcycle. I've got 21,000 miles on it, so that's my respite.

Ambassador offers broader take on religious freedom

Saperstein believes protections should extend beyond freedom of worship

(WNS)--The new State Department ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom articulated a robust view of religious liberty in his first testimony before Congress.

Rabbi David Saperstein's comments came at a U.S. Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing convened to discuss his office's budget and role in combating religious persecution. Saperstein's predecessor, Suzan Johnson Cook, served two-and-a-half ineffective years in the role and often only defended freedom of worship—limiting religious practice to what happens inside a place of worship or at home.

Saperstein denounced that limited view, noting freedom of worship leaves out a person's right to religious education, proselytizing, and generally live out one's faith in the public square: "It is important that that be the message going out to the world."

Much of the hearing focused on the Islamic State's ongoing destruction in the Middle East. Jay Sekulow, president of the American Center for Law and Justice and a witness at the hearing, called the Islamic State's ideology "as toxic as the Nazis," and said the violence in the Middle East alone is producing the equivalent of a 9/11 every day.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., chairman of the State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee, said the ongoing conflict is "clearly a religious war" and called the hearing one of the most compelling he has attended in 20 years in office.

"It laid out the case of basically religious genocide," he told me afterward. "This is a national security problem, it is a moral problem, it is an under-resource problem. You just can't kill terrorists to



make us safe. You have to build up other people."

Graham voiced support for increasing the State Department Office of International Religious Freedom budget, which is currently \$3.5 million but will decrease with the next round of sequestration cuts. According to Saperstein, the office has 20 employees operating in 16 countries.

Several lawmakers assailed the Obama administration's failure to create a special envoy for religious freedom in the Middle East, even though Congress overwhelmingly approved the position last year. The position remains unfilled, but the State Department last month created a new position Congress didn't ask for: the first special envoy for homosexual rights.

Saperstein indicated the State Department doesn't have funding for the religious freedom special envoy. Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., told me he finds that hard to believe: "They have the resources. The administration has even recently invented new envoys and found money for them in other areas, so it's interesting to hear the implication today that we just don't have enough money to do a religious liberty envoy."

Lankford said he would also like to see Saperstein's office play an enhanced role in administration negotiations, particularly in trade talks with countries that infringe on religious freedom: "When we are actually negotiating with Vietnam to do international trade and we're not discussing religious liberty issues, we're leaving out one of the levers we have to actually be an influence."

U.S. support of Palestinians questioned

John Waage | CBN News

JERUSALEM, Israel -- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has drawn fire for saying on election day that foreign-backed leftist groups were busing Arabs to the polls to defeat him.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called that charge "racist" and suggested that a two-state solution in the Middle East is impossible.

Since Netanyahu's solid victory in the election, the Obama administration has threatened to pull U.S. support from Israel at the United Nations because of the prime minister's pledge that a Palestinian state wouldn't happen on his watch.

In an interview with MSNBC, Netanyahu said his backing of a Palestinian state hasn't changed since 2009 and has always been dependent upon several conditions:

- Palestinian recognition of Israel as a Jewish state,

- Defensible borders,

- And a united Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Abbas has rejected all of those conditions.

Meanwhile, the Gatestone Institute's Khaled Abu Toameh reported in The Jerusalem Post that the PLO leadership in the West Bank (biblical Judea and Samaria) is making detailed plans to end economic and security cooperation with Israel.

The Palestinians will also proceed with efforts to charge Israel with war crimes before the International Criminal Court in The Hague, The Netherlands.

"Halting security cooperation with Israel means that Abbas and the PLO will be paving the way for Hamas to extend its control from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank. With that, the Palestinians would have another Islamist state that seeks to eliminate Israel," Toameh wrote.

In a speech on the Senate floor, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., delivered a scorching attack on the administration's treatment of Israel and Netanyahu.

Calling the decision to consider withdrawing support for Israel at the U.N. "a historic and tragic mistake," Rubio cited a list of incidents in which President Barack Obama and his administration slighted, berated, or spoke ill of the Israeli prime minister.

"I think Netanyahu is right," Rubio said about the security concerns Israel faces.

"The conditions do not exist for a peace deal with people who teach their children that killing Jews is a glorious thing."

Rubio also claimed the alliance with Israel is not a Republican or Democratic issue.

All this comes as Abbas presses the United Nations to create a Palestinian state in Israel's biblical heartland. While some see him as the best partner for peace, Palestinian insiders say his regime is riddled with corruption paid for by Western tax dollars.

Abbas has led the fight for Palestinians since the 2004 death of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. In addition to leaving a leadership opening, Arafat left behind secret bank accounts filled with a billion or more in public funds and international aid taken from his own people.

As Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, took over, Palestinians hoped for a change.

"When Abu Mazen came to power, he spoke about reforming the security services and the judiciary. It means that he recognized there is corruption," said "Ahmed," a resident of P.A.-controlled city in the West Bank. CBN News hid his identity to protect his life.

"But what happened [was] that they created ways to cover up corruption when complaints were made," he said.

More than 2 million people live in the West Bank (biblical Judea and Samaria) under Palestinian Authority rule. And while the world blames Israel for oppressing Palestinians, some say the Palestinians themselves are most often the oppressors of their own people.

"Most of the Palestinians know about the corruption. But the normal citizens are afraid because ... they know that they cannot do anything, and they and their families and children could be subjected to dangers and sexual abuse. They know that the [Palestinian] Authority is a terrorist authority. So they are afraid of it," Ahmed explained.

Human rights attorney Calev Myers said he's concerned both about Israel and



Contrary to the media image of it as a sprawling refugee camp under the brutal foot of Israel, Gaza City is a modern metropolis thanks to billions in U.S. aid.

also for Palestinians living under Abbas.

"If somebody in the Palestinian Authority was to stand in the public square and criticize Mahmoud Abbas... they'll be arrested, many times tortured and sometimes just disappear... There's a huge fear factor," Myers told CBN News.

To make things worse, this corruption and oppression is financially supported by taxpayers in the West.

According to a 2014 congressional report, the U.S. government has committed more than \$5 billion to the Palestinian Authority since the mid-1990s. Yet the average Palestinian is still living in abject poverty.

In a video interview, obtained courtesy

of Palestinian Media Watch, Palestinian Authority Chairman Abbas indicates where the money may have gone.

"Since [Hamas'] coup against the P.A. [in 2007] and until today, we've been transferring more than 50 percent of our [P.A.] budget to Gaza, including salaries to 60,000 to 70,000 [P.A.] civil servants who aren't working," Abbas says in the video.

"They are [in Gaza] and are receiving salaries. We pay them because they stopped working, and so Hamas appointed other people in their place," he added.

According to those figures, those "60,000 P.A. workers receive \$47 million a month -- not to work," PMW said.

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Cowen Memorial Auditorium | 7020 W. 74th St., Overland Park, KS 66204

2015 SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

CAMP

continued from page 1

some of the most important issues of life. This break from the craziness of their regular routine allows campers to think about their future, to evaluate unhealthy patterns, and to discover the truth that God loves them and has an amazing plan for their lives.

ADULT MENTORS

According to researchers, kids spend on average less than 40 minutes in meaningful conversation with their parents each week. At camp, caring adults, counselors and mentors come alongside campers, helping them think through decisions and experiences in a way that will prepare them for their future. Many campers point back to a positive role model they met at camp as one who helped shape the direction of their lives.

NATURE AND ADVENTURE

Campers explore nature, participate in new adventures and test their limits in a healthy environment surrounded by the grandeur of God's creation.

LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS

Good friends who exert positive peer pressure can make all the difference in a kid's life. Friendships with



caring adults and other campers, forged through shared experience and the compressed time at camp, can last a lifetime and provide a connection that helps young people navigate the challenges of life.

TEMPORARY COMMUNITY

In a setting separate from their daily routine, with an opportunity to shed the expectations and pressures of others, campers are freed up to truly be themselves, to live above artificial limitations and blossom into who they were created to be.

—Provided by the Christian Camps and Conference Association

We want to hear from you!

What are some questions you would like answered concerning summer and church camps? Is it how to find an affordable solution? Perhaps you're worried about your child fitting in or relating to kids from other areas. Let us know!

Email your questions to:
Dwight@metrovoicenews.com

SAVE THE DATE!
CAMP OPEN HOUSE
April 12 • April 26
May 3
1-4 p.m.

GROWING GREAT KIDS

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- Archery
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- Kayaking
- Nature
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- Rifery
- Singing
- Snorkeling
- Soccer
- Spelunking/Caving
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Yoga
- Zip Line
- All-Camp Games
- New Friendships
- and so much more!

Tips for finding the perfect spot for your children

When I was a kid, you went to camp where your parents wanted to send you, and their choices were somewhat limited. But these days, the camp consumer is much more discerning, and that shift has helped create many new breeds of camps.

There are so many different types of camp experiences, in fact, that selecting one can be a little overwhelming. What do you need to do to pick the right camp for your child so he or she doesn't end up singing, "Kumbachere" after the first night?

Ask Your Child

First, involve your son or daughter. What you think your child will enjoy and benefit from is not necessarily what they would choose if given the opportunity. So, the oft-repeated advice is still wise: Bring your child into the camp selection process.

Some pertinent questions to discuss with your camper include: What do you hope to gain from going to camp? How rustic do you want your camp experience to be? What types of activities sound fun and interesting? Would you like to go with a church group? How long do you want to stay at camp?

Know Your Thoughts

As important as your child's expectations are, your feelings about the camp experience can of course not be overlooked.

Consider how far away you're comfortable with your child staying. Does your child have special needs with which the camp should be familiar? Do you prefer that your child be able to interact with the opposite gender at camp? What's your family's budget for camp?

And to what perspectives, doctrines, and values do you want your child exposed? Even camps that identify themselves as Christian can vary widely in their teachings and practices.

Begin the Hunt

Armed with information about your child's preferences and with a greater understanding of your own inclinations, start searching for camps that meet these criteria.

An excellent source to help you develop a list of candidates is Christian Camp and Conference Association's online search tool. www.findachristiancamp.com The site contains information about more than 800 Christian camps that are members of CCCA, which means these organizations have access to ongoing training and other resources that can help them serve children better. In addition, great camps are included in this issue of Metro Voice and in May.

Also, check with your church leaders to see if they have recommendations. They may already be planning to take the youth group to camp. Other parents can often provide camp references, as well.

Below are some other ways you can glean additional information to help narrow your options.

■ Look online: Most camps today have websites, and you can usually find a wealth of information there. (Many camp websites are listed at www.ccca.org.) Pay attention to the overall feel of the site, in addition to

■ See PLANNING page 7

May 26 - August 7, 2015

EAGLE'S CAMP
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Keep your kids entertained & educated by enrolling them in our camp which offers:

- Multiple Intelligence Activities
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Half Day Camp: 7 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

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Registration NOW!

and Enrichment!
913.631.9286
www.mca-eagles.org/campsoaring



PLANNING

continued from page 6

viewing photos and reading descriptions.

What adjectives come to mind when you visit the site? Is it high-energy, modern, and youthful, or perhaps peaceful, inviting, woodsy, and warm? These impressions can be important. If the camp's leaders have put any thought into the site's design, the spirit of the camp should be evident. Be aware, however, that basing your decision solely on the website or lack thereof could cause you to miss out on a gem of a camp that just isn't very technically savvy.

■ Peruse the camp brochure: The same principles apply to the camp brochure, but if it's a printed piece—as opposed to electronic media—camp leaders have much less marketing real estate to convey their message. In other words, what's included is what they think is essential for you to understand about their camp. What are they really trying to

drive home in the brochure, and are these ideas and visuals appealing to you and your child?

■ Check staff credentials: Many camps' websites provide a listing of and some biographical information about staff members, as well as a list of board members. The staff members' education, experience, and the like may be important factors as you consider the camp that would best serve your child.

■ Visit the camp: Nothing will give you and your camper a better sense for a camp than seeing it. Be sure to call the camp beforehand so they can give you any necessary instructions or tips on maximizing your time at the camp.

During your visit, remember that the camp may not be having a session, or it may be hosting adult retreats. This may affect the atmosphere and even your perceptions of the camp, so be sure to ask questions to get the most accurate picture. For instance, ask to see the fa-

■ See PLANNING page 19

DRAMATIC TRUTH CAMPS FOR ALL AGES!

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Princess
Training

for the King's
Story



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Youth Dance Intensive / June/22 - 26 Boys/Girls Ages 8-13

Princess Training / July 17-18 / 9am-Noon / Girls Ages 3-6

NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN YOUR GETAWAY!

Spring and summer are just around the corner so now is the time to plan your getaway weekend or vacation. And, what better way to relax, have fun and enjoy God's great creation than a leisurely canoe float down a pristine Ozark river. Living Waters Christian Canoe Ministry partners with two church camps to make a great weekend getaway or vacation for your family, church group or Scout troop at family-friendly prices that can't be beat. Check-out our website – www.John738.com – and see for yourself.



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Supporting National Volunteer Month



Habitat sprouts volunteer opportunities

by **Dr. Evelyn Hill**

The spring season is upon us, and we are enjoying warm breezes as we watch the budding flowers and trees. Spring is a wonderful time that represents new life, new beginnings and new opportunities. Volunteers are beginning to chart



HILL

out their schedules as they choose future work for themselves in the community. It is so exciting to watch the “church without walls” emerge itself into communities city-wide as volunteers to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Christian volunteers make up the largest pool of volunteers in the United States. According to the United States Department of Labor, faith-based vol-

■ See HABITAT page 22

Volunteering is changing the face of America

VOLUNTEER

continued from page 1

National Volunteer Week, a program of Points of Light, was established in 1974 and has grown exponentially each year, with thousands of volunteer projects and special events scheduled throughout the week. In fact, volunteering has become so important during this week that it has spread to fill the other three weeks of the month!

A federal study shows that one in four

Americans volunteered through an organization and two-thirds helped their neighbors in 2014.

The annual Volunteering and Civic Life in America research, released last December by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC), shows that service to others continues to be a priority for millions of Americans.

“We are calling on Americans to volunteer in their communities, and to invite

their friends and families to join them,” said Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. “Volunteers enrich our communities and keep our nation strong. Service also connects us with our neighbors and provides a chance to use our skills for the common good. There are so many ways we can make a difference for those in need, during the holiday season and throughout the entire year.”

This year’s report found that 62.6 million adults (25.4 percent) volunteered through an organization in 2013. Altogether, Americans volunteered nearly 7.7 billion hours last year. The estimated value of this volunteer service is nearly \$173 billion, based on the independent sector’s estimate of the average value of a volunteer hour.

In addition, more than 138 million Americans (62.5 percent) also engaged in informal volunteering in their communities, helping neighbors with such tasks as watching each other’s children, helping with shopping, or house sitting. Other civic health indicators from the report found that two-thirds (68.5 percent) of Americans have dinner with their family virtually every day, while three in four (75.7 percent) see or hear from friends and family at least a few times a week, and more than a third (36.3 percent) are involved in a school, civic, recreational, religious, or other organization.

Other reports show that individuals who attend church are a majority of those volunteering across the nation.

“The civic health of our country is

■ See VOLUNTEER page 22

Hospice Volunteers Improve Quality of Life

Hospice volunteers provide companionship, veteran visits, reading, Life Journals and so much more.
Volunteer as little as 45 minutes a week.

TRAINING SESSIONS: Sat. April 28, 5:30pm to 8pm and
Tuesday, May 19, 5:30am to 8pm

11150 Thompson Ave., Lenexa, KS 66219
Drinks and snacks provided.

Please RSVP to Veronica Evans 913-850-7547
or email veronica.evans@crossroadshospice.com

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GET INVOLVED

Craigslist

Many smaller churches and organizations use Craigslist to get the word out on their volunteer needs. Plus groups are looking for donations such as old computers, eyeglasses and more. Just look for the Volunteer section.

Habitat For Humanity

www.heartlandhabitat.org

Don't be shy! Anyone can help build a house for a family! All skills welcome! Habitat relies heavily on the faith community for assistance.

Lions Club International

The world's largest organization of volunteers. Lions focus on their local communities, providing sight and hearing tests for kids, supplying eye glasses to children who cannot afford them and hearing aids to the elderly plus scholarships for graduating seniors. International projects include clean water and more! Contact www.lionsclubs.org

Local Organizations

Whether it is your community's food pantry or the city's clean-up day, volunteering is just around the corner from your house. There's no excuse not to be involved in improving the life of your community and neighbors. Call your city hall for information.

Youth Volunteer Corps of Greater Kansas City

A project of the YMCA, YVCGKC offers opportunities for churches, homeschool families, businesses and individuals to work in after-school and spring break projects or projects during the year. They also help provide volunteers to your project! Visit YVCGKC.org

MeetUp.com/ServeKC

Find an interesting group to volunteer with or start your own! While some are Christian, most are not and provide opportunities to share your faith while volunteering for a worthy cause.

Metro Voice

Each month Metro Voice publishes volunteer needs of area organizations like Returning Glory—a regular supporter of Metro Voice. In November we publish a Ministry Needs Guide in which local groups share their volunteer needs. In addition, many pro-life organizations need

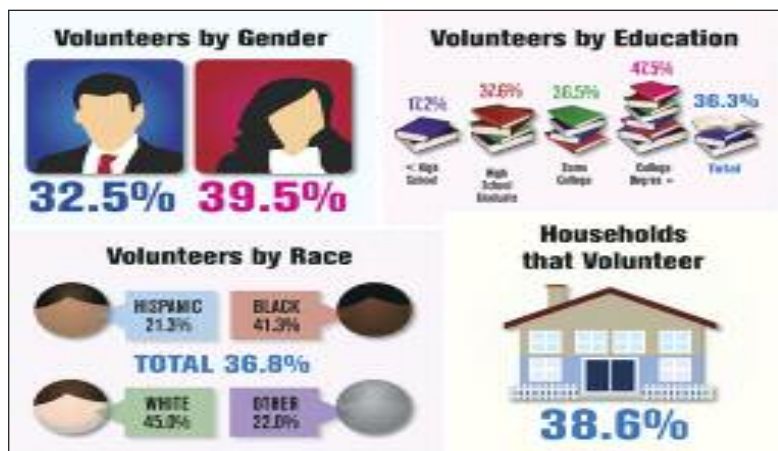
volunteers for counseling and other responsibilities in helping young pregnant women with no where to turn. See the archives of our October, November and December issues online for more information on these great organizations.

Ministries to the homeless and families in need

SalArmyMokan.org
CityUnionMission.org
KansasCityRescueMission.KCRM.org

United Way of Greater KC

Unitedwaykc.org
Areas include poverty, well-being, career readiness and literacy. There's a United Way agency near you.



It's about the journey ... together

Relationships...everything in life is about our journey in relationships. Whether with family, friends, ourselves, or God – we are relating continually. And all of us have experienced many emotions in many relationships – from wonderful and good all the way to ugly and painful.

Area residential facilities bring groups of five to seven participants to the ranch who have experienced the ugly and painful side of relationships.

While a facilitator directs the horse activities for the six-week session, each participant is paired with a Pardner (volunteer) to encourage them on their relational journey with their horse. That's where volunteers are so needed. As a Pardner, you need no horse experience – just a heart to help those that are learning new ways to relate while interacting with their horse.

"I cannot express enough how much joy has come into my life watching the Father God join the hearts of people to a horse, build a relationship, think outside the box, and empowered those with solutions that helped with their own healing. I have been a volunteer with Returning Glory for over 10 years, and it never gets old and it is never the same. This is an en-

vironment that healing and growth flourish, whether a child, at-risk youth, or an adult needing answers. God shows up." Paula Walker, insurance agent - Pardner, Facilitator

"I am going into my third year of being a Pardner. It has been a rewarding journey emotionally and spiritually for me. I would like to think I have made a difference in every girl's life I have spent time with because they have made a difference in mine... never expected so much when I first decided to volunteer." Candi C., restaurant manager - Pardner

"I learned of Returning Glory when my unit had a Family Day. I was happy to see people in my area doing things for others and was moved to extend my hands in any way I could...and when time permits I come out and help wherever I can..." Frank Ballesterio, Sergeant US Marine Corps - volunteer

"There is something incredible about a horse and a hurting child interacting. Seeing the horse mirror the emotions that the child does not even realize they are projecting; seeing the child become aware of their hurt and, seeing them choose to overcome their pain, to not let it define them. I have been blessed to witness and



even to help with such interaction while volunteering at Returning Glory. I show up and say, "LORD, I have no wisdom or cures to offer, but here I am." And He says, "Perfect! That's all I need from you." Elizabeth Meares, Quik Trip employee – volunteer, Pardner

Hard work and serving keeps me humble, Returning Glory offers both of these. Whether it be the business end of a shovel or offering an encouraging word to someone in need.

In a very practical way – to be the hands and face of Jesus." Mark Ryan, Pepsi driver – volunteer, Pardner

more information

Please contact our office if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity.
info@returningglory.com
816.223.9662

If Not For Grace invites you to
Ministries
For The Display of His Splendor

Women's Ministry Leaders Luncheon: April 15, 11:30-1pm.
RSVP to Kyle at kpuch@inforg.org by April 9
visit inforg.org for more details

Families Make the Difference

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, nurturing environment. When a child's family is not able to provide that for a child, a foster family can.

In Missouri a foster parent

- must be at least 21 years of age
- may be single or married
- must complete training and licensing process (offered at no charge through MBCH Children & Family Ministries)

You can make a difference by becoming "family" for a hurting child.

MBCH Children and Family Ministries is an affiliate of the Missouri Baptist Children's Home

For more information, call (816) 795-8878 or visit www.mbch.org

Become a Friend of Heartland Habitat and support our Christian housing ministry. For just \$25, you can help build a home!

Your \$25 will purchase:

- 8 2x4's for construction
- A gallon of paint
- Flowers for the garden
- 2 window shades
- The front door lock-set
- Light fixture for the children's bedroom
- Electric outlet covers for the entire house

Call 816-468-7190 and 913-342-3047 or visit www.heartlandhabitat.org

Returning Glory Trail

Some horses are a part of our lives for a while, and leave hoofprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same. Would you like to volunteer to help with the youth that come to the ranch? No horse experience needed – 21 yrs and older required. Please check out web site for PreparingPardner training for summer session.

Returning Glory
equine assisted learning center
www.returningglory.com
Email info@returningglory.com
Or call Roxanne at 816.223.9662

opinion

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Metro Voice © 2015, is an award-winning newspaper published monthly by Widaman Communications, Inc. MV is available primarily by mailed, bulk and subscription distribution to the congregations of 700 churches, colleges, bookstores, libraries, businesses and other locations. Complimentary distribution is available as a service to the community. Individual subscriptions are available for a donation of \$25 per year. Postage is First Class. Written materials submitted to MV become property of Widaman Communications. The content of this publication, including all stories, advertising or other graphic symbols, may not be reproduced in any way, shape or form for commercial purposes or added to any web site without the express permission of Widaman Communications. Advertising in MV is open to anyone wishing to reach the Christian community. MV reserves the right to refuse any advertising deemed unsuitable.

Metro Voice is a charter member of the Christian Newspaper Association, Fellowship of Christian Newspapers, Midwest Christian Media Association and member of the Evangelical Press Association



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Should Christians support a Palestinian state?



LUKE MOON

Business Manager for the Institute on Religion & Democracy in Washington, D.C. and an ordained Southern Baptist minister

myopinion

Disparity of democratic opportunity lost on foreign powers negotiating settlement

Israeli elections are over and the big story is Benjamin Netanyahu's stunning come-from-behind win to secure his fourth term as prime minister. Exit polls showed Netanyahu's center-right Likud party just one seat ahead of the main challenger, the Zionist Union, and pundits and pollsters were forecasting his imminent demise all the way to the end. At last count, however, he and the Likud gained a decisive victory with 29 parliamentary seats compared to Zionist Union's 24. The Joint Arab List, a slate of Arab-Israeli candidates, came in third.

But as Netanyahu begins the difficult task of building a governing coalition, he remains haunted, both now and for years to come, by remarks that he made during the final days of his campaign. In most nations, campaign chatter is chalked up to politicking and gamesmanship; but Israel is not like most nations. Seen by some as evidence of God's faithfulness and by others as the source of all that is wrong in the world, Israel lives in a media spotlight that is truly unique.

Thus, it was not surprising when



Hamas elementary education features training in terrorist techniques.

Foggy Bottom, Brussels, and the glittering halls of Amnesty International erupted in a mighty uproar after Netanyahu declared that, under his leadership, there would be no Palestinian state. Many observers saw it as a reversal of his now-famous 2009

his opponent and score points with his base. The exchange was posted on NRG, a Hebrew language website, and translated by the Times of Israel.

"If you are prime minister, there will be no Palestinian state?" Netanyahu an-

ence of the last two prime ministers from the left who offered land-for-peace deals. "The left is doing this, burying its head in the sand time after time."

To anyone who follows the conflict closely and spends time with actual Palestinians and Israelis, this statement will come as no surprise. I rarely find anyone, either in Israel or the territories, who still supports a two-state solution to the conflict.

Last year, when Jerusalem Post editor Caroline Glick was promoting her book on why Israel should annex Judea and Samaria to reach a one-state solution, I asked several prominent Palestinian Christian activists for their take. To my great surprise, most of them agreed with her. It is a rare moment indeed when Jewish and Palestinian nationalists agree, and although both sides disagree on the de-

■ See PALESTINIANS page 11

There are still many Palestinians who would like to see Israel driven into the sea, but there are many who look longingly at the opportunities available to their Arab brothers and sisters inside Israel proper.

speech at Bar Ilan University in which he accepted the idea of a two-state solution.

To be fair, Netanyahu was not making an unequivocal declaration so much as he was answering a question posed by a journalist and using the answer to undermine

swered, "Indeed." Expounding, he said, "I think anyone who is going to establish a Palestinian State and to evacuate the territory is giving radical Islam a staging ground against the State of Israel."

Netanyahu then reminded the audi-

#NOMOREPROFANITY!



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

Clay Center, Kan. – The other day I was listening to a talk radio show when I heard the host say, "What the h__ll do they think they are doing?" I said to myself, "I don't want to listen to language like that!" and changed the station. Then one evening I was watching a TV show and one of the characters said, "Just quit b__ching about your friend and go talk to her." There I was again changing channels.

According to an Associated Press survey from several years ago, 64% of Americans confess to using profanity. Personally, I think it is higher. Let me ask, should this be seen as a problem in society? It should be because it demonstrates that nearly a super-majority of America's population has a Mt. Everest-sized character problem. Here are three evidences that profanity is about character.

1) **Anger-driven.** When someone rattles off a series of explicatives cutting people down like a weed-eater - it is about character.

2) **Vulgar humor.** When someone feels compelled to include gutter-lan-

guage in every joke – it is about character.

3) **Thoughtlessness.** When someone spews forth their sewer-mouth around young children, true ladies and gentlemen and



in general public settings (like social media) – it is about character.

I want to challenge us as a society to raise our standards. Let us start a hashtag campaign #nomoreprofanity to raise awareness of this issue and use positive peer pressure to encourage peo-

ple to change their language.

Jesus is a model for raising standards through His famous Sermon on the Mount. He once said, "Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil." (Matthew 5:37) This means to keep our language simple and clean and if we have a problem with profanity it is because we have a problem with our heart.

Changing how we speak can be difficult, if we do it on our own. However, if we call upon Jesus and ask Him to change our heart, then He will touch our lips too. May Jesus be our hope for today and our standard for living.

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

FERGUSON: GETTING TO WE



HAKIM HAZIM

Founder of Relevant Now and co-founder of Freedom Squared

viewpoint

When I heard about the cowardly opportunist who shot two police officers a few days ago, I dropped my head in sadness and prayed. Convinced this was an act of evil and bloodlust, I refrained from labeling officers or protestors as provocateurs. As of this writing, the police have a suspect, Jeffrey Williams. According to sources close to the case, Williams stated he did fire the weapon, but was not firing at police officers. This claim is regarded as a dubious by authorities, and in my view, skepticism is warranted. These are trying times in regards to race relations in the world today, but trying times call for a Christian perspective.

What troubles me most about Ferguson is not simply what the world is saying and the venom spewed from both sides of the issue, what's alarming is how Christians have gotten caught up in the debate. We have allowed our judgment to be clouded by our perceptions, rather than clarified by the Spirit. James 1:20 (in the New Living Translation) reveals an axiom that has long haunted me: "Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires."

In a day an age when the church desperately needs to move away from "us ver-

sus them" and get to we, polarization has set in. Violent events seem to force us to choose between color and the Spirit of God. I'm not cool with this. Frankly, I'm angry about it, but I know anger does not secure righteous results. I know if we seek wisdom, love and God's power, we can be effective voices. With that said, let us diagnose Ferguson, and see it as a case study of how cancerous trust deficits infect communities.

Recently the Department of Justice concluded its investigation and found that there was a systemic pattern of widespread civil rights violations in regards to the First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments. They also ruled that Darren Wilson should not be charged with violating Michael Brown's Civil Rights. I can accept these findings; many can't. Some see the investigation as politically motivated by a

left leaning administration and others see sheer cowardice in regards to Wilson not being charged. What I know -- from all of my years as a consultant in law enforcement and national security -- the findings of these setting events did not surprise

anyone. It begs the question of how many Fergusons are in this country, secondly it raises the question do we really want to find out.

Listen folks, there will be no quick easy solution to race relations because it requires a commitment to mutuality and reciprocity. Christ told us that we would be distinctive in the world and that we would be known by our love for each other. That means it would a tangible, visible fact in Christian relationships. Sadly it is imperceptible in many places.

Here are some of the things I've heard Black Christians say about White believers:

"They are a part of the cover up! They shoot us and call it justice served."



"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8 ESV

PALESTINIANS

continued from page 10

tails, their basic accord suggests that Netanyahu may be more in touch with sentiments in the street than pundits give him credit for.

There are still many Palestinians who would like to see Israel driven into the sea, but there are many who look longingly at the opportunities available to their Arab brothers and sisters inside Israel proper. Palestinians in the territories have not voted in nearly 10 years, and are forced to endure either the corrupt autocracy of Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank or the Islamic thugocracy of Hamas in Gaza. Meanwhile, Arab-Israelis went to the polls Tuesday and pulled off an astounding victory.

Sadly, this disparity of democratic opportunity will be lost on foreign powers. The US and EU are committed to a two-state solution come hell or high water. The

Obama administration, having worked hard to unseat Netanyahu, will now use his statements as an opportunity to further antagonize Israel and coddle the Palestinian leadership. Many more European states will be emboldened to recognize the legal fiction of a Palestinian state even as Jews in their midst suffer from rising and increasingly violent anti-Semitism.

International NGOs will be even worse. Organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch will double down on their historic condemnation of Israel's behavior. They will ignore incessant cries for Israel's destruction echoing from various quarters and instead use Netanyahu's statement to paint Israel as an unwilling partner for peace.

As the cries for the establishment of a Palestinian state grow louder, Christians and advocates for real justice and peace should be prudent and wise. We simply cannot advocate for the establishment of

a Palestinian state that has committed itself to the rejection of basic human rights. Even now, religious minorities, such as Christians, who do not support the ruling regime are frequently subjected to harassment. Journalists who try to document abuse of Palestinians by the Palestinian Authority are attacked. It is a capital offense for an Arab to sell land to a Jew. The PA has pledged that a future Palestinian state will be free of all Jews.

It is outrageous on the basis of human rights to advocate for a state that has promised, and proven, it will trample on human rights without apology.

Christians must also reject the recognition of a state that is committed to the obliteration of the Jewish people. Hamas, a terrorist organization that regularly proclaims its desire to destroy Israel, is currently ruling the Gaza Strip and is in a power-sharing arrangement with the PA government of Mahmoud Abbas. Christians should see this as detestable. For too

"The problem with white people is they think they are always right and we just whine and complain all the time."

"They are praying for a white officer who lost a fist fight. Are they praying for Brown's family too?"

My white brother's have spoken some of these things in conversations:

"Well it's not a black thing, it's their culture. It's morally bankrupt."

"I don't mean to offend you Hakim, but there are no black role models on TV or radio."

"If they would just take care of their own kids, we would not have a race issue."

"Where are the black ministers?"

"The first black president was a failure, so that experiment failed. What's next for black America?"

These are divisive, judgmental statements of frustration. That's how I see them, but do they seek a resolution. My question for the readers of this column is this: will you break bread with someone of another ethnicity with a different view if they say they belong to Christ? Will you continue to label people who disagree with you as unworthy of your time? I'm a black man who married a white woman and raised three white stepchildren. Racism is not welcomed in my home from anyone! I remain concerned and angry about how we are being high jacked by political populists and it's a perilous path folks. I am your brother and you are mine, because God has made it so. God is for us all. When we talk, let us ask, what are we going to do?

— Metro Voice Contributor Hakim Hazim is the founder of Relevant Now and Cofounder of Freedom Squared. He is a nationally recognized expert in decision analysis, criminality and security.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Popular ESPN analyst Stephen A. Smith has sparked controversy again after declaring that every black American should vote Republican for at least one election cycle.

"Buckle up and get ready," said Smith Tuesday to a Vanderbilt University audience, according to a Breitbart report.

"What I dream is that for one election, just one, every black person in America vote Re-



publican," he said. "Because from what I've read, and I'm open to correction, but from what I've read, Barry Goldwater is going against Lyndon B. Johnson. He's your Republican candidate. He is completely against the civil rights movement. Lyndon B. Johnson was in favor of it. What happens is, he wins office, Barry Goldwater loses office, but there was a senate, a Republican senate, that pushed the votes to the president's desk. It was the Democrats who were against civil rights legislation. So because President Lyndon B. Johnson was a Democrat, black America assumed the Democrats were for it."

He further noted: "Black folks in America are telling one party, 'We don't give a damn about you.' They're telling the other party, 'You've got our vote.' Therefore, you have labeled yourself 'disenfranchised' because one party knows they've got you under their thumb. The other party knows they'll never get you and nobody comes to address your interest."

—LEONARDO BLAIR, CHRISTIAN POST

If Starbucks wants us to talk about race, let's start with why they don't have Starbucks coffee houses in some of America's cities that are mostly black, or have had a racially charged history?...

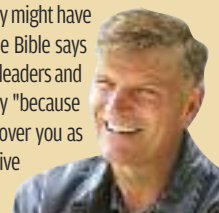
The recent remembrance of the march on Selma, Alabama had the president walking down the street with many people who fought for civil rights, but once again, Selma doesn't have a Starbucks. Neither does Ferguson, Missouri.

—BY JEN KUZNICKI, CNSNEWS.COM

FROM FRANKLIN GRAHAM'S FACEBOOK POST:

Listen up — Blacks, Whites, Latinos, and everybody else. Most police shootings can be avoided. It comes down to respect for authority and obedience. If a police officer tells you to stop, you stop. If a police officer tells you to put your hands in the air, you put your hands in the air. If a police officer tells you to lay down face first with your hands behind your back, you lay down face first with your hands behind your back. It's as simple as that. Even if you think the police officer is wrong—YOU OBEY. Parents, teach your children to respect and obey those in authority.

Mr. President, this is a message our nation needs to hear, and they need to hear it from you. Some of the unnecessary shootings we have seen recently might have been avoided. The Bible says to submit to your leaders and those in authority "because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account."



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the events calendar

Compiled by Anita Widaman

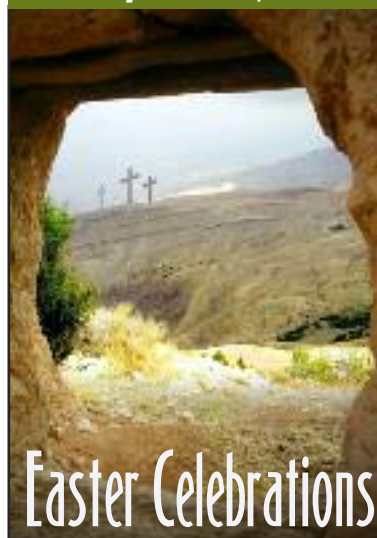
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metrovoicecalendar@gmail.com

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

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



Easter Celebrations

EASTER 2015

MAUNDY THURSDAY. April 2, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Church, 1416 Main St., Grandview, MO. Observance of

Communion. 816-763-2200.

GOOD FRIDAY. April 3, 6:30 pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, Wornall Campus, 9500 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. Tenebrae, A Service of Shad-ows. 816-942-3272.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE. April 3, 7:00 pm. West-brooke Church, 9777 Antioch Rd., Overland Park, KS 66212. 7:00 pm Communion Service. 913-888-4750.

GOOD FRIDAY. April 3, Youth Service 5:00 pm & Evening Communion Service 7:00 pm. Colonial Pres-byterian Church, Quivira Campus, 12501 W., 137th St., Overland Park, KS 66221. 816-942-3272.

EASTER EGG HUNT. April 4, 2:00 pm. First Baptist Church, 1416 Main St., Grandview, MO. Admission is free and the public is invited, toddlers through 6th graders. A drawing will be held for special prizes. 816-763-2200.

EASTER CANTATA. April 4, 7:00 pm & April 5, 10:15 am. Pisgah Baptist Church, 112 Pisgah Drive, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. 816-630-5121.

FREE COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT. April 4, 12:00-2:00 pm. Hillside Christian Church, 9:00 NE Viv-ion Rd., Kansas City North. Fun for all ages, activities include an Easter Egg hunt and a free hotdog picnic lunch. Come join in!

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT. April 4, 11:00 am. Fort

Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Highway, Independence, MO 64056. Community Wide Easter Egg Hunt for all! Free Food, Lots of Candy, Lots of Fun! 816-796-5879.

EASTER SUNDAY. April 5, Sunrise Service 6:30 am & Morning Service 9:15 & 11:00 am. Colonial Presbyterian Church, Wornall Campus, 9500 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. 816-942-3272.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA. Apr. 5, 15, 1:00 PM. House of Refuge Family Worship Center, 10816 Hillcrest Road, Kansas City, MO. Free hotdogs, cake walk, clothes give-away, Easter egg hunt, school supplies giveaway, flag foot-ball, musical chairs. FREE FREE FREE FREE PRIZES AND OTHER GIVEAWAYS. (816) 806-4127

EASTER SUNDAY. April 5, 9:30 am. Harvest Church, 4300 N. Cornington Ave., Kansas City, MO 64117. Har-vestChurchKC.org 816-455-7777.

EASTER RESURRECTION CELEBRATION. April 5, 10:40 am. Heart of America Ministries, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64138. 816-419-6760.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE. April 5, 10:00 am. West-brooke Church, 9777 Antioch Road, Overland Park, KS 66212.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE. April 5, 10:40 am. Lea-wood Baptist Church, 83rd and State Line Rd, Lea-wood, KS 66206. Combined service with International Community Church and Leawood Baptist Church for Easter Morning Worship. Come join us as we worship the Risen Christ together. 913-649-0100.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP. April 5, 6:00 am. Coun-try Club Christian Church, 6101 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64113. Our 8:00 am service will feature jazz vocalist Bukeka Shoals. Traditional worship will follow at 9:30 am and 11:00 am. At the latter two services, the Kansas City Brass will be our special guests. 816-333-4917.

EASTER SUNDAY. April 5, 11:00 am. First Baptist Church, 1416 Main St., Grandview, MO. Easter Musical "He Lives" arranged by Craig Adams with soloists, choir selections, and a children's processional. 816-763-2200.

EASTER SUNDAY. April 5, Sunrise Service 6:30 am & Morning Services 8:00, 9:15, and 11:00 am. Colonial Presbyterian Church, Quivira Campus, 12501 W. 137th St., Overland Park, KS 66221. 816-942-3272.

PASSOVER SEDER WITH MARTY GOETZ. April 5, 5:30-9:30 (seating opens at 5:00 pm). Ritz Charles, 9000 W 137th St., Overland Park, KS 66221. \$39 per person plus a service fee. Sponsored by Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation.

CONCERTS

COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY CONCERT. April 10, 7:00 pm. Kansas City College and Bible School, 7401 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS. Tickets \$16 kids under 5 are free!

AN EVENING WITH THE GAITHER VOCAL BAND. April 11, 6:00 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. Hwy. 50, Kansas City, MO. Featuring Bill Gaither, Wes Hamp-ton, David Phelps, Adam Crabb, and Todd Suttles.

KANSAS CITY JAZZ VESPERS. April 12, 6:00 pm. First Baptist Church, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. Free. Kansas City Jazz Vespers features



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THIRD DAY SOUL ON FIRE TOUR. 7:00 PM. AT THE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM MUSIC HALL, KANSAS CITY, MO. FOR MORE INFORMATON, CONTACT 800-745-3000.

"The Sons of Brasil" a KC group that plays Brazilian jazz. 90 minutes of popular jazz. 816-942-1866.

THIRD DAY SOUL ON FIRE TOUR. April 16, 7:00 pm. Municipal Auditorium Music Hall, Kansas City, MO. 800-745-3000.

THE START A FIRE TOUR WITH UNSPOKEN AND JJ WEEKS BAND. April 18, 7:00 pm. Word of Life Church, 3902 N. Riverside Road, St. Joseph, MO 64505. General admission \$15, VIP \$25 (includes Meet & Greet with the Bands). Presented by Compassion Interna-tional. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Cold Weather Shelter for homeless men in St. Joseph. 816-390-6561.

MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET. April 23, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church, 2151 S. Jefferson, Kearney, MO.

FARM HANDS GOSPEL CONCERT. May 8, 5:00 pm. DE Soto United Methodist Church, 8760 Kill Creek Rd., De Soto, KS 66018. The ticket price of \$25.00+\$1.87 handling fee may be purchased by credit card via the church website: www.desotoumc.org. 913-485-6690.

BIG DADDY WEAVE THE BEAUTIFUL OFFERINGS TOUR. May 17, 6 p.m. New Life Assembly, 801 SW 1st Street, Oak Grove, MO. 855-223-1008.

SOUTHERN GOSPEL (CALL FOR GROUPS)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

THE BOOK OF ACTS. Through April 11. Kansas City College and Bible School, 7016 W 74th St., Overland Park, KS 66204. Earn free undergraduate credit hours (3) at Kansas City College and Bible School by signing up for our next free class! 913-722-0272.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION EXPLAINED. Wed. 12 weeks. Starting Mar. 18. Sheffield Family Life Center, 5700 Winner Road, KCMO. Teacher: Dr. George West-lake, JR. Family program for all also on Wed. nights. 816-241-4831.

2015 WORLDVIEW CONFERENCE. April 2. Hannibal Lagrange University, Roland Fine Arts Center, Hanni-

■ calendar continued on next page

The De Soto United Methodist Church presents
The Farm Hands Gospel Band In Concert

May 8th

Only 200 Seats Available!!!

\$25 in advance includes dinner

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With Larry Inman and Danney Williams Opening

Dinner 5-6:15PM

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8 & 9**WOMAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART CONFERENCE. MAY 8 - 6:00 P.M. MAY 9 - 9:00 A.M. COLLEGE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE, 2020 E. SHERIDAN, OLATHE, KS.**

bal, MO. Preserving our Religious Liberties in a hostile world.

THE DARK SIDE OF TECHNOLOGY. April 6, 6:30 pm. Open Door Baptist Church, 3033 N. 103rd Terr., Kansas City, KS. Free will offering. 913-631-0899.

A JOURNEY INTO DEEPER SPIRITUAL, EMOTIONAL, & SEXUAL ONENESS. April 8-11. Cornerstone Church, 301 SE AA Hwy, Blue Springs, MO 64014. loveaftermarriage.org 816-228-1979.

COFFEE CONNECT. April 8, 6:30 pm. Nations Blend Café, 12901 S. US Hwy. 71, Grandview, MO 64030. An informal gathering for executive, established, and emerging leaders in workplace to exhort, encourage, and engage with believers from different spheres of influence through targeted topics, small group discussion, and prayer ministry. 816-763-0200 ext. 2173.

AVOID PROBATE. April 9, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

HEALING ROOM CONFERENCE. April 10, 7:00 pm & April 11 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, & 7:00 pm. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. No registration fee, love offerings will be received. 573-238-5454.

PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FAITH. April 11, 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Church of the Open Door, 4800 S. 20th St., Leavenworth, KS 66048. \$20 breakfast, lunch, snacks, supplies. 913-727-5006.

LAST MAN STANDING. April 16-18. Harvest Church, 4300 N. Corrington Ave., Kansas City, MO. \$50 men \$25 teens and boys. Host Bishop Steve Houpe. Special speakers: Dr. Chris Hill, Bishop Clarence Williams, Bishop Frank Summerfield.

UNWIND. April 17, 7:00 pm. Calvary Bible College, Liberty Chapel, 15790 Elmwood Ave., Kansas City, MO 64147. Recharge as you join fellow believers for an evening of Calvary's student-led worship. A speaker will also share a devotion from God's word.

SOUL HEALING WEEKEND. April 17-18. Colonial Presbyterian Church, Wornall Campus, 9500 Wornall Rd, Kansas City, MO 64114. Free. 1 1/2 days of Christian worship, teaching, and healing prayer for those in need of the Lord's touch of healing in the physical, spiritual, and emotional area of their lives. 913-648-0036 ext. 396.

RANDY MCPHERSON. April 19, 10:30 am. Church on the Rock, Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO. Free and open to the public. Free-will offering will be taken. Randy is an avid outdoorsman who grew up as the oldest of seven in a hunting and fishing family. He even has one black bear in the Pope and Young Record book. cotroc.org.

AVOID PROBATE. April 21, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

SECRET CHURCH SIMULCAST WITH DAVID PLATT. April 24, 6:00 pm-midnight. First Baptist Church, 1416 Main St., Grandview, MO. Topic this year is: "Christ, Culture, and a Call to Action". 816-763-2200.

MARRIAGE ISSUES. April 24, 6:00 pm. Faith Community Church, 3500 Prather Road, Kansas City, MO

64116. This training addresses issues in marriage and how to give biblical counsel. It is also suitable for couples seeking to learn how to correct marital problems. 816-694-1677.

ART OF MARRIAGE CONFERENCE. April 24, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm & April 25, 9:00 am-3:30 pm. Pisgah Baptist Church, 112 Pisgah Drive, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. Cost \$35 per couple. Registration deadline April 15. 816-630-5121.

BIRTHRIGHT VOLUNTEER TRAINING. April 25. Call for location. Would you like to help pregnant women? Register by April 23. 816-741-2996.

JR. CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN ACTION TRAINING. April 27, 7:00-8:30 pm. Kansas City. Local Pre-Training. Full Training May 1-2 in Warrenton, MO. 12-13 year old (7th-8th grades). Sponsored by CEF of the Greater Kansas City Area. 816-358-1138.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS. Beginning April 30, 6:30-9:00 pm. The Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS. Free course for family and friends of individuals with mental illness. A 12-week commitment is required. Presented by Jewish Family Services, The Church of the Resurrection, National Alliance on Mental Illness, and the Greater Kansas Mental Health Coalition. 913-327-8259.

WOMAN'S AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART CONFERENCE. May 8, 6 p.m. May 9 a.m. College Church of the Nazarene, 2020 E Sheridan, Olathe, KS. Presented by Lynda Randle Ministries. lyndarandle.com

SUMMER ENRICHMENT CAMP, ENRICHMENT FOR CAMP SOARING. May 26-August 7. 1st grade up to going into 8th grade, day and half day available. www.mca-eagles.org 913-631-0899.

CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN ACTION. May 30, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Kansas City. Local Pre-Training. Full Training June 7-20 in Hannibal, MO. 14-18 years old (9th-12th grades). Sponsored by CEF of the Greater Kansas City Area. 816-358-1138.

THE MAIN EVENT. July 17-18. First Baptist Church Raytown, 10500 MO-350, Raytown, MO 64138. Speakers include Tony Evans, Tommy Bowden, David Akers, Darrin Patrick and more. 816-353-1994.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

PASSOVER SEDER WITH MARTY GOETZ. April 5, 5:30-9:30 (seating opens at 5:00 pm). Ritz Charles, 9000 W 137th St., Overland Park, KS 66221. \$39 per person plus a service fee. Sponsored by Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation.

MID AMERICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY ACTION PACT. Apr. 8, 2015, 6:30 pm. House of Refuge Family Worship Center, 10816 Hillcrest Road, Kansas City, MO. Fun activities, singing, college talk, storytelling, music, improv skits, comedy. For all ages kids and teens (816) 806-4127

ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE. April 9, 9:00-11:00 am. Heritage Christian Academy, East Campus, 9333 W 159th St., Overland Park, KS 66221. 913-681-7622.

FAITH ACADEMY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AUCTION FUNDRAISER. April 10, 6:00 pm. Faith Academy Activity Center, 4300 N. Corrington Ave., Kansas City, MO 64117. Admission \$5 includes

bidding paddle. 500 items--\$50,000. Doors open 6:00 pm, Early Bird Bidding 6:30 pm, Regular Bidding 7:00 pm. 816-455-2847.

LOVE'S OUTREACH COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRI-

BUTION. April 11, 10:00-11:00 am. Church on the Rock, Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO 64082. Free food for families in need. Valid ID and proof of residency needed to participate. 816-

246-7625.

HOME RUN FOR KCCBS AUCTION AND BENEFIT. April 11, 5:30 pm. Kansas City College and Bible School, 7401 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS. Tickets \$50. Dinner

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Saturday, April 18 • 7:00 p.m.

Word of Life Church, 3902 N. Riverside Road, Saint Joseph, Missouri 64505

Purchase tickets at iTickets.com

General Admission \$15, VIP \$25 (includes Meet & Greet with the Bands)

Opening Act: The Word of Life Youth Worship Band

Benefit: A portion of the proceeds will go to the Cold Weather Shelter for homeless men in Saint Joseph!

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HOME RUN FOR KCCBS AUCTION AND BENEFIT. 5:30 P.M. AT THE KANSAS CITY COLLEGE AND BIBLE SCHOOL, 7401 METCALF, OVERLAND PARK, KS.

BOOK SALE AND PAN-CAKE BREAKFAST. April 18, 8:00 am-3:00 pm. Hillside Christian Church, 900 NE Vivion Rd., Kansas City, MO. Accepting donations of hard-back and paperback books only this year. Funds raised will be used in the HOPE.wrx Food Pantry, serving the hungry in Clay and Platte Counties. Sponsored by Hillside Opening Possibilities for Everyone. 816-726-1050.

EXTREME YARD RAKEOVER-SPRING EDITION. April 23rd to May 3rd. We are forming 40 teams of 6-10 people each to tackle spring cleanup for JFS Help@Home clients. This is a great project for families,

youth groups or corporate teams. Sponsored by Jewish Family Services. 913-327-8298.

THE ART EVENT AT KCC. April 24-25. Kansas City Christian, 4801 W. 79th St., Prairie Village, KS 66208. FREE Family Fun Day. April 24th 7:00-10:00 pm & April 25th 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Artists from around Kansas City, and beyond, will be exhibiting and selling original works of art at this unique, intimate show. Features live jazz from local favorite, The HymNuts, passed appetizers from Grand St. Café, an espresso bar, and sweet treats from McLain's Bakery.

SPRING SHOPPING EXPO. April 25, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Blue Spring Assembly, 2501 NE Duncan Rd., Blue Spring, MO. Free to shop; \$25 vendor fee which benefits the Blue Springs Assembly Early Childhood Center. 816-847-0200.

THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE MO DISTRICT KANSAS CITY SOUTH ZONE'S 2015 SPRING RALLY. April

United Methodist Church of the Resurrections (13720 Roe Ave, Leawood). Completion of the walk is expected to take approximately one hour to one-and-a-half hours. Aid stations providing water will be located on Nall along the Walk route. Registration - 5:00 pm (Jewish Campus), Walk begins - 6:00 pm (Jewish Campus), Celebration - 8:00-8:45 pm (COR).

DISPLAY OF HIS SPLENDOR LUNCHEON. April 15, 11:30 am. The Stanley, 25 SE 3rd St., Lee's Summit, MO 64063. Appreciation luncheon for Pastor's wives and Women's Ministry leaders. Sponsored by If Not For Grace Ministries.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP. April 16. Heritage Christian Academy, East Campus, 9333 W 159th St., Overland Park, KS 66221. 913-681-7622.

"PRAYER BREAKFAST." April 18, 8:00 am. Denny's Restaurant, 1-70 Hwy and Blue Ridge Cut off. Heart of America Men of Faith. Everyone welcome "Dutch Treat."

and live and silent auction to raise funds for scholarships. Former KC Royals Darryl Motley and Willie Wilson will be on hand to sign autographs and meet fans.

RACHEL HOUSE ANNUAL BANQUET. April 11. The evening is a celebration of saved lives and a call to action as we partner together to reach more of those at risk for choosing abortion as an answer to an unplanned pregnancy. Guest speaker Melissa Ohden. 816-921-5050.

MOMS AND TOTS COMMUNITY. April 13, 10:00-11:00 am. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS. No charge. Story Time and Activity for tots and their moms. Come for fellowship. Contact AmyViets@holycross-elca.org.

FAITH, LOVE & WALK. April 13, 6:00 pm. Jewish Community Campus, 5801 W. 115th St. (112th St. & Nall). The Peace Walk will begin on the east side of the Jewish Community Campus and continue south along the west side of Nall concluding at the

prowest, as she performs Beethoven, Haydn and Chopin, celebrated Slovenian pianist. 816-561-9999.

CALVARY BIBLE COLLEGE FACULTY RECITAL. April 10, 7:30 pm. Blue River Bible College, 15608 Fairchild Dr., Kansas City, MO 64147. Free. 816-425-6129.

KC SYMPHONY POPS "SINGING IN THE RAIN." April 10-12, 8:00 pm Friday & Saturday; 2:30 pm Sunday. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Get ready to twirl your umbrella as legendary Hollywood musical "Singin' in the Rain" is shown on a huge screen in Helzberg Hall while your symphony performs the soundtrack live on stage, transforming your visit into pure movie magic. 816-471-0400.

LYDIA CHAMBERS SENIOR RECITAL. April 11, 7:30 pm. Calvary Bible College, Liberty Chapel, 15790 Elmwood Ave., Kansas City, MO 64147. The public is welcome and invited to attend this free senior recital. 816-425-6129.

AVENUE Q. April 17-May 3. The Barn Players, 6219 Martyway, Mission, KS 66202. A hilarious, laugh-out-loud musical comedy about 20-somethings living in the big city and struggling to find jobs, dates and a meaning to life. 913-432-9100.

TOSCA. April 18. Kauffman Center for Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO. Presented by Lyric Opera. This is a traditional presentation of a true classic, filled with heartbreaking arias and touching love duets.

PUPPET CIRCUS FUN. April 18, 11:00 am & 2:00 pm. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO 64052. 816-833-9777.

ORGAN CONCERT BY SCOTT DETTRA. April 20, 7:30 pm. Community of Christ Temple, 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050. Free and open to the public. Join the local AGO for an evening of organ music by acclaimed organist Scott Dettra. kcano.com.

CHAPEL CHOIR, CHORAL SCHOLARS AND MEN'S CHORUS. April 23, 7:30 pm. William Jewell, John Gano Memorial Chapel, 500 College Hill, Liberty, MO 64068. Free Admission. 816-415-5223.

SPRING ACTING RECITAL AND SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT. April 25, 7:00 pm. Calvary Bible College, Liberty Chapel, 15790 Elmwood Ave., Kansas City, MO 64147. CBC Theatre Arts students bring you a potpourri of comedy, tragedy, romance, and action. 816-425-6129.

WILLIAM JEWELL HANDBELL AND FLUTE CHOIR CONCERT. April 26, 3:00 pm. Gashland United Methodist Church, 7715 North Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64118. Free Admission. 816-415-5223.

LOOK AT THE WORLD NATURE & NATIONS. April 26, 7:00 pm. Nativity of Mary Parish, 10017 E. 36th Terr. S., Independence, MO. Free will offering. Presented by The Jacomo Chorale. 816-355-0114.

LOOK AT THE WORLD NATURE & NATIONS. May 2, 7:00 pm. Colonial Hills Com-

munity of Christ Church, 3539 SW 7 Hwy., Blue Springs, MO. Free will offering. Presented by The Jacomo Chorale. 816-355-0114.

A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD. May 14-May 17. Bell Cultural Events Center, Mid-America Nazarene, 2030 E. College Way, Olathe, KS 66062. May 14th-7:00 pm, May 15th-7:00 pm, May 16th-2:00 pm & 7:00 pm, May 17th-2:00 pm. School Day Performances - May 14th-10:00 am, May 15th-10:00 am. www.cytkc.org.

DR. DOLITTLE JR. May 14-May 17. Goppert Theater, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64145. May 14th-7:00 pm, May 15th-7:00 pm, May 16th-2:00 pm & 7:00 pm, May 17th-2:00 pm. School Day Performance - May 14th-10:00 am. www.cytkc.org.

GODSPELL. May 21-May 24. Goppert Theater, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64145. May 21st-7:00 pm, May 22nd-7:00 pm, May 23rd-2:00 pm & 7:00 pm, May 24th-1:00 pm, May 24th-4:00 pm. www.cytkc.org.

FAMILY OUTINGS

TILL WE MEET AGAIN: THE GREATEST GENERATION IN WAR AND PEACE. April 4-Nov. 1. Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, 500 West US Highway 24, Independence, MO 64050. Exhibition evokes the emotions of the tumultuous year of 1945 through the letters, mementoes, and diaries of Harry Truman on one hand, and on the other, those of average Americans. 816-268-8200.

EGG HUNT SPECIAL. April 4, 10:00 am, 1:00 pm & 3:30 pm. Midland Railway, Departing Santa Fe Depot, 1515 High St., Baldwin City, KS. 913-721-1211.

TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY. April 4, 9:30 am. Kansas City Zoo, 6800 Zoo Drive, Kansas City, MO 64132. We are honoring teachers, administrators and home school educators with free admission for themselves and three guests. Just bring your teacher ID for admittance. 816-595-1234.

STARGAZE KANSAS CITY ARVIN GOTTLIEB PLANETARIUM. April 6, 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm. Science City at Union Station, 30 W Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO 64108. All ages \$6. FREE ADMISSION FOR UNION STATION MEMBERS. Enjoy rare and beautiful views of the cosmos, otherwise hidden by bright city lights or the daytime sun, right here in the comfort of the planetarium. 816-460-2020.

SCAVENGER SATURDAYS FOR FAMILIES. April 18, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, 4420 Warwick Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64111. Free admission and parking. Children (ages 5-13) and adults can look together at works of art in the Museum's galleries. After completing a self-guided activity, kids will receive a free take-home art project.

CAFFEINE CRAWL. April 18 & 19. Kansas City, MO. Two days of zealous caffeination will commence across the metro. There are

■ calendar continued on next page

MAY
14-17 DR. DOOLITTLE, JR.,
GOPPERT THEATER.

MOMS AND TOTS COMMUNITY. April 27, 10:00-11:00 am. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS. No charge. Play Time for tots and their moms. Come for fellowship. Contact AmyViets@holycross-elca.org.

FINE ARTS

PETER AND THE STAR CATCHER. Through April 15. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. A wildly theatrical, hilarious and innovative retelling of how a miserable orphan came to be The Boy Who Never Grew Up. 816-944-7200.

A SHARED LEGACY. Through July 5. The Nelson Atkins, 45th and Oak St., Kansas City, MO. Free. Wednesday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Thursday/Friday, 10:00 am-9:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm. 816-751-1321.

DUBRAVKA TOMSIC. April 10, 8:00 pm. Folly Theater, 300 W. 12th St., Kansas City, MO. We are sure to be amazed again by her

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APR 25-26 POWELL GARDENS' ORCHID COLLECTION. 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

9 different routes over the two-day span. 816-522-7305.

GATSBY DAYS. April 24, 25, 26. Downtown, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. A variety of events are featured throughout the weekend that explore culture and history in and around the 1920's, through music, art, dance, fashion, theater and educational programs.

POWELL GARDENS' ORCHID COLLECTION. April 25-26, 11:00 am-3:00 pm. Powell Gardens, 1609 NW US Hwy. 50, Kingsville, MO 64061. Exotic orchids from Powell Gardens' collection and spikes of color throughout the spring conservatory exhibit. Join us for the weekend of hands-on learning about orchids. 816-697-2600.

THE BROOKSIDE ART ANNUAL. May 1, 5:00-9:00 pm. May 2, 10:00 am-9:00 pm, May 3, 11:00 am-5:00 pm. 63rd and Brookside, Kansas City, MO. The focus of the show is on ART! This community loves art shows and it consistently ranks in the top 25 shows according to Art Source. 816-523-5553.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

MONDAY - 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.

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

2ND & 4TH MONDAY - JOB LOSS SUPPORT. 9-10am. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., OPKS. 913-381-1285.

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

TUESDAY - FEAR NOT SUPPORT GROUP. 7pm. New Summit Presbyterian Church, 1800 NE Independence Ave., Lee's Summit, MO. Christ-Centered support group for anxiety and depression. Material based on the Christian 12 Steps; Serenity Prayer also Anxiety Centre "The Anxiety/Phobia Workbook" by Edmund

Bourne.

TUESDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY. 7pm. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., OPKS. Christ centered 12-step program for anyone with a hurt, hang-up, or addiction. Contact Craig Hauser, 913-449-7265.

TUESDAY - HURT, HABIT OR HANG-UP. 7pm. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., OPKS. 913-449-7265.

TUESDAY - CHRISTIAN MUSIC NIGHT. 7 - 9 pm. Skate World, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Parkway, Mission, KS. 913-262-0711.

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

1ST TUESDAY - CREATION SCIENCE ASSN. FOR MID-AMERICA. 7 p.m., Westbrooke Church, 9777 Antioch, OPKS. Nursery available for fee. "Creation Safari's". www.csama.org for more info. Res. req. 816-618-3610.

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

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY - MOPS AND MOMS NEXT. 10am. Roanoke Baptist Church, 3950 Wyoming St., KCMO. Call or email Bo Price for information, 816-561-4932 or pastor@roanokebaptist.org.

2ND TUESDAY - MOPS. 6:30 p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave., OPKS. 913-649-0900.

2ND TUESDAY. EQUIPPING BELIEVERS MID-WEST. 7:00 pm. Blue Spring, La Quinta Inn, 3402 NW Jefferson St., Blue Springs, MO 64015. Free Prayer for healing and freedom from addiction, Free training to heal the sick, evangelize the lost, set the oppressed free. 913-488-6749.

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY. "WINGS OF HOPE." Blue Springs Christian Church, 7920 S. 7 Hwy, Blue Springs, MO. A Christian based ministry to provide support for families grieving loss through miscarriage or infant death, because every life matters. Email: wingsofhope@bscc.org 816-210-4594.

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY - MOPS. 9 a.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave., OPKS. 913-649-0900

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

TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 7:30-11:30AM. Life Perks Coffee House, inside First Baptist Church, 125 N. Armstrong, Pleasant Hill, MO. 816-540-5872.

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

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY - LIVING FREE, CHRIST-CENTERED 12 STEP PROGRAM. Room 6, 6:30-8:15. Abundant Life Baptist Church, 414 SW Persles, LS, MO. 816-554-8181.

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

WEDNESDAY - GRIEFSHARE. 6:30pm. Summit Woods Baptist Church, 2501 SE Shenandoah Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64063. A ministry that assists those who have suffered loss through the death of a loved one. 816-525-8215.

WEDNESDAY - BREAK TIME CLUB. 9:30am-2:30pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW R.D. Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64014. Enriching environment for older adults with mental and/or physical limitation. \$10 donation. 816-228-5300.

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

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

WEDNESDAY - CATCH THE FIRE SOAKING PRAYER CENTER. 7-9pm. 816-804-8283.

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

2ND WEDNESDAY - LEE'S SUMMIT WOMEN'S PRAYER CONNECTION. 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. In a comfortable setting, we get to know each other better and take time to pray (silently or audibly) for our nation, families, Lee's Summit Women's Connection, and our national organization. Call Millie Mathews for meeting location: 816-537-9898.

2ND WEDNESDAY COFFEE CONNECT. 6:30 pm. IHOPU, 12901 S. US Highway, Grandview, MO 64030. An informal gathering with believers from different spheres of influence. www.ihopekc.org/josephcompany.

4TH WEDNESDAY - SOUTH KANSAS CITY AGLOW.

9:30 a.m. Grandview Assembly of God Church, 12400 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO. 816-761-5739.

LAST WEDNESDAY CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY LUNCHEON. Noon. Levy & Craig, 1301 Oak, KCMO. First time guest free. \$10. 816-559-2173.

THURSDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 4:00-8:00 pm. Healing Rooms of Olathe, 2011 E Crossroads Ln., Ste. 304, Olathe, KS. M-F-W by appointment. www.healingroomsolathe.com 913-563-2413.

WEEKLY THURSDAY - CHRISTIAN BUSINESS CONNECTIONS NETWORK. 11:00 am, Parkside Coffee House (inside Cedar Ridge Christian Church), 8839 Lackman Rd., Lenexa, KS 66219

THURSDAY. 6-7:30 P.M. DivorceCare and Divorce-Care4Kids. Help for those going through or having gone through divorce. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW RD Mize Road, Blue Springs, MO. 816-228-5300.

THURSDAY - HEALING SERVICES. 7 p.m. Christian Assembly of God Church, 17310 E 40 Hwy., Independence, MO. Spon. by Royal Priesthood Global Ministries. 816-220-1914. If you need encouragement or prayer, you are welcome!

THURSDAY. PARENTS OF PRODIGALS. 7pm. Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, I-35 & 291, Liberty, MO. Free and open to the community. Support group for parents of children of any age who have strayed from God and/or family. 816-781-5959.

THURSDAY. DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, BIPOLAR SUPPORT GROUP. 7pm. Pleasant Valley Baptist, 1600 N. 291 Hwy, Liberty, MO. 816-781-5959.

THURSDAY. CELEBRATE RECOVERY MEETING. 7-9pm. Life Church, 16111 S. Lone Elm Rd., Olathe, KS 66062. 913-829-7511.

THURSDAY. REAL MEN ROCK. 7-8:30pm. Vineyard Church, 9777 Antioch Rd., OPKS. We will have a sign with a phone # on the front door if you arrive after 7pm. www.ourchurch.com/member/r/REAL_Men_Rock / 913-636-1862.

THURSDAY. ENCOUNTER. 7:30 pm. KC First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. College students and young adults meet at KC First Church of the Nazarene for a time of prayer, reflection, Bible study, and fellowship. Contact Pastor Audrey Landers for more information at alanders@kcfc.org. 816-942-9022.

1ST THURSDAY - MOMS IN ACTION. Abundant Life Baptist Church, Room 1, 414 SW Persles Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. A group of encouraging Moms getting together to grow and serve Christ. 7-9pm. albcmom-sinaction@gmail.com.

1ST THURSDAY - CITYWIDE PRAYER MOVEMENT. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd., KCMO, 7:00 a.m. 816-217-5679.

1ST THURSDAY - HEART OF AMERICA CHRISTIAN WRITERS' NETWORK (HACWN). Evangel Temple, 1414 E 103rd St., KCMO. \$3 members, \$5 nonmembers. Evangel Temple-816-942-1414.

1ST & 3RD THURSDAY - NEW HOPE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP. 6:30-8:30pm. Liberty Manor Baptist Church, Birmingham Rd., Liberty, MO. This group offers a safe and confidential environment to share your hope, struggles, and feelings of your cancer journey with others who understand. 816-217-5813.

2ND THURSDAY - FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS. 7:00 pm Countryside Christian Church, 6101 Nall Ave., Mission, KS. Contact Yvonne info@fibrocoalition.org or call 913-384-4673.

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2015 FINANCIAL PLANNING

Should I help? Not yet

Dear Dave,

My daughter is in her late twenties, and she has a good job making \$50,000 a year. The other day, she told me she has \$15,000 in credit card debt and has financed an expensive car she's upside down on. Her apartment in Omaha costs \$600 a month, and she is asking for help to get out of the hole. We tried to teach her how to handle money, but apparently it didn't work. How do you think I should handle this situation?

— Cindy

Dear Cindy,

Here's what I would tell her if she were my kid in that situation. First, I'm not paying for your problem to go away. I'd tell her to sell the car and get a cheap little beater. She'll have to get a small loan to cover the difference, but it will rid her of a car payment. And hey, a little bit of debt is better than a whole lot of debt — especially when the debt is on something that's going down in value. After that, she can get a part-time job and work her tail off until she cleans up the mess she made.

I know all this sounds harsh, but this girl had a good thing going and she screwed it up by being impulsive and immature. Think about it;



DAVE RAMSEY

Financial author, radio host, television personality

davesays

she's making \$50,000 a year, and only \$7,200 of that was going toward rent. Her taxes aren't that much, so where's the rest of the money going? I'm guessing a big chunk is being wasted on restaurants, goofing off and other stuff she doesn't really need.

Let her wallow in it and worry about things for while first, though. Then, if she's willing to accept responsibility for her actions, and she starts working hard toward handling her money wisely, you might help her out once in a while. Every time she pays off \$1,000, you could add \$500 to the next payment. But I'd test her resolve first to see if she wants it badly enough!

— DAVE

Four reasons why you need to know your retirement number

People love to throw around numbers when they talk about retirement. How many times have you heard that 52 percent of Americans have only \$10,000 saved for retirement? Or that 33 percent of workers are putting off retirement until after age 65, and 10 percent don't plan to retire at all?

While those numbers give us a good idea of the scope of our nation's retirement problem, they're not going to help anyone actually change their retirement outlook.

The only number that can accomplish that is your number — your own, personal retirement savings goal that will allow you to live out your dream retirement.

That number is so important. First, to even begin calculating your retirement number, you have to decide what kind of life you want to live in retirement. Do you want to travel? Start a business? Help your grandkids with college? There's no wrong answer, but you do need to think about how much money your dream retirement will take and then boil that down to a monthly income amount.

Second, by having this discussion and



CHRIS HOGAN

Financial planner, speaker

mythoughts

agreeing on what your dream retirement looks like, you and your spouse now become a team. You're working together, sacrificing together if necessary, so you can reach a goal both of you have decided is worth the effort.

There's nothing sadder than a couple who's facing retirement with no money

and no dream, simply because they never sat down to talk about their future!

Third, by focusing on your retirement number, you stop thinking about retirement as an age. Retirement doesn't begin at some magical age like 65 or 70. It begins when you have enough money to enjoy the life you're dreaming about — whether that's at age 50, 73 or 82.

Fourth, your retirement number gives you a solid starting place for your retirement plan. Millions of people don't save for their future because they think they'll have to give up too much today. They don't make a plan.

And as the numbers show, they're going to be in trouble.

But numbers change when people do. When you have a real plan and work that plan with real effort, you'll get real results.

Let me make the *best* of your time.

Alan R. Jones, CPA

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How long does it take to pick up a donated car?

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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entertainment

by Adam R. Holz

Many a fairy tale concludes with, "And they lived happily ever after." Fewer begin from such a place. But for Ella, life was indeed enchanted.

Growing up in a sprawling country mansion, her days consist of communicating with her animal friends (especially four mice living in the house) and basking in the delight of her doting parents. But then Ella's mother falls mortally ill. On her death bed, she beckons Ella close to tell her "a great secret that will see you through all the trials life has to offer: Have courage and be kind."

As the years roll by, Ella and her father, a merchant, make a good effort to enjoy life together. But melancholy fills his heart, a longing for companionship. And so, when he meets a beautiful widow with two daughters about Ella's age, it seems a perfect opportunity for a second chapter of familial bliss.

Except that it isn't.

You already know that Lady Tremaine is as cruel as her daughters are vain. And when Ella's father dies on a journey, the teen

girl is left with little more in this world than the concepts of courage and kindness her mother bequeathed to her.

And the previously unloved-for love of a charming prince, of course!

Ella's girlhood home is as happy as it could possibly be. She enjoys the love of two parents who cherish her completely. It's a beautiful picture of familial affirmation and affection, and it's an environment in which Ella's soul flourishes.

After Ella's father meets Lady Tremaine and admits to his daughter that he's considering marrying her, he asks Ella, "Do you think I might be allowed a second chance at happiness?" Ella bravely encourages her father to pursue that chance.

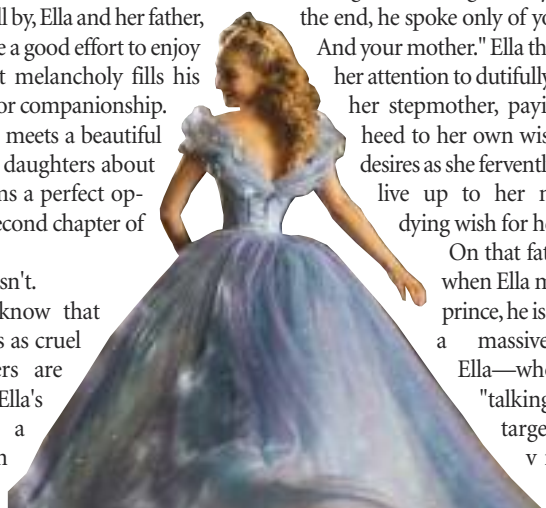
A servant delivers Ella's father's last tender message to his daughter, saying, "To the end, he spoke only of you, miss.

And your mother." Ella then turns her attention to dutifully serving her stepmother, paying little heed to her own wishes and desires as she fervently tries to live up to her mother's dying wish for her.

On that fateful day when Ella meets the prince, he is hunting a massive stag.

Ella—who's been "talking" to his target—con-

v i n c e s



film411

DIRECTOR
KENNETH BRANAGH (JACK RYAN:
SHADOW RECRUIT, THOR)
DISTRIBUTOR
WALT DISNEY
RATED PG

him that the glorious beast has more living to do. It's not the anti-hunting message that's the big positive here, I should note. Rather, it's Ella's overarching urging that "we must simply have courage and be kind, mustn't we?" And her further insistence that "just because it's done doesn't mean it should be done" gets extrapolated, later, to the subject of forced marriages for the sake of financial and political enrichment.

Indeed, the prince gradually reveals his noble character in part by his unshakeable willingness to marry Ella, a commoner with no dowry or royal influence to offer him. And he shares a strong, loving relationship with his father, too, one that improves as the movie goes on.

If Walt Disney were he still around, would be proud of what the caretakers of his fabled legacy have done with the 2015 live-action version of Cinderella. It's



Lily James (*Downton Abbey*) and Kate Blanchett star in Disney's *Cinderella*.

largely true to the original 1950 animated movie's mood and story. And where it deviates and expands upon it, it does so in ways that add nuance and depth.

In other words, this is not a fractured fairy tale as so many are in this new century. The film repeatedly emphasizes kindness and courage, which culminate in Ella graciously forgiving her wicked stepmother. It's something that gives this version of a story that's been around for several centuries an unexpectedly virtuous resonance.

Certainly *Downton Abbey* star Lily James is a vision of radiant beauty as Ella. But her outward beauty is poignantly augmented by an inner kindness and courage,

things she manages to hold on to despite the abuses heaped upon her by her stepmother and stepsisters. The result is a thoroughly delightful engagement with a time-worn tale we all know so well.

The magical fairy godmother is still a central part of this story, of course. And parents of would-be princesses should calculate the body-image and modesty issues raised by the quite low-cut costumes and painfully corseted torsos. (What does this say about the female form and girls' intrinsic worth, after all?) But given this more mindfully mature take on Ella's romance with the prince, there are fewer issues with starry-eyed love-at-first-sight romance than in some other fairy tales.

Christ's freedom shines in Mike Farris' Grammy-winning album

(WNS)--Mike Farris' Grammy-winning album *Shine For All The People* is the answer to those who view God as a cosmic Grinch (and Christians as His fun-squelching minions). With horns galore, a monster groove, and unbridled jubilation, the album is basically one giant celebration—and a well-earned one at that.

Farris wrestled with serious drug addiction for much of his adult life, including a cocaine overdose, according to an interview with CBN. After rededicating his life to God, he experienced powerful deliverance from the drug addiction, but then a back injury and subsequent surgery led to an addiction to pain medication. Finally, after much soul searching, three and half years ago Farris found himself truly sober for the first time since he was a kid. Little wonder, then, that freedom shines from every corner of this album.

Sometimes it's the general call for men to "break all the chains," such as in the rousing '60s anthem, "How It Feels To Be Free." Sometimes it's the spiritual freedom conveyed by a hymn such as "Sparrow," in which Farris manages to be both reverent and joyous with the help of a ragtime piano and a Dixieland motif.

But freedom isn't just a lyrical theme. It oozes from the album's every pore, implicit in the luxurious horn arrangements



and the fuel-injected attack of outstanding musicianship. Most of all, freedom reigns in the passion and power of Farris' soulful singing, which is a cross of Van Morrison, Aaron Neville, and a coyote howling in the bayou.

"River Jordan" is the album's opening powerhouse, featuring extravagant horn arrangements that yank the listener in by the collar. Funky drums keep the song grounded while a bass digs down to solemnize the lonely, bitter-sweet moment of our final pilgrimage to that better land.

"Jonah And The Whale" recalls the high stepping, keyboard grooves of Booker T. and the MG's with some humor thrown in. Most folks will identify with Farris' conclusion regarding Jonah's adventure: "Sometimes I get that old funny feeling / I feel that same old whale swallowed me." Swinging horn blasts and

■ See MUSIC page 18

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Former WWE star's book becomes New York Times Best Seller

Shawn Michaels' recently released book *Wrestling for My Life: The Legend, the Reality, and the Faith of a WWE Superstar*, has hit top 10 for the sports category of The New York Times' best-seller list.

Debating at No. 6 in the sports section for the month of March, *Wrestling for My Life* chronicles Michaels' walk of faith and its intermingling with his professional wrestling career.

Ahead of Michaels on the list, from No. 5 to No. 1, are: *Power Forward* by Reggie Love; *On My Own Two Feet* by Amy Purdy; *H Is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald; *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown; and *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand.

Published last month by Zondervan,

Wrestling for My Life was Michaels' accounting of his life before and after accepting Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

In an earlier interview, Michaels explained that *Wrestling for My Life* came out of working on another book in 2006.

"I thought that it would be fun to be able to do one someday, based solely on my faith and the things that are truly most important in my life — that being my faith and my family," said Michaels.

"[I'm] getting the opportunity to do it five years after I retired again," He writes. "[I'm] in a place where you have a better opportunity to sit down, take your time, and reflect on everything as opposed to

2006, when I was still in the midst of doing it."

Unlike the previous book which was "more geared toward the wrestling fan and wrestling in general," Michaels said his new book focuses more on "my journey and my testimony," and that now is "the right time to do it."

Wrestling for My Life included two forewords written by fellow WWE stars Paul "Triple H" Levesque and "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, who each recalled the dramatic change in Michaels following his conversion.

"With millions of fans, Michaels had adulation and all the attention he could ask for, but he discovered there was something more," reads the book's description on Amazon.

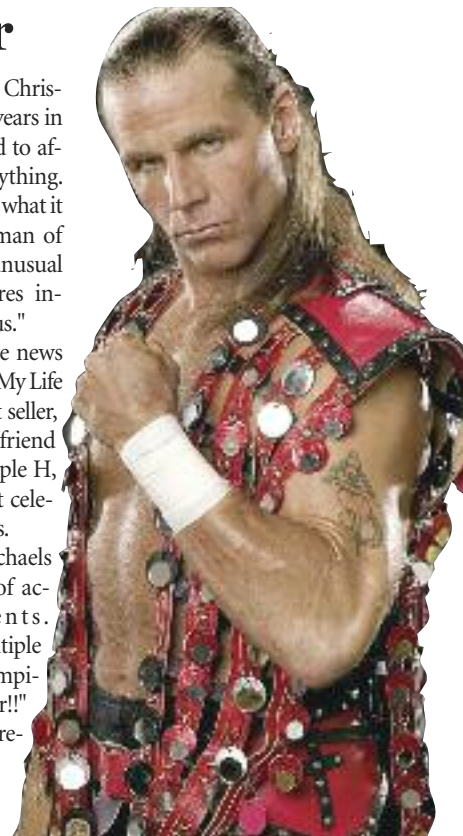
"With millions of fans, Michaels had adulation and all the attention he could ask for, but he discovered there was something more."

"When he became a committed Christian during his years in the WWE it had to affect everything. Michaels reveals what it is like to be a man of faith in this unusual world and shares insights for all of us."

Regarding the news of *Wrestling for My Life* becoming a best seller, WWE star and friend of Michaels, Triple H, sent out a tweet celebrating the news.

"@ShawnMichaels has a long list of accomplishments. Headlining multiple

WrestleManias, numerous championships ... now @nytimes best seller!!" tweeted Triple H in a post that has received hundreds of retweets.



MUSIC

continued from page 17



vocal call and responses stir excitement, but the real inspiration is Farris' gritty, experience-driven goal to "walk with the Father in glory / go on and tell my story / tell the whole world ... about my victory."

Farris won this year's Grammy for Best Roots Gospel Album and it's no wonder. Chock full of hand-clapping, finger-snapping goodness, *Shine For All The People* is like something that popped right out of the Tennessee hills—a natural and inevitable force from what Flannery O'Connor called the "Christ-haunted South." Yet Farris (who is from Tennessee) ensures the album is less Christ haunted than Christ embodied. Unlike so many rock-oriented

artists who mine the gospel heritage, Farris obviously believes the lyrics he sings. This makes the album far more satisfying and spares believers the labor of parsing out a great performance from a lackluster spiritual commitment.

Farris ends well with an almost Beatnik rendition of "This Little Light." Bongos and a stand-up bass prove marvelously suited to the song's simple faith message,

and a full band eventually joins in for a hearty jam session. The song is also an apt metaphor for Farris's musical approach. He lets the beauty of these songs shine through, adding jazz, rock, and blues layers to accentuate their strengths rather than distract from them. The result is a feast for the ears and a feast for the spirit—at once shiny and new yet as comfortable as an old shoe.



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Rosenberg's Third Target: Is it fiction or non-fiction?

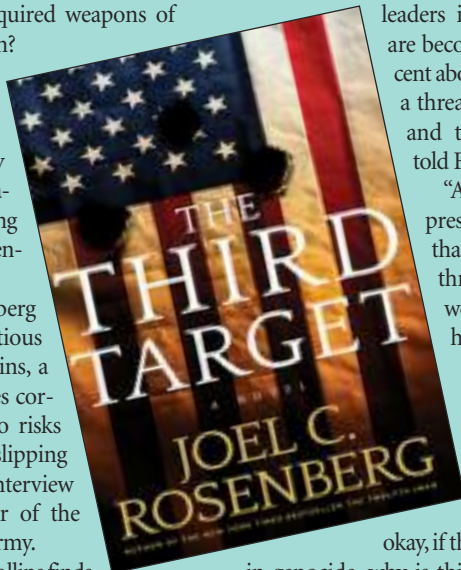
What would happen if the terrorist group, ISIS, acquired weapons of mass destruction?

That's the premise of *The Third Target*, a new novel by Middle East analyst and bestselling author Joel Rosenberg.

In it Rosenberg weaves the fictitious tale of J.B. Collins, a New York Times correspondent who risks everything by slipping into Syria to interview the commander of the brutal jihadist army.

Ultimately, Collins finds himself faced with a decision that could cost him his career — or his life.

Rosenberg cautions that his latest book is meant to be more than entertaining, but should serve as a warning to U.S. leaders against the dangers of complacency.



"Too many political leaders in Washington are becoming complacent about how serious a threat ISIS really is, and the stakes," he told Fox News.

"A year ago the president told us that ISIS was not a threat, that they were a 'JV' team," he continued.

"Last summer, he said ISIS was engaged in genocide."

"Well,

okay, if they are engaged in genocide, why is this such a slow-moving process of defeating them?" Rosenberg challenged.

"What *The Third Target* does — fictionally — is take us into a world in which they are not defeated, in which they capture chemical weapons, and then all hell breaks loose, far worse than what we currently see," he said.

Hospital staff joins in prayers for singer

Contemporary Christian band Casting Crowns' lead singer Mark Hall had many prayers going up to heaven for him as he underwent surgery to remove a cancerous kidney on Wednesday even the hospital staff was reportedly praying for him.

"Can't believe it, but so far every hospital staff person I've met so far has said they've been praying for us already. We came here prepared to love on them but they have been loving on us," said an update posted on the band's Facebook page.

Mark revealed his battle with cancer last month via the band's website and social media accounts and requested prayer.

In a post, his wife, Melanie, asked fans and other well-wishers to pray for four specific things and the number one item on that list was for a smooth surgery and favor with the hospital staff.

"Please pray that God will watch over

"There was a feeling of Christian fellowship and peace. Laughs and hugs."



A photo of Mark (bottom left) and a supportive group of close family, friends and band members who prayed for him before he headed into surgery, reflecting the upbeat mood of the day.

everything related to the surgery and that it goes well. Pray that we have favor with the hospital staff and doctors," wrote Melanie.

"There was a feeling of Christian fellowship and a peace. Laughs and hugs. I'm sure you've seen his silly hospital videos. He has been in great spirits today. He worked late last night and was pretty tired and ready to go to sleep.

He asked the anesthesiologist if could just sleep till it was time to go home. (She said no.)," the update continued.

"Mark is out of surgery. Everything went really well. Doctor says textbook operation. Just like we prayed for. I told the doctor that he might possibly be the most prayed for Dr. on the planet today. He will be in recovery for a while. Thank you so much for your prayers," it ended.

■ PLANNING

continued from page 7

cilities where those activities that interest your child take place, and inquire about how the activities are supervised and by whom. Determine what the camp's philosophies are. Is there an emphasis on competition? Is the program highly structured or freer flowing with more choices? Also ask how close medical facilities are, and what security measures are in place to help ensure the safety of your child.

Finally, you'll certainly want to take a look at the sleeping quarters and dining facilities that your child would be using. Your camper will not likely require the comfort level you desire in accommodations or the class of food your palette prefers. However, you do want to make sure the facilities are clean, safe, and in good repair, and that your child would find adequate nutrition and pleasing meal choices.

Rate the Camps

After you've learned much more about each camp candidate on your short list, a fun way to engage your child in picking the one might be to create a simple chart with the names of the camps intersecting with categories such as activities, location, and price. Your child can assign a certain number of stars to camps for some categories and you can rate camps in other areas. This exercise can bring clarity to the tangle of information you collect.

Enjoy the Journey

The camp experience will leave a lasting impression on your child—and on you. Doing a little homework and including your camper in the process

will go a long way toward making the time successful and the memories as wonderful as mine are.

Justin, who attended camp regularly as a kid, served at camps throughout col-

lege, and worked on two camp magazines, is the director of Brookhaven Retreat in Hawkins, Texas.

Previously published in Campsight.

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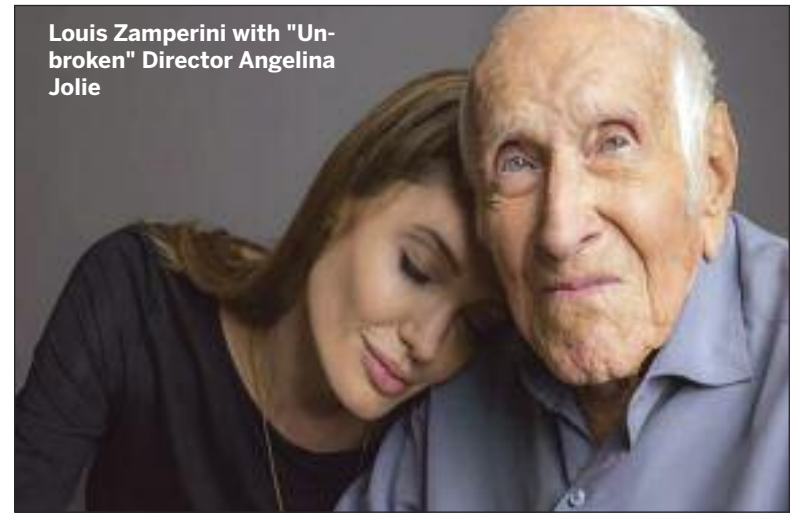
New 'Unbroken' DVD release includes new footage

Universal Pictures has added exclusive new footage from the faith-filled hit film "Unbroken" to the DVD that was released March 24.

Directed by Angelina Jolie, "Unbroken" is based on the true story of Louie Zamperini, an Olympic runner-turned-WWII hero. In addition to the Blu-Ray and DVD release, "Legacy of Faith," a bonus feature revealing 90 minutes of rich content from Zamperini, Billy Graham, and Greg Laurie is also included.

"Louie Zamperini's story has been an inspiration to tens of millions of people of faith, and Universal Pictures Home Entertainment is responding to this outpouring of support by creating a special bonus disc that celebrates his life and his testimony," Matthew Faraci of Universal Home Entertainment's faith outreach said in a statement.

The spokesperson for Universal went on to describe what is offered in the bonus



Louis Zamperini with "Unbroken" Director Angelina Jolie

disc, including more information about Zamperini's incredible life story.

"The special edition 'Legacy of Faith' bonus disc is loaded with 90 minutes of behind-the-scenes stories, heartwarming

moments, and extra surprises that will delight everyone, providing the perfect resource for faith leaders seeking to continue

■ See UNBROKEN DVD page 22

Hillsong UNITED announces album

by EMMA KOONSE

Hillsong UNITED announced a brand new album, "EMPIRES," coming to stores this May.

The new album follows Hillsong UNITED's 2013 release "Zion," their fastest-selling album to date. Along with the album announcement, the band also unveiled the artwork for "EMPIRES," including the album cover, from the stratosphere. Clues about the title and artwork for the album were shared on social media over the course of the past week, but thousands of fans were abuzz over a short video released from outer space.

"We thought if there was ever a place to launch our new album, it should be somewhere we've never been before," lead

singer Joel Houston explained. "In this world that desperately strives to reach new heights and searches for new highs, we thought to debut the 'EMPIRES' album cover as far and as high as we could naturally go. Knowing full well that where it will land and ultimately what this project and our lives are about, begins and ends where our knees hit the ground."

Coinciding with the announcement from space to Earth, Houston said that the powerful theme of "EMPIRES" explores two different worlds.

"We wanted to create songs that first seek to listen, then speak the good news of Jesus and His Grace into the dichotomy, tension and hopeful-collision of this broken and fragile world we see here and now, and the unshakeable and mysterious real-



ity of the Kingdom we can't see," the singer continued. "Our desire has been to simply create the most honest project we could."

Hillsong UNITED is best known for their chart-topping songs that include "Hosanna," "Lead Me To the Cross," "The Stand," and "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)." The RIAA Platinum-selling group has also earned five GMA Dove Awards, including the coveted Artist of the Year and Song of the Year Award this year. Furthermore, the band will star in Relativity Films' "Hillsong – Let Hope Rise," expected in theaters everywhere on May 29.

Meanwhile, the band is comprised of 11 members who are each volunteers of employees of Hillsong Church. It is estimated that over 30 million churchgoers around the world sing Hillsong worship songs on any given Sunday.

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There are some exciting events coming to the KC area, and here's your chance to get in on the action!



Unspoken in St. Joseph April 18.

Unspoken at Word of Life in St. Joe

Unspoken and JJ Weeks band will be coming through St. Joseph, Mo. on their Start A Fire Tour, Saturday, April 18, at Word of Life Church. The Word of Life Youth Worship Band will also be performing as the opening act. Presented by Compassion International and Outreach Productions, LLC, a portion of the proceeds will go to the Cold Weather Shelter for homeless men in St. Joe. This will be a great opportunity to worship, enjoy a great show and contribute to a worthy cause. For more information, please visit unspokenmusic.com.



Farm Hands May 8

Also coming, May 8, the Farm Hands Bluegrass Quartet will be presenting a night of ministry in music and community outreach at DeSoto United Methodist Church, with artists Larry Inman and Danney Williams opening. Led by multi-award winning and Grand Ol' Opry veteran musicians (including GRAMMY nominations, and 2014 Album of the Year) Tim Graves, Daryl Mosley, Keith Tew and Bennie Boling, this will be a night any country and Gospel fan won't want to miss. You can check out their music at farmhandsquartet.com! For more information and tickets, please visit DeSotoUMC.org.

If you didn't already know, the KC area abounds with quality music and talented artists. In this column alone, we've had an opportunity to review and interview great local folks who produce in-

KC's Grandeur Band prepares release

spiring work, from traditional Gospel to rock, country to folk music.

Continuing this tradition, contemporary Christian rock band Grandeur has been producing and performing for the last few years, and are in the process of releasing their sophomore album. Based out of Blue Springs (lead singer Chad Toney resides in Liberty), the quartet released their debut in 2013, and have since been performing throughout the Missouri-Kansas area.

They've even had a chance to perform with heavy-hitters (and heavy metal) Project 86.

With a unique fusion of 70s-era hard rock and modern worship and alternative leanings, Grandeur's first release was a collection of edgy calls to serve God and folk-infused worship.

Lyrical, the band pulls from the Word, while also allowing their personal struggles and histories influence the past behind their work. Metro Voice has been invited to look behind the album covers and stage performances to see the men that make up Grandeur.

The 70s sound comparisons aren't accidental, either. Of the four members, only their drummer is under the age of 30, and the other guys have had their hands in the music industry for quite a

few years. Bass player Robbie Cairnes has performed with the likes of Tina Turner and has a history playing with the guys from Kansas "back when they were really popular."

Metro Voice had a chance to visit with the band as they prepare to record their second release. Next month, we'll introduce the men behind the ministry and the music that inspires them. Hopefully, by the time you read this, they will be back on the road performing and promoting their newest release.

For more information, check them out at grandeurband.com.

Big Daddy Weave May 17

Big Daddy Weave will be in Kansas City on their Beautiful Offerings Tour, Sunday May 17.

With special guests Jason Gray, Citizen Way and Lauren Daigle, this will be a night of celebration and worship. Metro Voice recently got the opportunity to talk with Big Daddy's Mike Weaver, about the tour, about worship, and the friends they get to tour with.

"This tour has been awesome; I'm a big fan of all of them," Weaver said of the bands' tour-mates. Through the struggles

Grandeur Band rehearses for upcoming gigs.



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(Or HaOlam is Hebrew for "Light of the World" which is the name the Messiah used to describe Himself and us.)

Or HaOlam is part of a world-wide movement of Messianic congregations of Jews and people from all ethnic groups, who worship Yeshua (Jesus) as the Messiah in the context of Jewish lifestyle and identity. This is in accordance with the ancient promise of the Psalms [547:2-3] that "Adonai is rebuilding Yerushalayim, gathering the dispersed of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Come and join us, and share in God's rich nourishment of His own special "tree of Life." Romans 11:17



The Light of the World



Big Daddy Weave in concert May 17.

of the tour, they all developed a strong friendship and admiration for each other's work.

"[Jason Gray's] songs are amazing and real," he said, pointing out Gray struggles with verbal communication, but when he connects with the listeners at his performances, it is a powerful experience. "When he finished telling his story that first night, I was fighting back tears, y'-know?"

He is equally enamored with the guys from Citizen Way.

"This is the second time they are on tour with us. Great music, by some great guys. We've had a lot of fun with them."

"She is incredible, a world-class voice and a world-class person," speaking of Lauren Daigle, mentioning the moment they met her she was "instantly our little sister."

When asked about the tour and the meaning behind it, Weaver got personal.

"I've really struggled with the issue of self-worth... never felt like I was good

enough. A few years ago, Jesus really confronted me about that. We are created for Him and we can bless His heart by praising him."

"This is a really cool opportunity for all of us to worship God together. You'll hear some radio favorites then join us during the second half of the evening as we all worship together, as beautiful offerings. After the performance, we get to spend some time praying for, and over, people."

This performance will also be a fundraiser for a local KC family hoping to bring their son home, from China. If you've read much from me, you know how important adoption is to me (domestic and international).

This would be an incredible chance to hear some great music, collectively worship our Lord and raise money for a family desperate to bring their son home!

For more information, please visit Facebook and look up "A Mama and Baba for JiaJia."



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■ UNBROKEN DVD

continued from page 20

the conversation and examine the lessons from this film," Faraci continued.

"Unbroken" was adapted from Laura Hillenbrand's best-selling book which chronicles Zamperini's life, including competing in the 1936 Olympics as a long-distance runner and becoming a soldier during World War II. After surviving 47 days lost at sea, as well as two years in a Japanese POW camp, Zamperini ultimately found peace, forgiveness and redemption through God.

"Unbroken" earned over \$15.5 million at the box office as well as a nomination at the Academy Awards, and the film is available in stores on March 24. Available along with the Blu-ray and DVD, the "Unbroken" bonus disc highlights interviews and documentary footage of Zamperini with Billy Graham, who were introduced in 1949 when the war veteran met the then-little-known evangelist in Los Angeles. Before long, Zamperini knew the Holy Spirit was working within him, and the veteran was led to reconcile with his Japanese captors, offering them forgiveness as well as the gospel of Jesus Christ.

■ DAY OF PRAYER

continued from page 1

This recitation will create a huge wave of prayer, flowing from one coast to the other, illustrating the unity of God's people and acknowledging His dominion over the circumstances facing us.

Millions of people will gather to pray at thousands of events facilitated by our volunteer coordinators and people just like you!

We hope you'll join with millions of believers across the nation again as we seek to bring more communities than ever before together in prayer. As a way of assisting you, NDP has assembled a variety of resources that describe how to organize and publicize citywide prayer breakfasts, worship services, and rallies.

These materials also present creative ideas geared toward helping individuals and families to establish

■ sidenote

2015 National Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We come to You in the Name that is above every name—Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Our hearts cry out to You.

Knowing that You are a prayer-answering, faithful God—the One we trust in times like these—we ask that You renew our spirits, revive our churches, and heal our land.

We repent of our sins and ask for Your grace and power to save us.

Hear our cry, oh God, and pour out Your Spirit upon us that we may walk in obedience to Your Word.

We are desperate for Your tender mercies. We are broken and humbled before You.

Forgive us, and in the power of Your great love, lift us up to live in Your righteousness.

We pray for our beloved nation. May we repent and return to You and be a light to the nations. And we pray for our leaders and ask that You give them wisdom and faith to follow You.

Preserve and protect us, for You are our refuge and only hope.

Deliver us from all fears except to fear You, and may we courageously stand in the Truth that sets us free.

We pray with expectant faith and grateful hearts. In Jesus' name, our Savior.

Amen.

■ VOLUNTEER

continued from page 8

strong when people trust and help their neighbors and engage with their government," said Ilir Zherka, executive director of the National Conference on Citizenship.

"Civic engagement is essential to the life our coun-

try. That's why all sectors of society from non-profits, to businesses, to our government must redouble their efforts to promote greater connections among Americans."

The research shows that overall rate of volunteering is slightly lower than the previous year yet remains strong and stable, and that Americans' commitment to volunteering spans across generations.

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DAYCARE. The Sheepfold Daycare provides summer childcare Monday - Friday

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unteers represent over 34.8% of volunteers. This combined with the number of Christian volunteers in the world make Christian Volunteers the largest volunteer community in the world.

Faith based volunteers donated time valued at \$51.8 billion each year in the United States alone, according to the Corporation for National and Community Service. That is almost as much as the US Department of Education Budget and one-sixth of the entire US Federal Government non-military discretionary spending. Based on this, globally the value of volunteer is likely to be at least in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

Here at Heartland Habitat for Humanity we are gearing up for a great year of volunteers.

There have been calls all winter waiting for the weather to break so volunteers could get their spot in the sun at one of our new home construction build sites. We have discovered that there are volunteers from all walks of life who want to help humanity. We are excited to welcome volunteers to support our programs with their time, talent and treasure.

"I am very excited about our upcoming build season. Our new volunteering software, Volunteer-Mark, will make volunteering with Heartland Habitat for Humanity as easy as a few clicks on your mouse. Just follow the "We Need You" link on our home page and experience the mission of Heartland Habitat for Humanity," Joe Carignan, Director of Volunteers.

We look forward to the "Build on Faith" event, scheduled for June 20, 2015. This is a day when we come together as a faith community to serve and support projects around the city. New this year, is

Kansas City's City Wide Prayer organization, made up of hundreds of area pastors, will post information on local and regional events.

Visit www.citywideprayerkc.com.



the Thrivent Build. Thrivent Financial and Heartland Habitat work together to provide volunteers and sponsorship for a new home construction project for a deserving family. We will continue as in years passed with neighborhood cleanup opportunities where we go to a neighborhood and pick up trash and beautify areas around our build sites. We will also have the Women Build the first week of May. We are calling "all women" to help serve and support us in this project.

Maybe you've been waiting for the right time to get involved, or maybe you have been nervous about whether you have the skills needed to work on a home construction project.

I will tell you this, if you have a desire to serve, to give back, to help improve your community and the lives of the families that we serve, grab your tennis shoes and join us. We will provide all the training and tools you need to complete the job. Join us this year as a volunteer.

You will be a part of the large number of individuals and families who are volunteers that serve others because of their faith and their heart to help others.

HOLLOMAN

continued from page 1

chaplain. Except for a three-year absence in the early 1980s when he stepped aside to pastor a church near Kansas City, he served faithfully as the senate's chaplain ever since.

Officially, Hollomon's chaplain duties included only the opening prayer of the senate each day it was in session. While he could leave after that prayer, he saw what he did as a ministry and many days spent time with legislators and senate staff getting to know them and counseling them when needed.

In past years Hollomon held weekly prayer meetings at the senate and performed weddings and funerals for senators. Yet his ministry touched far more than just the senators. For three decades he ministered to senate secretaries, doormen, lobbyists and security personnel, among others.

Various state senates around the nation do chaplaincy differently. Some have a dif-



Fred Hollomon reads a prayer at the podium of the Kansas State Senate. Hollomon recently retired after serving as the senate chaplain for 31 years.

ferent chaplain come in each session to deliver the opening prayer.

"I don't like that near as well," Hollomon said. "You don't get acquainted that way. I

think it's a mistake to have different guys pop in all the time. I think if you get someone who enjoys it and does a fairly good job of it, you should keep him or her."

RANDLE

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In my own life, I've blown it many times, but I want to be a woman after God's own heart. And there's security in knowing that God loves us unconditionally. My hope is to see women come together as one to find purpose and passion for living a vibrant Christian life."

This year, the conference falls on Mother's Day Weekend. Randle says it's an opportunity for ladies from all over the region and nation, from all walks of life and ethnic backgrounds, to join together in worship and common purpose.

"This event is designed to give women a chance to be spiritually revived—to recharge their batteries. Women generally wear lots of hats in their daily life and tend to take care of themselves last of all, but not on this weekend, we want you to come and be served," Randle stated.

This energizing weekend is for moms

"God's desire for the heart of His children is for us to be focused toward him."

and daughters, wives and girlfriends to come worship, to laugh, to cry, and to learn what it really means to be a woman after God's own heart she said.

Randle is a Dove Award winning musician whose soulful music and testimony promises to shower attendees with encouragement and hope throughout the weekend. Randle was born in the inner city of Washington, D.C. as the middle child of seven. She has shared that while she is

blessed to have had the privilege of being raised in a Christian home, that she still experienced a tumultuous and painful childhood. Although her parents, Nathel and Maxine Tait, taught her and her siblings the love of Christ very early on, and despite being led to

the Lord at the young age of 12, it would be years later before she really experienced the freedom from bondage that only God could give. Music became a way out of pain and heartache for Randle and as a result of this God-given gift, many doors of opportunity have opened up for her.

One of those opportunities was to serve



other women through this conference and she's brought several other well-known sisters in Christ along for the journey.

Joining Randle will be legendary gospel singer Delores 'Mom' Winans, known also as the Matriarch of the first family of gospel music. She is a Grammy nominated singer and is recognized for her wit and wisdom. As a mother of ten and grandmother of 24, she inspires women across the nation who hear her testimony.

Get ready to move in your seat or on your feet because taking the stage on Saturday is Babbie Mason, daughter of a Baptist preacher and an award-winning singer, songwriter, teacher and TV talk show host.

Yet it's the creative prayers Hollomon became known for around the state. Newspapers began quoting him and interviewing him about the prayers soon after he began using them during the 1979 legislative session. He became a regular column for the Metro Voice's Topeka edition with guest columns in the Kansas City Metro Voice.

"Reporters started interviewing me soon after I started doing it," Hollomon said. "They did it for two reasons. First, I was doing it differently than anyone else they'd ever heard pray, and second, I prayed rhymes. I reminded them that David prayed in rhyme, too."

Since his prayers were printed in the senate journal, he wrote them out every day -- a practice he had not done before becoming a chaplain. In 2005, he published a collection of the prayers in a book titled "Uncommon Prayers."

One of the most famous of the prayers got national radio exposure during his first month in the senate. A reporter heard the

prayer and asked if he could get a copy of it. Hollomon thought little of the prayer until a neighbor heard it on the radio. The prayer was read on the Paul Harvey Show.

Hollomon's humor was part of all aspects of his ministry. A few years ago, the Nebraska state legislature made news because some were questioning the constitutionality of paying chaplains.

He said, "Before I prayed one day, I said, 'I understand our sister state to the north is having trouble paying a chaplain...I just held up an offering plate. Of course, I got a pretty good response.'"

Despite the objections of many throughout the years, Hollomon remained committed to ending his prayers by invoking the name of Jesus. A quick Internet search of Hollomon's name turns up a variety of mentions of this practice by groups urging a more strict separation of church and state.

"I never quit doing that even though I got a lot of criticism about it," Hollomon said. "I did it as a witness."

—from the N. American Mission Board.



Her contributions to Gospel music earned her a place in The Christian Music Hall of Fame.

Motivational speaker Anne Beiler founder of Auntie Anne's Pretzels (located in 23 countries) delivers her testimony of trials and triumphs. Hear her story "Twist of Faith" as she shares the joys, heartaches, successes and failures in her life.

Finally, Randle encourages women to get their tissues ready because, she says, you will laugh so hard you may cry at the hilarious comedy of Miss Puddin'. Her down-to-earth humor and southern style will keep you smiling.

There will also be an opportunity for participants to share what's on their hearts.

"We're doing eight pop-up testimonies," Randle said. "Eight women will get to share five minute testimonies."

Randle added that it's one thing when women get to hear other people speak, but it's a whole different experience when the woman sitting next to them expresses her testimony.

Contrary to popular belief, the conference is not related to Elizabeth George's book A Woman after God's Own.

"This conference was something that God just dropped into my spirit and it was about six or seven months later that someone brought the book to my attention," Randle said.

Randle noted that she hasn't read the book yet, in order to make sure that ideas and activities for the conference stay origi-

nal. She said she would be very interested in teaming up with George for a collaborative event in the future.

A Woman after God's Own Heart conference will be held on Mother's Day weekend: Friday, May 8, 6pm and Saturday, May 9 from 9am to 3pm. The conference will be held at College Church of the Nazarene in Olathe.

i moreinformation

Tickets are \$50 and are available at LyndaRandle.com. For group ticket rates, call 816-792-5353. Scholarships are also available

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