



Concerts & Events | PAGE 21



March of Remembrance for Holocaust planned for May



Local information lunch
and meeting scheduled
for November

by **Dwight Widaman**

Kansas City has become the 58th American City to join a worldwide Holocaust Commemoration planned for May 2016. An additional 50 cities around the world are also organizing similar commemorations.

The effort is being spearheaded by Christian congregations, with some efforts by Messianic Jewish congregations. In Kansas City, Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation is taking the lead and has begun making preparations. A ministry luncheon and information meeting will be held Nov. 13 and 14. Details will soon be announced about the Friday lunch.

In addition, on Nov. 14 the congregation will host Ted Pearce, a world-renowned Messianic musician who has been a key player in bringing the commemoration idea to America. Pearce will speak on the concept of the march

■ See REMEMBRANCE page 30

FAMILIES HEAR THE CALL TO ADOPTION, FOSTER CARE

Connecting kids to their forever families

by **Anita Widaman**

Each year Metro Voice celebrates National Adoption Month by publishing two special Adoption and Foster Care Guides. God's Word says in James

1, "Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress..." Both Missouri and Kansas have thousands of children in foster care waiting for a "forever" family to

open their arms. Starting this month, we introduce you to a few of them. You'll also read the stories of both the families and the kids they welcomed into their loving homes.

The guide begins on page 6.

Special
Adoption
Section
PAGE 6

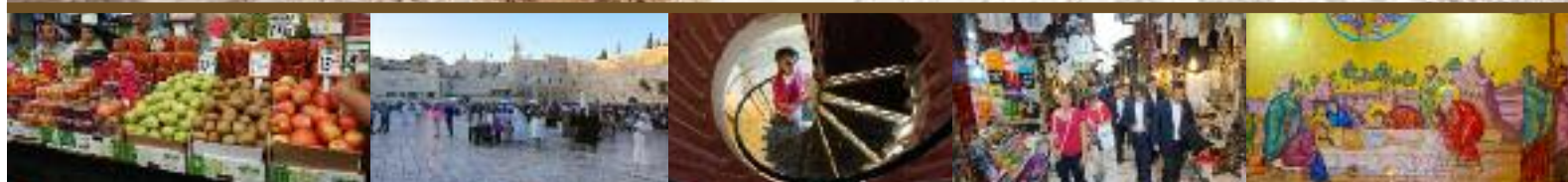


Our family's journey to "The Land of Milk and Honey"

ISRAEL



Photos and story by Dwight and Anita Widaman



8-PAGE SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION INSIDE!



The doors reopened at the Bridgeport Community Church for the first time in more than four months.

Sunday services resume at midtown KC church damaged in summer rain

Members of a Midtown Kansas City church returned late last month, worshipping at their building for the first time since heavy spring rains caused the roof to collapse.

The doors reopened at the Bridgeport Community Church for the first time in more than four months.

In May, hundreds of gallons of water came rushing through a hole in the roof after days of heavy rain.

"The roof that we lost, you can see the new wood here. This is what we lost," said Christie Jessee, of Bridgeport Community Church.

The hole is now patched, but the historic building still bears scars.

This is what water damaged looks like on a hardwood floor," Jessee said.

The floor has seen plenty of history. It once held dancers at Kansas City's first non-segregated dance hall when the building housed the El Torreon Ballroom.

Such greats as Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong performed there during their heydays.

"The love and the connection and the passion that we have for God sort of stays strong."

—Christie Jessee

The music is different now, but people at the church hope to return the building at 31st Street and Gillham Road to its former glory.

Members kept the spirit alive during the church's four-month hiatus.

"While we lost our Sunday morning service, the love and the connection and the passion that we all have for God sort of stays strong," Jessee said.

The restoration for the historic building was already a big undertaking. Now, there's just a lot more work to do.

Church members said they can deal with some of the mess if it means getting their Sunday morning home back.

—KMBC News

Church honors descendants during 150th birthday celebration

Monticello United Methodist Church in Shawnee, Kan., recently celebrated 150 years with many descendants of the church's founders attending.

The celebration took place in both the present-day church and the adjacent 19th Century Chapel, 23860 W. 75th Street in Shawnee. Current and former members, as well as friends and members of the community toured the chapel.

Festivities included a quilt auction plus several other special activities and a worship service. Monticello Methodist Church was organized in 1865 at the close of the

Civil War soon after the time "Wild Bill" Hickok served as one of the township's constables. The settlers established the Monticello Methodist Episcopal Church and school at 71st and Gleason Road in a building called the Old Virginia Schoolhouse.

The charter members were Fannie Olson Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Fred L.S. Kueker, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mize, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Dubois, Mr. and Mrs. N.W. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Hagler, and Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Mize. They were under the pastoral care of Rev. A. R. Houts. During



Descendents of the church's founding members pose for a photo.

the next 14 years the church shifted from one place to another for worship services.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD KICKS OFF

Anticipation builds in the room. Hundreds of children sit on plastic chairs, all clutching colorfully wrapped shoeboxes. A moment later the room erupts in a flurry of activity. Smiles and squeals of joy abound as the children discover their treasures. Teddy bears, toothbrushes, school supplies, a toolkit or sewing kit. These gifts are given by people just like you who took the time to pack a shoebox through Operation Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritans Purse, has delivered gift filled shoeboxes to over 124 million children in over 150 countries and territories since 1993. For many of these children it is the first gift they have ever received. These shoeboxes, filled with simple gifts, are only the beginning of sharing the love of Jesus with children. A 12-week discipleship program, The Greatest Journey, follows which is taught by trained local instructors in their own language.

What can you do to help bring hope and joy to children who need to be loved and encouraged?

Find an average size shoebox and select a special "wow" item such as a doll, soccer ball or stuffed animal. Fill the rest of the box in with other gifts such as a toothbrush, toothpaste, bar soap, washcloths, school supplies or other fun toys. Begin to pray for the child that will receive your shoebox. God already knows who that child will be! Go online to samaritan



A dad brings his kids to drop off numerous boxes packed with love.

tanspurse.org/occ to pay the \$7 donation which covers the cost of shipping the box overseas.

Finally, drop of your shoebox during our national collection week, November 16-23 at one of our Kansas City area collection locations.

If you are unable to get out and pack your own box but would like to be a part of Operation Christmas Child, you can build a box online and give hope to a child in need. Visit samaritanpurse.org/occ. There you will also be able to find information about The Greatest Journey, a twelve week discipleship program.

Be part of global change this Christmas. Pack a shoebox.

"If you are unable to get out and pack your own box but would like to be a part of Operation Christmas Child you can build a box online and give hope to a child in need."



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SAT-7 GUIDING ARABS TOWARD GOD

by Michael Ireland

Exciting things are happening and millions are hearing the Gospel across the Middle East and North Africa, thanks to a radio and internet ministry called Sat-7. A worldwide Day of Prayer is planned for Nov. 1, when believers around the world are being asked to lift up the ministry and the many hearts that are being turned toward the Gospel in the Middle East and Africa. God can use you and your church, through prayer, to help transform the Middle East and North Africa through hope in Christ. This year, we will lift up refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as their host countries.

Youth across the Middle East are hearing what God has to say about their toughest struggles, writes Melissa Fleck, a communications and program specialist with SAT-7.

In an online article, Fleck says: "They are tuning in to hear their peers hold biblical discussions on teen-related issues they face in a new program called 'We Grew Together' (in Arabic, Kbirna Sawa.)."

According to Fleck, after the popular live

youth program 'From Me to You' concluded its broadcasts, dedicated viewers anxiously awaited the rollout of 'We Grew Together' in mid-March with the same presenters -- members of a renowned praise band called 'Strongholds' who sing hymns and contemporary worship songs on the show.

Fleck reports that Lebanese presenters Jamie, Joyce and Rawad, with Syrian presenters Nour and Tamar, continue to be a Christian witness as they "grow up" alongside their viewing audience. Programming Manager George Makeen says: "They have this special bond with viewers. Every time they are on air, people call to discuss topics, pray together and sing together."

Fleck says that even on the show's Facebook page www.facebook.com/KbirnaSawa, viewers are posting thoughtful responses to sensitive questions. One of the first episodes tackled the difficult topic of how the Bible addresses premarital sex. A related post asked, "How do you think someone can take care of themselves and wait until marriage?"

Lubna writes: "As a person draws near to God, she grows more in her spiritual life

and can control herself more in earthly matters."

Raef writes: "Spiritual satisfaction from the presence of the God in our lives. If the Holy Spirit lives in me, I can overcome lousy desires from approaching."

Fleck stated that upcoming episodes will debate controversial issues, interview Christians recognized for noteworthy achievements in society, and examine the media marketing methodology called subliminal messaging, among other topics.

"Thanks to your support," says Fleck, "this program is applying God's Word to the heart-issues faced by today's youth one issue and one person at a time."

In the years since its launch, SAT-7 has grown from a two-hour a week broadcast, to a network of five 24-hour channels: SAT-7 ARABIC (Arabic Christian programming for every age group), SAT-7



Right, a Sat-7 TV Bible host, answers live call-in questions. Above, children learn about Bible figures.



KIDS (the first and currently the only Arabic Christian channel for children), SAT-7 PLUS (The best Arabic programming from the other channels, broadcast to a different audience, over a different satellite), SAT-7 PARS (a 24 hour channel in Farsi/Persian, with some programming in Dari for Afghanistan) and SAT-7 TÜRK (Christian

programming for 100 million Turkish-speakers in the region).

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FALL FESTIVITIES

YMCA TROUT LODGE

Fall is perfect for families & groups to spend time together. Stay with us for a themed weekend or during the week (minus the theme but with all of our year-round activities).

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE: Oct. 2-4; 9-11
GREAT PUMPKIN JAMBOREE: Oct. 16-18; 23-25
HALLOWEEN: Oct. 30-Nov. 1
PLUNDERING PIRATES: Nov. 6-8
WACKY SCIENCE: Nov. 13-15; 20-22
AN OLD-FASHIONED THANKSGIVING & PIONEER CHRISTMAS VILLAGE: Nov. 23 - 29

Archery, Riflery
Climbing Tower, Zip Line
Trail Ride, Pony Ride
Hayride, Barn Dance
Nature Center, Paintball
Tie Dye, Ceramics, Jewelry
Alpine Tower and Swing
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Volleyball, Mini-Golf
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Tennis, Scavenger Hunt
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ADULT PROGRAMS

YMCA TROUT LODGE

Adults love Trout Lodge for our wide array of educational and recreational programs. Visit us online for details. Here are a few of the programs that are coming up in the next few months:

Looking on the Bright Side: Oct. 11-16, Oct. 25-30, Nov. 8-13: Find humor in everyday life as you explore Ozark humor and heritage. Celebrate life through the healing power of laughter.

Missouri Cave Scuba Diving: Oct. 12-16, Nov. 2-6: Scuba dive in the underground lake of Boone's Cave.

Women's Outdoor Wellness: Oct. 16-18: Weekend of inspiring educational & recreational classes in the great outdoors.

Your Life is a Canvas: Oct. 19-23, Nov. 2-6: Get in touch with your inner artist during this week of fine arts exploration.

Scrapbooking Weekend: Nov. 20-22: Join other scrapbooking enthusiasts for a weekend of creativity as you finish a project or start a new one. Perfect for holiday gifts.

Rates include lodging, meals and scheduled activities.

Visit us at www.ymcaoftheozarks.org and click on Play/Events Calendar for detailed information. Secure your spot - reservations fill quickly!

888-FUN-YMCA ymcaoftheozarks.org

newsbriefs

Office Depot offers muddy apology

(WNS)—Office Depot has apologized to a Chicago woman who claims the company refused to print a flier for her last month due to its religious content. But the apology did not rule out the potential for future discrimination. Maria Goldstein, 42, created a flier for her Catholic parish's participation in the national prayer campaign coordinated by Priests for Life. The weeklong event called for prayer and fasting on behalf of the unborn and for the "conversion" and "enlightenment" of those who work at Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider.



Navy stands behind chaplain who shared Christian beliefs

(WNS)—The Navy has exonerated a highly decorated and respected chaplain, denying a



Chaplain Wesley Modder prays with service personnel.

formal request by his commanding officer to dismiss him from the military based on statements he made to sailors during private counseling sessions. Chaplain Wesley Modder's former commander, Capt. John Fahs, commanding officer of the Navy Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC) in Goose Creek, S.C., had sought to remove Modder because he expressed his Christian beliefs on issues of sexuality, marriage, and homosexuality during counseling sessions with sailors. But after reviewing the evidence, the Navy disapproved Fahs' request. The decision also overrules a March 16 letter by Fahs in which he denied Modder's formal request for religious accommodation under Navy regulations.

3-DAY CONVENTION With SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER Evangelist Pat Schatzline

Award-winning author and evangelist Pat Schatzline is one of



God's leading communicators, soul winners and anointed ministers.

Pat and his wife Karen co-founded Remnant Ministries International in 1997. Pat has traveled the globe, ministered all over America, Canada, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, Venezuela and they are seeing thousands saved!

Pat has been featured on Christian television ministries such as TBN, Daystar, Sid Roth, JCTV, and JuceTV.

Pat has authored three books including I Am Remnant, and Unqualified.

God has given Pat great revelation on what God calls the Remnant Church.

Pat and his wife Karen have two children and live in Alabama. Pat's books, C.D.s and DVDs will be available at the convention.

The Powerful Services will be held:

Friday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 31 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 1 at 11 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.

All services will be held at:

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Re-engaging Caring Communities around schools

Do you remember the neighborhood school? I do. It was a place where students, parents and administrators knew they were part of a larger caring community. The school down the block was "our school" filled with "our kids", whether we had kids in the school or not. As a child, I knew that the adults in my community were paying attention and cared about the kids in our neighborhood. I also knew if I stepped out of line, someone would care. Over the last couple of decades there has been a disconnect between the schools and the community that surrounds them.

The Caring for Kids Network launched in August 2013 to serve under-resourced schools and the community that surrounds them. We re-engage churches and businesses around neighborhood schools to help kids be whole, healthy and successful in life.

Churches are filled with great volunteers who can make a big difference by becoming a mentor. Here are some statistics about the impact on students who have a consistent mentor in their life:

- 52% are less likely to skip school
- 27% are less likely to use alcohol
- 46% are less likely to begin using drugs

Here is what we discovered. Kansas City is a very caring community of churches, businesses and civic groups that truly want to help schools in need, but they do not know where to start. As we talked to school districts, we learned that principals and teachers really want help from the community but do not have the time to initiate, build and manage effective community



partnerships. Something was missing — a neutral convener that could facilitate connecting great community partners with their neighborhood school. Caring for Kids stepped into this gap with a simple five-step connection process. Our entire process is designed to answer one question, "How can we help you be successful in preparing children for life?"

Our goal is not to create a new program. Great programs already exist. Our goal is to connect and build a thriving, collaborative, caring community around every under-resourced school. We currently serve in six school districts: KCMO, KCK, Olathe, Shawnee Mission, Hickman Mills, and Raytown. Today there are 110 schools; 104 churches and 56 businesses in the Caring for Kids Network.

"Raising the next generation is a shared responsibility. When families, communities and schools work together, students are

■ See CARING page 5

■ sidenote TESTIMONIAL

"The Caring for Kids partnership has opened up our relationship with our community.



MARKLEY

The message has been, 'Come in and help students grow,' and our community has accepted the invitation. Churches, businesses, small

groups, and individuals are literally flooding our school system. I cannot wait to see the outcomes." Dr. Allan Markley, Superintendent, Raytown Quality Schools

Church gets into for-profit with parking lot

A downtown Kansas City parking lot has a new owner, a church. Resurrection Downtown, a church plant of Leawood's Church of the Resurrection, has agreed to purchase the two-acre pay-to-park lot which is used by employees of The Kansas City Star. The lot is located at 1522 McGee St.

When the sale is completed in early 2016 Star employees will continue to use the lot.

Pastor Scott Chrostek says the church is making plans to build on the site in the future and will continue to maintain the parking lot.



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CARING

continued from page 4

more successful and the entire community benefits.” (U.S. Department of Education) This story is really about the heart of Kansas City wanting to make a difference for kids, families and educators. It is the story of communities that link arms with each other to restore hope in a child's life for the future. Below is just one of those stories.

Through the Caring for Kids process Vida Abundante Church and the Oasis KC Church were connected with Frances Willard Elementary School in Kansas City, Kansas. The collaborative partnership with the school is growing, trust is building, and students are greatly impacted by these volunteers. These churches worked together to provide a one-week summer reading program for the students and neighborhood. Under Construction was the theme which received students from seven different KCK elementary schools. Many books were donated for the kids from other organizations so every child was able to choose books to keep and take home. Summer reading

■ sidenote

TESTIMONIALS



HILL

It has been amazing to watch Caring for Kids bring collaborations between the churches and the business community to the KCK School District. The

Roundtable Luncheons are incredibly successful in bringing folks to the table that want to make a difference in the lives of our students. These new partnerships are a wonderful example of the “village” at work to raise our kids. Caring for Kids has helped me also; because of the great work they have done, I felt compelled to mentor a student and that relationship has become one of the most fulfilling parts of my life.” Dr. Evelyn Hill, President of the KCK School Board of Education

helps students avoid the “summer slump.” It was fun for all, and ended with a neighborhood party for kids and their families.

Check out our website at www.caringforkidskc.org to learn more. We would love to connect you or your whole organization to a school that needs your help. Just contact us at info@caringforkidskc.org. How can we help you?

—Nancy Mitchell, Executive Director, Caring for Kids

i moreinformation

Checkout
www.caringforkidskc.org
or email
info@caringforkidskc.org

MO Legislature duels with Governor Nixon over free college for illegal aliens

Governor Jay Nixon's effort to provide free college education to illegal aliens has been stopped but it hasn't stopped the arguing.

The state legislature overrode Nixon's veto of a bill that would bar students without a certain federal immigration status from qualifying for an A+ scholarship. A+ allows eligible Missouri high school students who are U.S. citizens to earn two years of free tuition at a qualifying community college, using taxpayer funds.

Senator Jamilah Nasheed (D-St. Louis) argued with the bill's sponsor, Senator Gary Romine (R-Farmington), that the program needs more funding for all students, rather than to free up money by removing some students' eligibility.

But, according to some in the House, Nixon was putting the educational needs



Senators Romine and Nasheed.

of individuals here illegally ahead of legal citizens.

“I've been working on this for over ten years. We had a comprehensive illegal immigration bill to deal with some of these issues. The bill finally failed, but the federal government failed,” said Romine.

Republicans say the dollars that sup-

port the scholarships are already stretched thin, and say opening it up to a new population of non-U.S. citizens would further reduce how much each student could receive.

Nixon vetoed the bill passed by the Legislature during the regular session that ended in May.

Nixon said it's unfair to those students who have worked hard for the scholarships and the state shouldn't base funding Missouri students on the status of their citizenship.

“I think it's a mistake in policy to say to a student that while you're in high school if you do all these hard things we're gonna give you a scholarship and come back later on and take it away from them,” Nixon said.

“It's just a matter of fairness.”



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Helping Moms cultivate God-crazy tween girls

While push-up bras, sexy dolls, and hip hop dance lessons seem to be the normal currency for ten-year-old girls, best-selling author Dannah Gresh continues to sound an alarm for moms to avoid such sexualization. Gresh's fun, age-appropriate Secret Keeper Girl mom/daughter connecting resources moved to the stage several years ago with over 150,000 around the country attending. An all-new event, the Secret Keeper Girl Crazy Hair Tour, refuels moms with conviction to train their daughters to embrace modesty, purity & true beauty.

The Crazy Hair Tour—Secret Keeper Girl's fourth themed tour—is a Bible-based relationship-building experience for moms and their tween daughters



Dannah Gresh's Secret Keeper Girl - Crazy Hair Tour.

■ See CRAZY HAIR page 30

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IT WAS A CRYSTAL CLEAR DECISION

How God led us to enlarge our family

by **Kelly Rosati**

My husband, John, and I always believed that if we weren't getting pregnant, there was a reason. And to us, adoption seemed like the obvious reason. We figured that God had a different plan for us down the road, and we were OK with that. We had full lives and ministries, were active with our church and were all around really happy, content folks.

John and I became involved in the pro-life movement early in our marriage. And my interest in pro-life issues had begun to seriously grow ever since my second and third years of law school. Stemming from my pro-life passion was an eagerness to advance the cause of adoption.

I learned about a Christian woman named DeeannaMarie Wallace. She had been involved in adoption for decades, both personally and as a calling to help other kids and families. She and her husband, Randy, had nine kids, seven of whom were adopted. She had mentored and supported countless Christian families throughout the adoption process, and her name kept coming up whenever I spoke with anyone about adoption.

Deeanna was developing a reputation as the Christian go-to lady on adoption. I needed to connect with her. Through a series of phone calls and various connections, Deeanna invited John and me to their home for dinner.

Unknown to us, that night would



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CHILDREN IN NEED

John and I held hands and said grace around the dinner table in Deeanna and Randy's modest home. Joining us were their five girls, who ranged in age from 5 to 15 and represented every size, shape, color, ethnicity and background. Several of the girls were already adopted; others were in the Wallace home through foster care.

"There are orphans right here in Hawaii who need adoptive families," Deeanna told us passionately. "They're trapped in foster care, and the church really needs to get involved."

We looked at their girls. Here they were, former legal orphans in our own state, our own community, our own neighborhood.

Throughout the course of the night, we

"There was no way we could see what we were seeing – precious faces, voices, and lives of real kids in desperate need – and go back to our comfortable life unchanged."

learned that these girls had experienced abuse, neglect and abandonment. Unspeakable, harrowing things were done to them by their birth parents, whose job it was to take care of and protect them. We also learned that if a child is in foster care long enough, eventually the birth parents' rights will be terminated, and the child will become a "legal orphan." And then that child will sit and wait. And wait. And wait. And wait.

These kids wake up each day wonder-

ing if they'll have to pack up again and move to another foster home – for any or no reason.

And there they'll sit, and if a loving adoptive family doesn't come into their lives, they'll turn 18 and "age out" or exit the foster-care system. Those who do will likely become adults who belong nowhere and to no one.

Deeanna told us, "Every year in the United States, more than 20,000 youth age out of the system. And not surprisingly, the statistics show that many of them end up in prison or at homeless shelters and receive government aid, and they sometimes have kids who also end up in foster care."

John and I were stunned. There were children needing families in our own backyard? Could this be true? We were two reasonably smart people who'd been completely ignorant about a really big problem. Near the end of the evening, Deeanna showed us a picture of some friends of hers – a military family who had six children, all through the blessing of adoption. Deeanna said we reminded her of them.

Honestly, I thought she must be nuts to think that.

My head was spinning. John and I were Christ followers. We knew that God's Word spoke frequently about God's heart for orphans and the Christian's duty to care for them. We had talked about adoption before, and we were always open to it, but we'd never pursued it seriously. We thought maybe it would happen after we

■ See CRYSTAL CLEAR page 11

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The Lord has chosen us

by **Traci Loux**

The Lord has given us a heart for adoption. Early in our marriage, John and I would talk about adoption, but it wasn't until 2005 that we really felt the Lord saying that the time was near.

We moved to Kansas City in June 2006, and God began stirring our hearts more in this area. We began to get a deeper revelation of His heart for us in Ephesians 1:4-6, and began to understand that through "the spirit of adoption" the Father has called us His sons and His daughters.

In November 2006 we decided to move forward with domestic adoption. We started our home study in December and were home study ready by the end of Jan 2007. In just a few short weeks we got a call that a birth mom had chosen our family to adopt her baby girl that was due in April.

Elia Jane arrived early, on March 7, 2007 and our lives have been forever changed. As we welcomed her into our family, each of us was dramatically impacted by the love that the Father has for

us and Ephesians 1:4-6 became a reality in our hearts.

In January of 2008 I began to work as an adoption consultant helping guide, educate, and lead others through their own adoption journey. In August of 2008, God put his finger on a little boy named Aiden who would turn 3 on March 1, 2009. Aiden was an orphan in Eastern Europe at the time. We completed our home study



for Aiden's adoption on October 21st, went through the approval process, and returned home with him on March 24, 2009. The Lord surprised us by asking us to consider

bringing home a second child from Ukraine, and in Jan of 2009 just two weeks before our flight to get Aiden, we decided that if there was a little girl needing a family we would also bring her home. The Lord clearly marked Emma for our family. And we returned home to the US with her along with Aiden on March 24, 2009.

In October of 2010, we welcomed another child into our family through domestic adoption. Matthias has Down syndrome and has faced numerous medical complications. Mattie spent the first

The Loux Family



year of life in the hospital and had multiple surgeries during that time, including a tracheotomy and 2 open-heart surgeries.

We are delighted that the Lord has chosen us to be Mattie's parents and are so thankful for the miracle of his life!

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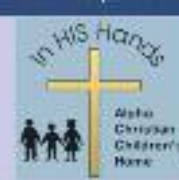


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The Missouri Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission and *The Pathway*, the official newspaper of the Convention, are proud to work side-by-side other Missourians in the effort to promote adoption and foster parenting.

Adopting me: An adopted child shares his perspective

by **Jamey Robert Stegmaier**

The day was no different than any other. It was the fall semester of my sophomore year in college; the changing colors of the leaves against the backdrop of

weathered stone buildings made the walk to my dorm seem like a stroll through a promotional brochure for the university. I scanned my ID card to enter my residence hall, unlocked my room, and closed the door behind me.



STEGMAIER

Then I opened the letters from my birth mother for the first time.

I had requested that my parents send me the letters a few weeks before to that day. I had received them over the years—eight in total—forwarded from the priest who had arranged my adoption twenty years in the past.

Whenever I received a letter in the mail, I asked my parents to put it with the others.

“You can read the letters at any time,” my mother assured me. “Whenever you’re ready.”

It wasn’t really a matter of being ready or not; I just wasn’t all that curious. I was adopted when I was three days old, so my adoptive parents had always been my parents. My friends ask when I first found out that I was adopted, and I don’t have a good answer for them.

I’ve always known. My parents didn’t hide it from me. So there was no aura of mystery, no great secret about the contents of those letters. They were available, and I was in no rush to read them.

I should mention that I harbored no resentment against my birth mother. Although my parents didn’t know much,

they knew that she had been a young, single mother, and she wanted to give me a better life than the one she was able to give me at the time.

As a child, that made sense to me, and I was grateful to have both a mother and a father to raise me.

Perhaps you’ve heard someone say on television or in the movies or even in person, “You’re not my real mom/dad!” I’ve heard that line a number of times, but it’s never occurred to me to say it. What does that mean, “real” mom or “real” dad? My real mom is the woman who taught me how to read, who held her cool palm to my forehead when I got a migraine, who cried a little when I went abroad for the summer.

My real father is the man who rigged my Power Wheel tricycle for extra traction, who showed me how to find the best kindling for campfires, who complimented my posture after I received an award in high school. My parents are the people who nurtured me from the beginning.

In the back of my mind, one of the reasons I didn’t open those letters for so many years is that I was protective of my parents. I didn’t want them to feel like I was going to replace them. That one day I’d be done with them and return to my birthmother. Children are surprisingly

i moreinformation

Next month we’ll share the adoption from Jamey’s birth-mom’s perspective.

conscious of their parents’ feelings; although I picked my fair share of fights with them over the years, my adoption was off limits. My parents gave me my life, the greatest gift possible.

But during my sophomore year, I became increasingly aware that there was another person out there who had given me life. I started to have questions: What if there was a disease that ran in my family that I needed to know about? What if my birth mother had passed away or was going to pass away before I even opened the letters? What if my birth mother or biological father were famous? What if I had other siblings out there? What if they attended the same college I did? What if I had met my biological brother or sister?

What if I accidentally dated my biological sister?

Enough was enough. I requested the letters from my parents. Including my mother and father in the process, I knew, would be important. I didn’t want them to feel out of the loop, especially since they were already sensitive to the distance be-

■ See JAMEY page 11

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TIPS ON CHRISTIAN FOSTER PARENTING

by **Kathryn Rateliff Barr**

From their earliest days, God's people have answered the call to care for children who need a home. Deuteronomy 14:29, Psalms 10:18 and James 1:26-27 addresses how believers should extend care and support to orphans.

The Wesley brothers, who founded the Methodist church, set up orphanages to care for children who had no family to care for them. Today, many Christians feel a call to provide foster care for children in need.

TRAINING

If you have the resources and the compassion for parenting foster children, you can contact a Christian foster program such as The Methodist Home, Bethany Christian Service or FaithBridge Foster Care. Get the training you need to reach out to children who need foster placement, but love isn't all you need. Fostering can be rocky, and without training and support, you can create additional problems for foster kids if you aren't prepared for the problems that often come when a

child is removed from parents because of abuse, neglect or incarceration. Learn how to reach out to these kids and build a bridge of love and trust a foster child can hold on to, according to Adoption.com.

LIVE FAITH

The homes that foster kids come from can be horrifically damaging, providing negative parenting models, according to the book, "The Compassion Revolution," written by Dave Donaldson, cofounder of the charity Convoy of Hope. The book

■ See TIPS page 9

Here are my top five reasons for adopting a child



CARRIE CRAFT

Adoption/Foster Care Expert

viewpoint

Looking back on conversations with other adoptive parents and my own experiences with adoption and foster parenting, I feel that there are truly five solid reasons to want to adopt a child.

While everyone may have their own motivation to explore adoption, the core of the desire for a family to adopt and what propels that family forward to completing an adoption, should be based on something deeper.

1 The desire to give a child a family. The prospective adoptive family wants to provide a child with a loving home and family. This includes everything that makes a home a

loving place to be and a family that is an accepting group.

This desire includes the exchange of family traditions, the sharing of faith, and of memory making moments. It also means accepting the child for who they are - even their faults. Understanding that the child has a history and heritage that also needs to be respected and embraced.

2 The desire to help a child move on in life.

The adoptive parents have an interest in helping a child heal from past grief and pain, whether this comes from abuse, neglect, being abandoned, or orphaned. The adoptive family wants to help the child start a new life and knows that there will be ups and downs with adoptive parenting and is prepared for these challenges.

3 The ability to provide for another child in all ways. The prospective adoptive parent wants to share their home with a child and have the physical space for another child. They also have the time and the emotional space in their heart for a new family member. The adoptive family is also financially secure enough to adopt comfortably.

4 The entire adoptive family agrees to the adoption. Everyone in the family agrees that adding to the home through adoption is the right thing to do. All children in the home are also excited about adopting. Going through with an adoption when children in the home are not on board with the plan is not a good idea.

5 The adoptive family knows a child in need of a family. The prospective adoptive family is aware of a child who needs an adoptive home. The child may be a family friend, a relative, or a child they met at church or within the neighborhood.

Help us celebrate National Adoption Month!

by **Anita Widaman**

I attended a pro-life banquet recently and the speaker said, "Everyone can do something." It is so true. You do not have to solve the problem, but each of us can contribute to the solution. Orphan Sunday and the National Adoption Day are two days when individuals, families, communities, and churches can in a small way contribute to the solution of children not having a family

and the aid organizations that assist kids. The websites listed below have many ideas for you to review or check with your denomination website for additional ideas!

Orphan Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015

www.orphansunday.org

National Adoption Day, Nov. 21, 2015

www.nationaladoptionday.org



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MBCH Children and Family Ministries and its affiliate The LIGHT House offer a variety of Christian foster care and adoption services.




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For information call 800.264.6224 or visit us at www.mbdicfm.org



THESE KIDS NEED A FOREVER FAMILY

Over a thousand foster children in Missouri are waiting for a forever family. Just a few of the children available are listed below.

Their care is managed by MBCH Children and Family Ministries. For more information about the children listed as available on this website, please contact our INTAKE office at (800) 264-6224. If you would like to see photos and profiles of other waiting children, please call us or visit us online at MBCH.org.

PAUL
AGE: 15
GENDER: MALE
SIBLING GROUP: NO

Paul is an amazing 15-year-old boy who is a joy to be around. He's outgoing, friendly and absolutely loves anything to do with art. He's active and enjoys camping, riding bikes, attending church, and playing video games.

Paul's forever family will need to be able to provide him with a good structure and routine.

Paul will do best in a two-parent household that will look for ways to challenge him to meet his potential and be willing to parent a gifted child.

For more information contact INTAKE at (800) 264-6224.



ALBANI
AGE: 7
GENDER: FEMALE
SIBLING GROUP: NO

Albani is a vibrant, intelligent, and energetic seven year old. She may be small, but



is mighty in personality. She loves to dance, spend time outside, play kick-ball and swim. Albani is enjoying kindergarten.

Albani is very strong willed and knows what she wants. With her sweet smile and sparkling eyes, she can be very persuasive! She enjoys interacting with other children her age and she loves attention from those who are older.

Albani will add much joy to the lives of her forever family.

NOAH
AGE: 16
GENDER: MALE
SIBLING GROUP: NO

Noah is a tall and slender boy with blond hair and blue eyes. He is very bright and has a great sense of humor. Noah talks with a minor speech impediment, but it doesn't get in the way of his joke telling. He is charming when he



knows he is being funny.

Noah has great relationships with adults and is able to go to regular school classes.

Noah is extremely imaginative and loves to read and draw. This year Noah built a model home on his own (with some direction from his foster father).

Noah very much wants to be adopted and have a forever family. Noah has even asked if he could be apart of the picking process for my new family.

Noah will do great with a home that offers him a steady schedule and a stable home environment. The forever home that chooses Noah should be a home that likes to laugh and can teach Noah the social skills he will need to be successful in life.

SHAMIKA
AGE: 7
GENDER: FEMALE
SIBLING GROUP: NO

Shamika is a friendly little 7-year-old girl. She can be very shy when she initially meets people but quickly overcomes her reluctance to interact if given a little attention.



She loves to sing and dance. Shamika craves and is in need of one-on-one time with her care providers. She enjoys doing projects and playing with her dolls and is very active and busy.

She does express a fear of dogs. Shamika needs a family that will be patient with her as she adjusts to a new situation.

NAME: DAYTON
AGE: 7
GENDER: MALE



SIBLING GROUP: NO

Dayton is a handsome biracial 7-year-old with brown hair and eyes. He enjoys being outdoors and riding his bike.

He excels at anything athletic and would love a family who is active and loves to be outdoors.

Dayton is in first grade and does well in a small classroom with individual attention. Dayton will do best with a forever family that can help him succeed in school, is patient and can help him remain in contact with his two siblings.

KERIE
AGE: 16
GENDER: MALE
SIBLING GROUP: NO

Kerie is a handsome young man who would make a terrific addition to a forever family. He is outgoing and fun to be around. During his free time he likes to play video games and play football, baseball and basketball with his friends. Kerie's two favorite foods are



pasta and pizza.

Kerie feels that one thing people like

about him is that he is kind. Kerie aspires to be a police officer where he can help others.

To Kerie, being adopted means having a loving family. He will do well in a family that will give him structure, guidance, one on one attention and most of all, one that has a lot of love to give him.

LARRY
AGE: 15
GENDER: MALE
SIBLING GROUP: NO

Larry is a 15 year old young man who loves to play basketball and listen to music!

He has a playful demeanor that comes out when he is bonded and trusts the person he is spending time with. Larry is described as "headstrong and willing to advocate for himself and respectful to people he cares about".



Larry is a fit, athletic, and physically healthy young man. His favorite foods are chicken and pizza!

Larry would benefit from a forever family that will be committed and work with the school system to make sure his needs are met.

These kids are available for Missouri adoption. Look in our November for Kansas kids that need your love and a forever family.



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TIPS

continued from page 9

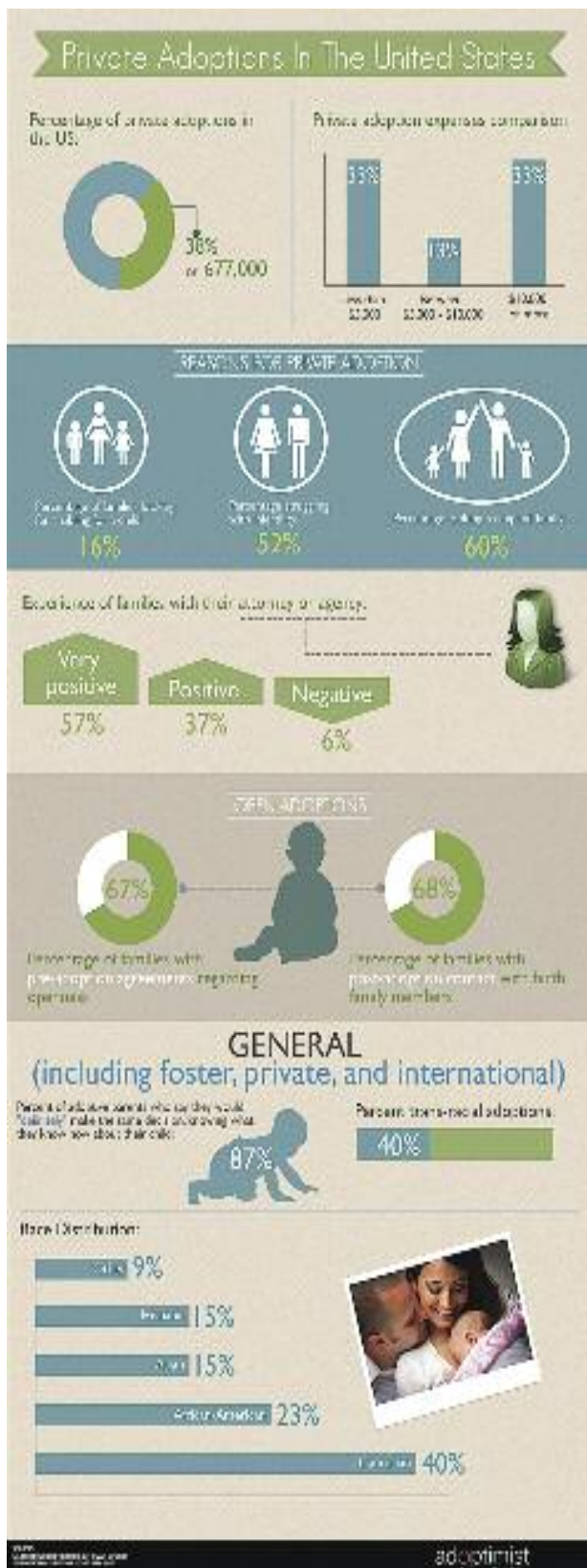
addresses how he and his family become involved in foster care. Your example can provide a healthy, loving, Christian role model for foster kids and for their birth parents, who might someday regain custody. Treat your foster child with love, fairness and impart the hope for a better future. If the foster child has no ties to the Christian faith, your example can create that connection and teach him about a loving God who cares for him. If the child and birth family have no strong objections, include devotions, Bible stories and church attendance in the child's routine.

THE HURT CHILD

Your foster child might be carrying anger, poor personal boundaries, mistrust and fear when she arrives. Communicate your concern and desire to care for her at the same time that you establish clear limits and conditions on her behavior. Pray for your foster child's emotional, physical, mental and spiritual healing at the same time that you apply all of the tools you learned in training. Reinforce the child's belief in herself and her value as a human and a child of God. Praise her in specifics when she does well such as, "I'm pleased with the way you're catching up in school. Your determination is impressive."

BUILDING SUPPORT AND MEMORIES

As a foster parent, you can work within the faith community. Address your child's past in the most loving way, helping your foster child stay connected with his birth family, if possible, as you also help him build connections in the faith community. You can take pictures of the child enjoying various activities, building healthy memories the child can access when times are stressful. Never lose sight of the reunification goal that guides many foster placements. A scrapbook of the child's life can anchor the love you share in the child's memory.



JAMEY

continued from page 8

tween us when I was away at school.

I sorted the letters by the dates on the faded envelopes. The oldest was already open, read long ago by my parents on the day I was born.

I extracted the stationery from the pink envelope (my birthmother didn't know that I was going to be a boy) as if it were an artifact from a forgotten time, an ancient papyrus that might turn to dust in my hands.

"From day one when I first found out I was pregnant, #1 on my list was to write an 'open' letter to my child and his/her parents..." She went on to explain her hopes for me, her blessings, and that her greatest worry was that I would hate her for giving me away.

I turned the handwritten pages one by one, soaking in the information. I felt like I was reading a biography about myself. So far removed from the content of the letters, it wasn't until I opened the fourth letter and a photo fell out that I truly realized that I was reading about myself, my birthmother, my lineage.

The photo was of a baby, maybe a year or so old. Besides the longer hair that indicated that it was a girl, the child looked exactly—exactly—like me at that age.

Something opened in me and I started to cry. I had two wonderful, annoying siblings with whom I had grown up, but I had never looked upon the face of another and seen myself. I didn't know that was a type of connection a person could have.

I shared that experience with my birth mother in a letter I wrote a few months later. I described myself, my hobbies and interests, in a matter-of-fact way before assuring her that I didn't hate her at all.

"If anything," I wrote, "I love you for the decision you made. Thank you for giving me life—thank you for giving me this life."

My birth mother's one request was that I be raised in a Catholic family. Through the values of my parents, the teachings of Christ in Sunday school, and my personal spiritual awakening at my university's Newman Center, I've come to realize that there's enough love in me for many people in my life.

God has graced me with enough love for my adoptive parents and my biological mother, my siblings and my biological siblings. Different types of love, but an abundance of springs to tap.

Not only do I have two parents who have raised and nurtured and loved me for twenty-eight years, but I also have a birthmother who carried me for nine months so that I may live.

I am truly blessed.

Jamey lives and works in St. Louis. He writes a daily humor blog, jameystegmaier.com. Published February 18, 2009

CRYSTAL CLEAR

continued from page 6

had birth children. As pro-lifers, we'd always said we'd adopt any baby who would otherwise be aborted. That was a no-brainer.

Why would these kids in foster care be any different? How could we do nothing about what we'd heard? We'd been so blessed. We had room in our house. How could we turn our backs on kids in need?

We weren't sure what we were going to do, but we knew we had to do something. Hearing about the needs of these kids awakened John's sense of protection. He's a military man, after all, and he couldn't just sit back and not take action. He had to do something!

I kept thinking about the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Remember the story? Jesus told a parable about a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho who gets attacked. He's beaten, robbed and left for dead.

I sensed that God was challenging us, asking us if, like the religious men in the parable, we'd just pass by and do nothing. Or would we be like the Samaritan, who did something about the person in need right in front of him?

John and I talked and prayed about it a lot. Talking and praying abstractly about the things that break God's heart is one thing. Seeing and hearing needs up close and personal – in your face, literally – is clarifying. There was no way we could see what we were seeing – precious faces, voices, and lives of real kids in desperate need – and go back to our comfortable life unchanged.

There was no noble decision making; it was just crystal clear to John and me that we were going to do something. We were completely on the same page, something we paid close attention to. It wasn't a hard decision; it was the obvious decision, set right before us. When we looked at the pros and cons, the obvious pros were that we were doing what Jesus commanded His followers to do and being who He commanded us to be. There weren't really any cons that could compete with that.

We were excited – thrilled, really. And scared. But we believed as we trusted the Lord with all our hearts, leaned not on our own understanding, and acknowledged Him in all our ways that He was directing our path (Proverbs 3:5-6).



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Cool to be Kosher

What does it mean to be kosher? And truthfully, does it really even matter? If we love Jesus, we don't have to follow those Old Testament laws, right? Isn't that legalistic? The answer is yes and no, and it can get complicated, so let's try to make it simple...

Ultimately, Jesus is the trump card,

and His blood covers us. Technically, we can love Jesus and have a great relationship with Him without following Old Testament laws.

However, ignoring the Old Testament is a huge mistake made by many Christians. For one, everything in the Old Testament is about Jesus and points to Jesus. And two, the

ENTIRE Bible is God's instruction manual for how to live a righteous, pure, clean and holy life connected to God.

Kosher comes from the Hebrew word meaning "fit, proper, suitable or pure." In other word, this was God's instruction for how we should eat for ultimate health, purity and longevity. Is it

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legalistic to wash your hands, separate sick people with infectious disease from others, remove human waste far away from your living area or to eat chicken instead of vulture for dinner?

Ok, I might be trying to be funny on the last one, but the point is that God created all things, He is our Father, and He knows what is best for us based on His design and creation.

These are all basic Biblical principles given as instructions for healthy living. God says not to eat vultures and pigs because they were designed to cleanse the earth and they eat dead flesh, therefore making them "unclean," and therefore unhealthy for anyone.

Did you know that when the bubonic plague (Black Death) struck Europe in 1348 killing over 25 million people, the Jewish people largely were unaffected? Why? We now know the plague was a result of a bacteria brought over by rats from China.

The Jews were following Biblical laws for hand washing and clean eating, which was not practiced by other Europeans at that time. The Europeans actually blamed the Jews for the plague, believing that they were bringing God's wrath and judgment to Europe.

Look at today's world. We are eating foods not designed by God, we have polluted our world, and we have a devastating amount of sickness and disease in our culture today.

We would never put Coca-Cola on our plants and expect it to live. A zookeeper wouldn't feed the lions Doritos, ice cream and diet soda without expecting the animals to get sick and die, and hopefully you don't do that to your pets.

Why? Because God's design and God's foods bring life; and unfortunately, man-made foods and much of what we are eating today brings sickness and disease. It is sad that many Christians have ignored the importance of clean eating in such a polluted world. God calls us to be pure, clean, holy vessels.

"Be clean, you who bear the vessels of the Lord." Isaiah 52:11

And then again in the New Testament Peter employs us to be holy.

"It is written, be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16

ISRAEL



FOR FAMILIES

Sharing the Wonder of Israel with Our Kids—a New Generation

“WELCOME TO ISRAEL!”

By Dwight Widaman

The captain announces, “Welcome to Israel!” as our US Airways jet touches down, eliciting applause from first class to economy. Travelers will tell you it happens every time a plane returns to Israel. We’ve never seen this type of exuberant outburst landing in any other part of the world. The excitement is palpable, and it mirrors what we find inside Israel’s Ben Gurion International Airport, located a dozen miles southeast of Tel Aviv, where my wife Anita and our daughters Hannah (20) and Emma (18) began—and ended—our tour.

Upon our arrival we easily navigated immigration and then, just like in a movie, a representative of the Ministry of Tourism waited for us, holding a placard with our name. He made sure we were comfortable while our tour guide, Mr. Moshe Henzel and our official escort from the Ministry of Tourism Mr. Zvika Abramovitch, battled late afternoon rush hour to meet us.

At the airport our family joined a throng of people from around the world, many of whom were on a spiritual journey, waiting to connect with tour guides, friends or family. Anita said she had the sense that we were “all in this together,” like one big family on an epic adventure. It’s true! Its common during Israeli tours to run into friendly brothers and sisters in Christ numerous times as itineraries coincide.

Our transportation arrived and, after a 40-minute drive, Zvika delivered us to our Tel-Aviv beachfront hotel—The Dan Panorama. It was 5:30 in the afternoon, but still 9:30 a.m. in Kansas City. Settling into our rooms, we opened the windows to the sounds of beach volleyball and the Mediterranean’s waves lapping the beach below. The cool sea breeze acted like an invigorating balm and we were ready to explore. Well, maybe not all of us. Mom and Dad seemed to have the most energy after the 18-hour flight.

Moshe led us on a brisk, twilight history tour through the famous 1930s “White City”—built in the International Bauhaus style. After admiring the famous outdoor Carmel Market we enjoyed Shenkin Street, one of the city’s hippest avenues, passing dozens of small restaurants, cafés and cool shops.

For our 9 p.m. dinner (late for us but not for Israelis!) we opted to walk to the port city of Yaffo (Jaffa of Jonah fame) for shawarma—an Arabic dish of fresh vegetables and



Haifa's lush landscape has gained it the nickname, “San Francisco of Israel”.



lamb or chicken wrapped in Armenian flatbread.

Our stomachs full, and having “explored” more than our daughters would have preferred that evening, we got a good night sleep and were ready to hit the road, but not until after breakfast.

A normal breakfast at Dan Panorama Hotel is anything but normal. It is extravagant and fresh, featuring every fruit and vegetable, fish and cheese one could think of, plus a wide variety of bread and pastries. Although we were headed out of Tel Aviv, it was only temporary as our itinerary called for our return at the end of the tour. More on that later.

ALONG AN ANCIENT COAST

By Dwight Widaman

We left the hotel and headed north along a six-lane freeway as each huge city blended into one another, their skylines soaring across Israel’s ever-expanding metropolises are adding new skyscrapers. Israelis joke that the crane, as in construction crane, is Israel’s new national bird. The cities of Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Be’er Sheva and dozens of other cities are being transformed at a pace not seen since the 1930s.

Caesarea

Founded by Herod the Great, Caesarea was a major Mediterranean port and urban center where Acts 10 records that Cornelius was baptized. Today it’s part of the National Park system, which includes both an ancient hippodrome, a 4,000-seat amphitheater still used for plays and symphonies, and the city center with its main street and

ruins. Herod spared no expense in Caesarea. The massive pink granite columns were shipped from Egypt. His Palace jutted into the sea and boasted a pool that would rival the grandeur of the best resorts.

The hippodrome is impressive and is where citizens viewed chariot races, gladiator combat and later, quite possibly, the martyrdom of Christians. Guests who enter the structure, should look for the dedication stone honoring Pontius Pilate. It wasn’t until this stone was discovered that some Bible doubters finally believed Pilate even existed.

The area is one of Israel’s most excavated areas, and there’s much to enjoy. No need to go to Rome to see an aqueduct, visitors will find a magnificent example nearby.

Next on our stop was Acre or “Akko.” Paul visited the city (Acts 2:17) and it served as a fortified port city during the Crusader era. Today visitors consider it a “wow” experi-

Our Amazing Journey

Last month, in our first installment in our series on traveling to Israel, we shared with you all the reasons to travel to the Holy Land, including the importance of traveling as a family. This month we share the sights, aromatic smells, sounds and adventures that make this the most amazing spot on earth. Shalom!



ence as they go “underground” to tour the Knights Halls and a secret Templar Tunnel that connected the crusaders to the harbor. It was the very last “hold out” of the crusaders before the land was lost to the Saladin (Salah a-Din).

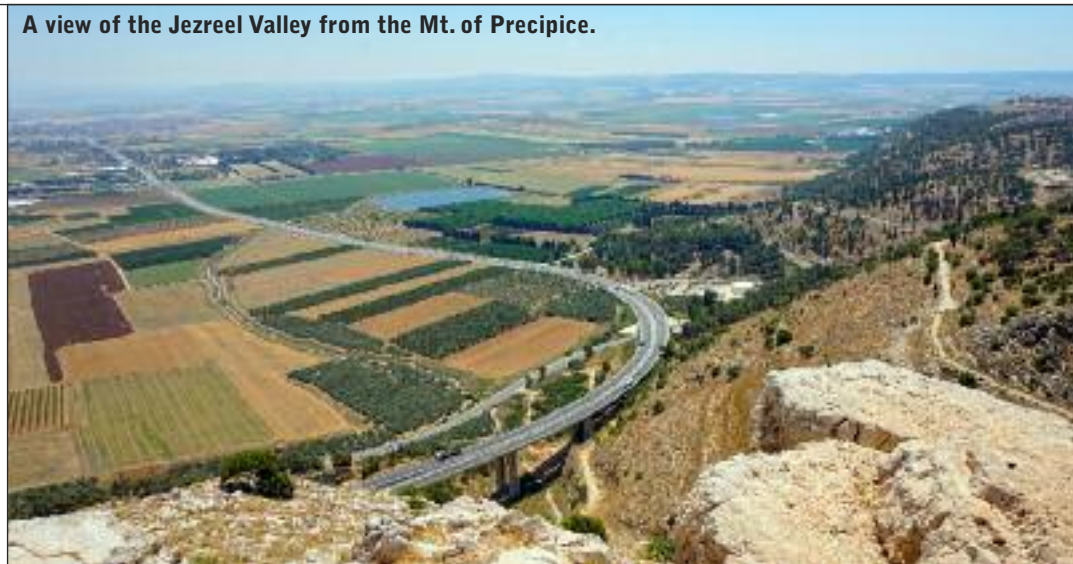
Amazingly, we did all this before a late lunch. Moshe and Zvika convinced us that the best hummus to be found in Israel was at the Alladin Restaurant. Like 99 percent of restaurants in Israel (they don't embrace chains), it's a family operation. We found it crossing a busy pedestrian courtyard and were greeted by the Muslim owner and his family, who served up a huge spread for little money.

Haifa and Acre

While Tel-Aviv is a gleaming metropolis and Jerusalem a subdued holy city, Haifa is, well, a little quirky! It's called the Israeli version of San Francisco—complete with lush landscape, temperate climate and curvy hillside roads—all along the turquoise Mediterranean. As the world headquarters of the Bahá'í faith, which stresses spiritual unity of all faiths and people, the city has benefited from this peaceful religion of co-existence. The centerpiece is the shrine and “Hanging Gardens” that sweep down the western slopes of Mt. Carmel. It was a must stop for Anita and provided a stunning family photo.

We checked into the historic Colony Hotel, situated in the middle of the German Colony. Located on a boulevard, the hotel's al fresco dining, and those of the local cafes, provides a good vantage for people watching. They also afford a perfect evening view of the Bahá'í gardens, which seem to stretch down and touch the edge of the neighborhood in the golden setting sun.

A view of the Jezreel Valley from the Mt. of Precipice.



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

By Dwight Widaman

Nazareth

Leaving the Mediterranean coast the next morning, we headed inland toward Jesus' boyhood hometown. Two millennia ago, Nazareth was a poor farming community of 400 Jews. Today it has 80,000 residents with 30 percent identifying as Arab Christians, with the rest Muslims.

The “must-see” activity is the Nazareth Village living history museum. Like many sites in Israel, the question arises, “How do we know this is the real deal?” Archeology.

In 1996, a First Century wine press buried beneath thousands of years of rubble was discovered on the local hospital's property. Mark 12 talks about a watchtower, vat and wine press. This was the farm of ancient Nazareth and it was more than a parable!

Archeologists realized that the small village of Jesus' day would have had just one wine press and here it was giving away the location of ancient Nazareth's terraced vineyards and gardens. Painstakingly unearthed, visitors can walk on the terraces that produced the food that Jesus ate and touch the very wine press. The site also offers demonstrations of the work and home life at the time of Christ.

Before leaving Nazareth, visitors should see the Basilica of the Annunciation, just off the

town square. It's on the site where tradition says Gabriel visited Mary.

Leaving the Basilica, we discovered that a little free time can provide serendipitous diversion. While waiting for Zvika to pick us up, Hannah spotted a formal eveningwear dressmaker's shop. The modern gowns were a unique contrast to the rough garments we just saw on the actors at Nazareth Village. Anita and the girls cruised the racks of gorgeous dresses while the prices at the home appliance and tool store next door provided amusement for me.

On the outskirts of Nazareth, we stopped at the Mount of Precipice where, from its steep vantage point, we saw Mount Tabor—the site where Deborah and Barak (Judges 4) defeated a Canaanite chariot army that had gotten bogged down in the mud. It is also the beginning of the “Jesus Trail” from Nazareth to Capernaum. From our vantage point the view of the Jezreel Valley below is breathtaking. Whether visitors have a farming background like Anita or not, the view gives an appreciation of what Israel has done in turning what was once hard-scrabble farm life into the world's most productive farmland. Below, reservoirs glimmer in the sun all the way to the horizon, preventing rainwater from flowing into the sea.

Israel has developed and perfected much of the water-saving



At Nazareth Village, a demonstration of how a threshing tool is made.

techniques used from California and Kansas to sub-Saharan Africa. Since the 1994 peace treaty with Jordan, Israel has freely given the technology and expertise to its Arab neighbor, which has an even greater water shortage. In fact, Israel is so efficient in its water use, it now sends millions of gallons of water to Jordan to help the Hashemite kingdom expand its farming and become less dependent on food imports, thus helping to stabilize the country.

Moshe's explanation of farms and food made us hungry since it was well after our regular lunchtime. We stopped in the small town of Afula for a famous “Golani” Falafel—by far Israel's most popular fast food.

By then, it was late afternoon

and, having prepared by bringing swim trunks and suits, we headed to Hamat Gader Park. This thermal mineral spring has attracted visitors since Roman times, and even earlier when the area was part of Manasseh—one of the Twelve Tribes. The park has something for every age—parrot show, waterslide, mineral pools and baths, petting zoo and alligators. Don't worry, though, the reptiles are not found in the mineral pool of water!

Nearby we took a curvy highway up, up and up (they don't call it the Golan Heights for nothin') to Kibbutz Kfar Haruv. From our vantage point at 1,722 feet, we had a spectacular view of the Sea of Galilee below.

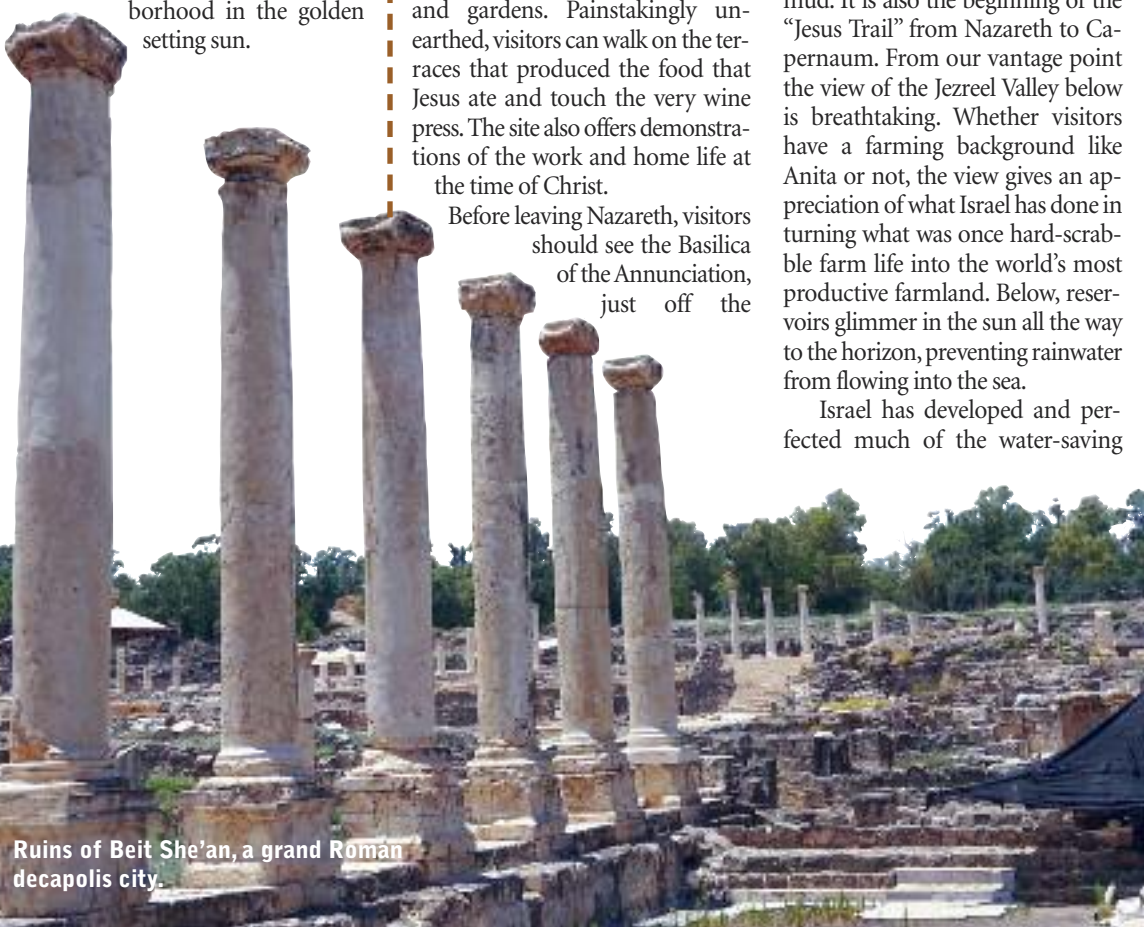
We hiked further down the short trail to an abandoned Syrian bunker just below the peak of the mountain. Peering out the gun-ports, we could easily see the proximity of fishing boats, farms, houses and schools on the edge of the lake and it was a sober reality of the importance of the Golan Heights to Israel's security. Amazingly, there is now a movement afoot to force Israel to return the Golan to Syria, which the Arab nation lost in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Our day complete and the sun sinking across the western shores of the Galilee, we drove a short distance along the southern shore to Kibbutz Ma'agan. Although the original industry of kibbutzim was agriculture, several like this one, have added tourism and even resort amenities. Kids were happily swimming in the first-class pool, though our family was content placing our beach chairs at the edge of the Galilee as the cool water lapped at our feet. As dusk arrived, our room's view allowed us to enjoy the twinkling lights of Tiberius, as well as those of many settlements in the hillsides above.

Northern Galilee

Waking to the love call of peacocks that roamed outside our kibbutz door, we readied ourselves for a busy day trip on the Jesus Trail, a 40-mile route in the Galilee region that connects places where Jesus ministered. We drove north around the Sea to the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7).

Inside an abandoned Syrian bunker overlooking the Sea of Galilee in the valley below, it is easy to understand the strategic importance of The Golan Heights to Israel's security.



Ruins of Beit She'an, a grand Roman decapolis city.

After a short self-guided tour, we found a shady corner of the garden. By this point, like on any long family trip, some nerves had begun to fray. From my pocket I took out a tiny Bible and we read the Beatitudes. Jesus' words in Matthew 5:5, 9 seemed to bounce off the cobblestone walk, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth... Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God." Like most believers, we've each read those verses hundreds of times, yet speaking them where Jesus spoke brought them to life—and just when our family needed to hear them.

Down the hill from the Mount (many make the hike) but within view, is the Church of the Primacy of St. Peter—a black basalt structure on the edge of the Sea of Galilee. This is where, after Christ's resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and asked Peter, "Do you love me?" (Matt. 16:18) The simple structure and quiet gardens provided a cool respite on a warm morning.

Nearby, we visited the important town of Capernaum, which Jesus made his base of ministry for three years and where he called Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John to be His disciples. This large, crowded, and prosperous community witnessed, more than any other, many of Christ's miracles. Here, in the synagogue, Jesus cast out many demons, including one that declared "... Thou art the Holy One of God." It's also the city where Simon's mother-in-law was instantly healed; Jairus' dead daughter was raised; the disciples experienced the miracle of the fish; plus so many healings that Mark 1:29-34 records that all the sick of Capernaum came to Simon's house and were healed by Jesus. Not just the sick but "all the city was gathered together at the door."

It is also where archeologists have unearthed, and scholars have confirmed, Peter's actual house. A first century statement carved into the stonewalls of the house simply states, "This is Peter's House."

Is it any wonder that Jesus, nearing the height of his ministry, would make Peter's house so famous—even rock star famous—that a passionate young follower, perhaps

Emma's or Hannah's age, would carve those immortal words into a wall where it all happened? The house, and the ruins of a 3rd century church built around it, are both easily visible through the glass floor of spaceship-like church built over it.

A short walk away, as the Bible recounts, the foundation of the Capernaum synagogue where Jesus taught can be seen beneath ruins of a 3rd century synagogue. The fallen columns and carved stones are chiseled with native fruits, seven-branched menorah (its first recorded use as a symbol of Judaism), the biblical Ark of the Covenant, and other Jewish designs—all from the most miraculous time in history!

That Capernaum residents saw such great miracles yet many still chose not to believe is startling, even to today's young people who often demand concrete evidence. Jesus

provided a warning and foretold of its great destruction (Matt. 11:21-24).

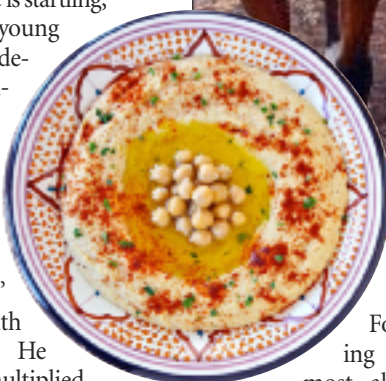
Several of Jesus' miracles dealt with fish and water. He calmed the sea, multiplied the fish more than once and he declared he would make Simon (and each of His followers) a "fisher of men." So fishing boats naturally played a large cultural role here.

At Kibbutz Ginosar, the Yigal Alon Center houses a state-of-the-art museum whose prized possession is a wooden fishing boat carbon-dated from the 1st century. It was discovered by two local fishermen after a severe drought dropped the level of the Galilee and the ancient boat's wooden timbers were exposed. The only ancient Galilean boat ever discovered, it was carefully preserved and visitors now call it the "Jesus Boat."

The center attracts Muslim, Christian and Jewish Israeli youth who build relationships and are instilled with moral and democratic values.

It was also an opportunity for Hannah and Emma to see young

Family adventure awaits all across Israel, including horseback riding in the hills overlooking the Sea of Galilee.



people their age serving in the Israeli Defense Forces. Accord-

ing to Moshe almost all Israeli men serve between 18 and 32 months while women serve between 12 and 24 months. While touring the Center a unit was waiting for its next assignment, so our girls seized the moment and asked for a picture with the soldiers.

Despite the impromptu photo session, we were impressed by the serious attitude Israeli young people have toward protecting their homeland. Even our daughters noted it is not a quality they that they would attribute to most of their American peers.

After touring the center and seeing the boat up-close, we set sail on one of several outings available on the Sea of Galilee. It helped me actualize the slow pace of life in Jesus' day. It was also moving to realize that the outlines of the hills and other geography are essentially unchanged from what Jesus saw from His boat.

THE WILD WEST?

By Anita Widaman

As our escort Zvika started driving toward our next destination, his mobile phone sounded. Dwight and I chuckled, recognizing the ringtone—the theme of Clint Eastwood's "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." It was totally fitting, as we were about to experience Israel on horseback!

The media never misses creating scary headlines involving the Holy Land. In contrast to those headlines, it was uncanny how at ease we felt during our entire visit. However, the scariest part (for me) came on horseback! The Vered Ha-Galil Ranch, created in 1961 by a Chicago Jew, is home to a lovely restaurant, hotel and riding school. It was a test of faith to mount the horse and follow the trail among the many rocks spit out eons ago by a nearby volcano. Up and down the rolling and often rocky hills above the Sea of Galilee we went. In the distance were visible backdrops of flourishing crops and orchards. Only in Israel!

While Dwight and the girls seemed fearless—tugging at the reigns to direct their horses here and there—I just decided that my horse knew best so I relaxed, and let the majestic animal navigate our course. Though not on the typical Israel tour, the experience is a soulful way to end a busy day or to see a sunset in the Galilean hills.

In the parking lot we smiled, noticing "suburban moms" in minivans drive up with their children for after-school equestrian classes. The normality of life here is a stark contrast to the frustrating media coverage this country receives. Even Emma recounted that the Israel she was seeing with her

own eyes was not the one she sees on the news. This was the true Israel!

Road to Jerusalem

By Dwight Widaman

After a second night at Kibbutz Ma'agen, we left the Galilee headed south to Jerusalem, but not before visiting a baptismal site.

There are various baptismal sites along the Jordan River in both Israel and Jordan. Kibbutz Kinneret hosts 600,000 visitors a year at the Yardenit site on the river as it flows out of the Sea of Galilee. Qasr el-Yahud, also on the Jordan River and near Jericho, is another popular venue. Both locations are peaceful and reverent, with believers from around the world singing and praying. It's an inspiring place to watch followers practice their faith. Moshe shared that a terminally ill 13-year-old boy was even carried into the water on a stretcher—a trip made possible by the Make-A-Wish-Foundation.

Visiting here is a good reminder for teens and young adults that not every follower of Christ worships the same way. Indians like to jump in the river totally clothed, while Brazilians sing and dance. Next to them may be Russians, Chinese, South Koreans and Africans being baptized.

Crusaders & Romans

Like the crusader fortress in Acre, Belvoir Castle is a relic from the long historic tug-of-war between the crusaders and Muslims over the Holy Land. Built by the Hospitallers in 1173, Belvoir means "beautiful view," and that's an apt description of what we saw looking out over the Jordan River Valley. Al-

Hannah and Emma pose with IDF soldiers who were touring a museum.



though Muslim leader Saladin thwarted the last crusader campaign in 1187, Belvoir did not yield. After an 18-month siege, the holdouts struck a deal with Saladin and were given safe passage to Tyre. In 1220, the Muslims attempted to dismantle Belvoir, fearing another crusade, but it was too massive to destroy.

The triumph of any trip abroad is to meet people from your hometown. At Belvoir, a couple complimented our escort's driving skills while navigating the switchback road up the mountain. It turns out they had lived in Kansas City not many years ago.

We didn't completely explore Belvoir, as we wanted extra time at Israel's most famous Roman city and a favorite stop for any tour—Beit She'an. As recorded in the Old Testament, the city is where the bodies of Saul and his sons were hung after the defeat at Mount Galboa.

During Roman times, it became one of the 10 Decapolis cities (located on the eastern frontier of the Roman Empire) and its importance and prosperity are seen in

the Roman theater that seated 7,000 to 10,000 people, as well as its heated bath houses, majestic colonnaded streets, and mosaics that can still be seen on the floors of the shops and public buildings that lined the cardo or main thoroughfare of the city. It was destroyed by an earthquake in the eighth century. After being buried for a thousand years, the city's unearthing was a prize for archeologists and historians, and rivals any Roman ruin in Rome.



ALL ROADS LEAD TO

By Anita Widaman

It was a cool night, as late May evenings often are in Jerusalem. Pleasantly warm days with cotton-candy clouds always seemed to lead to clear, crisp evenings. Above the skyline, stars twinkled, possibly the same stars our family often gazes upon from our meandering, tree-lined driveway in rural Kansas City. In the cool night air, we strolled the Old City's streets. It was well past midnight, yet we encountered countless families who were heading home from their Shabbat, or Sabbath, dinner with friends and family.

The city's iconic architecture, built from a pale limestone called Jerusalem Stone, glowed warmly from the light cast by streetlights. Its winding streets and alleys were almost empty of vehicle traffic—as most Jews do not drive after sunset, when their Shabbat begins. We continued south on King George Street, stopping to admire the Great Synagogue. Banks, swanky home furnishing stores and cafés were all shuttered for the evening. The girls paused to admire the latest fashions in a dress shop window. Within 30 minutes, we were back at our hotel. The late-night walk was the perfect end to our second day in Jerusalem, the midpoint of our trip.

In less than two full days, we had already experienced so much of Jerusalem, yet more treasures were in store. We had arrived in the holy city late in the afternoon the day before and checked into the Inbal Hotel—one of Israel's finest thanks to the Israeli Ministry of Tourism which not only created our tour itinerary, but also made all the hotel arrangements. This was a treat and not at all how we normally travel!

Trip pacing is important, and we've discovered that evenings should be reserved for relaxation, rejuvenation and preparations for the next day. Hannah suggested each day end with swimming, so the girls decided to stay behind at the pool



while Dwight and I explored the surrounding neighborhood on foot. At 9 p.m. and hungry for a more familiar menu, the four of us reconnected, finding an Italian restaurant around the corner. Even without pepperoni, the girls fell in love with their first kosher pizza. (See the article explaining kosher food on page 12, plus our article next month about dining option when traveling.)

The next morning, we began our day with a visit to Yad Vashem, a 45-acre memorial complex that includes the Holocaust History Museum. The museum has a Kansas City connection, as architect Moshe Safdie, who designed the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, also redesigned the Jerusalem museum in 2005.

As we drove up to the complex, the architecture was striking. The building juts out almost precariously from a hilltop—appearing to teeter on the edge—perhaps symbolic of the world of the 1930s and early

1940s, when there was little support for the Jewish people.

The Yad Vashem museum had changed significantly from our previous visits. Through personal stories, possessions, photographs, videos, diaries, and historical artifacts, it showcases as much as possible the personal histories of some of the 6 million people murdered in the Holocaust, as well as survivors. For instance, one picture, featuring a typical Jewish family was recovered at a concentration camp. The display identified each individual in the photo, describing their normal life before the War. It then recorded how each person met his or her death.

The main goal of the complex is for no individual to be lost to history, but for each and every victim of the Holocaust to be remembered. The exhibits draw both young and old into these personal stories, and guests often find themselves viewing the exhibit through the blurred vision from eyes welling. We were no exception. Each of us dealt with the emotions it elicited in our own way.

The Old City

Anyone who visits Israel (unless you are part of a pre-planned group) can create a personalized itinerary that includes quirky museums, off-the-beaten-path beaches, out-of-the-way restaurants, and more. Our unusual stop was Mount Herzl National Cemetery, where Israel's political leaders and soldiers are buried and honored. Emma was named after former Israel Prime Minister

Shoes collected from concentration camps.



Belvoir Castle was the last standing Crusader fortress.

The Festival of Lights in the Old City contrasts ancient architecture with modern artistic expression.





The Western Wall, Judaism's most holy site.



A Shabbat dinner with new friends from Israel and around the world.

Golda Meir, and we wanted to visit her grave. As is the Jewish custom, we lovingly placed a stone on her marker.

We visited Mahane Yehuda market—Jerusalem's main open-air market. You can find American-style grocery stores in Israel, but an open-air market is a visual and sensory experience that visitors do not want to miss. We saw locals hurrying through the aisle preparing for Shabbat. In American restaurants you may have two choices of a rich cake made from sesame flour and honey called Halva, but at this market there were 15 or more! Also called "the Shuk," Mahane Yehuda is a perfect opportunity to buy gifts for your loved ones back home. You can buy clothing, spices, teas, meat, breads, sweets, fresh vegetables and olives. We took advantage of the offerings and enjoyed trying several items for lunch.

Eating always brings challenges when traveling. Among them are the different times of day that each culture eats, unique smells and spices, what's authentic and what has been Americanized. Our children are accustomed to eating ethnic food on vacation since it is our tradition that each family member takes a turn selecting a restaurant for our evening meal. In this culturally diverse region the question that often emerges is what is Israeli food? We ate Yemenite, Lebanese, Turkish, Arab and kosher meals. We also ate unknown and yummy food that was recommended by our tour guide and escort while in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv or in small villages.

Shabbat Begins

As Shabbat begins, most Jews obey the Ten Commandments by not working (Christians could take a lesson). This includes not driving. After walking to synagogue services, observant Jews gather with friends and family for a traditional dinner. In most instances, guides and escorts will also take a break from their tours so they, too, may enjoy Shabbat with their families. Ours did as well and we were totally fine with the 20-

The Market will make you hungry.



minute walk to the Western Wall from our hotel and spending the evening on our own.

The Western Wall is a massive remnant of the retaining wall built by King Herod to widen the Temple Mount Plaza, during construction of the Second Temple (the Temple Jesus referred to in John 2:20). The Western Wall is the most significant Jewish religious site as it is the point nearest to the former location of the Second Temple. (The Muslim Dome of the Rock now sits where the Temple stood.) Here at the wall, families celebrate Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and Israeli soldiers swear loyalty to their country. Planning to visit the wall during the Sabbath—sundown Friday to sundown Saturday—makes for a unique experience as local yeshiva students offer special prayers and Jews from around world sing and dance. Our family joined in the chaotic serenity found here by placing written prayer notes between the stones of the Wall. It was a contemplative moment and the girls were impressed by the passion of the young people.

New Friends

We've always found the best way to understand any country is to visit with locals, buy from locals and eat with locals. I arranged for a dinner through the website EatWith.com. It allows travelers to dine in the homes of fa-

mous chefs or well-known food enthusiasts. Patrons sign up online and then show up at the host home with fellow travelers from around the world. Knowing we would be in Jerusalem that day, I chose a dinner on Shabbat that was hosted by Sapir, described on the website as a "psychiatrist and hip observant Jew." As it happened that night, it was also a birthday party for her fashion-model friend. Joining eight of her friends were other tourists like us, including a Chinese engineer for Disney Hong Kong, a professor and student from the Czech Republic, a Jewish-Canadian couple, a Swiss banker, and others.

During our meal together, I had a eureka moment after realizing that we were seeing prophecy fulfilled! There we were, sharing a Shabbat dinner with Jewish Israelis from Switzerland, Iran, Yemen, Tennessee, and Ethiopia. These were people whose parents—or they themselves—had made Aliyah, meaning returning to live in Israel. Jews have been doing this since the Babylonian Exile.

Emma and Hannah said it was one of the most cherished (and coolest!) activities of the entire trip because it allowed them to interact with Israelis on a personal level unprecedented for a typical vacation.

"It made me realize," said Emma later, "that we're more similar than different."



Exploring Jerusalem

Because Jewish businesses are closed and there are few cars on the streets, Saturdays are quiet in Jerusalem. We began our day with the Garden Tomb—one possible site for the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Although the quaint garden is located outside the noisy Damascus Gate, it provides a peaceful setting for Christians to reflect.

Visible from the Garden Tomb and located at the intersection of two ancient Roman roads (chosen by the Romans for maximum visibility) is Golgotha, described as the “place of the skull” in the Bible. Those looking closely at the cliff can see an image of a skull. This hillside is part of Mount Moriah, where Abraham took Isaac to be sacrificed. He then found a ram as a substitute—a foreshadowing of when John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus the “Lamb of God,” calling him a substitute for mankind.

Our kids have visited museums since they were two months old, but we try not to overdo it on vacations by picking wisely. Emma has reminded us that her generation is inquisitive.

We visited The Shrine of the Book that displays the Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in a cave by a Bedouin boy in 1947. The lids of the clay jars that contained the scrolls inspired the shape of the museum. The scrolls contain the oldest Hebrew manuscripts of the Old Testament ever found and 900 additional scrolls were discovered in following years.

Outside the Shrine is a 1:50 scale model of ancient Jerusalem during Jesus’ time on earth. The replica allowed us to appreciate the wonder of the Second Temple. Although the Shrine was constructed in the 1960s, its been altered as new archeological details emerge. Viewing the model of the Temple and the area’s land features enlivens biblical comprehension. Hannah said visiting Israel makes you want to read the Old Testament because you are seeing history.

It is always wise to have a break from museums and enjoy the countryside. One such place is a small village in the Judean hills of southwest Jerusalem. Ein Karem is not listed as one of the top 15 sites, but it is where



Ein Karem is a quaint village with deep Biblical roots.



Embarking on our flashlight trek through Hezekiah’s Tunnel still full of water

Zachariah and Elizabeth lived, Mary visited her cousin, and where John the Baptist lived in solitude. Full of churches, the village is charmingly nestled between hills graced with green landscape, stone houses and Mary’s Well, where many visit to drink. Reminiscent of an artist colony, the village is a popular spot for Jewish families and for tourists to sip coffee, have a leisure lunch or just rest! It’s advisable to follow the winding road to the right of the well because the view only gets more quaint the higher one walks! We searched for a hostel that we were told had a spectacular garden but realized we were enjoying the garden of a private household! Fortunately, the owner was gracious.

That night we were happy that our itinerary coincided with the Festival of Lights in the Old City. Imagine The Kansas City Plaza Lighting Ceremony, but in a 5,000-year-old city! The Old City’s architecture is the main backdrop, transforming it into a fairyland experience. Images were projected onto the city walls, and small children were fixated with the music and animation. Israeli and tourist families outside the Jaffa Gate were treated to huge blooming flowers bursting with color from the changing lights.

Later that night, we attended The Night Spectacular sound and light show at the Tower of David. The images of conquering armies pouring into the land of ancient Judea and Samaria flashed across the walls of the David Citadel Tower. It’s a high-tech show made possible by 20 projectors, 10 video players, 14 computers and 14 loudspeakers creating seemingly 3-D movements of people, animals and buildings—all set to heart-pounding original symphony music. We saw King David strumming a harp, the destruction of Solomon’s Temple, invading armies and more as Jerusalem is destroyed and rebuilt, each time a new people coming to take the place of the Israelites, who called it home for thousands of years. First Babylonians, then Romans, next came the Muslims, who were then defeated by the crusaders, but then later returned to vanquish the Europeans. Hannah said it helped her to create a timeline for the many ancient ruins she had explored during our trip.

The show is a good reminder

that, even today, Jerusalem is changing. It is no surprise that visitors who return to Israel often feel a bit disoriented.

Hannah and Emma’s favorite historical site was the City of David—the Jebusite village that David captured and made his capital. The site’s guide was engaging and kept our full attention.

Since the late 19th century, the City of David has remained an active archeological dig. Proof of its authenticity includes the personal seals of David and his officials, which were found in the ruins of the palace’s treasury. The historic site also allows visitors to descend down Warren’s Shaft, named after the Englishman who discovered it. Those who are claustrophobic can participate by watching an excellent 3-D film showing the history.

Some of the most exciting experiences in Jerusalem are deep underground. The suspense of walking with only a light from a flashlight through knee-deep water along the entire length of Hezekiah’s Tunnel is thrilling, if not a bit spooky. The 2,700-year-old tunnel was ordered built by King Hezekiah and was dug through solid rock, enabling water to run from the Gihon Spring outside Jerusalem to the city’s reservoir within the walls, thus protecting the city’s water supply (II Chron. 32). The tunnel ends at the Pool of Shiloh where Jesus healed the blind man (John 9)

One option for traveling up the hill to the Davidson Center is a tram, but being intrigued with the underground tunnels, we decided to walk to the Temple Mount through the ancient sewer system! That’s another moment that will capture the imagination of young travelers. The consensus of our family is that the City of David is a “must-do” activity!

The Davidson Center is part of the Jerusalem Archaeological Park. At the Center, near the Western Wall, guests can view a short 3-D film explaining the Herodian Temple and the rituals of Jewish pilgrims during

that Temple period. Around the corner from the Western Wall, visitors can ascend the original steps that Jesus would have used to access the Temple. Nearby is a section of enormous building blocks still in the same spot where they fell 12 stories to the ground when the Romans destroyed the Temple in 70 A.D. Still visible are indents where the weight of the blocks crushed the road.

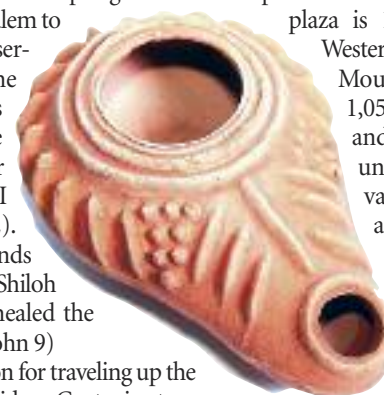
Below the Davidson Center is a subterranean city—the Jerusalem that Jesus knew and on whose streets he walked. Totally destroyed and covered with rubble after the Roman siege, the city lay abandoned for centuries. Over the course of 1,000 years people filtered back into the area, using blocks of stone from the Temple to rebuild Jerusalem, not realizing the extent of the city below their feet. Invading Muslims took on greater building projects, constructing arches to level and support a new street level. After multiple destructions each successive street level continued to rise, being built on the ruins below.

For those enamored with Jerusalem’s underground, the Western Wall Tunnels offers another perspective. As it stands today, the exposed section of the Western Wall plaza is 187 feet long. The Western Wall of the Temple Mount runs another 1,050 feet underground and could not be seen until recently. Its excavation took 20 years and exposed an aqueduct, cisterns, a Herodian road, and more. Those who explore it with a guide will see what was once ground level, including the streets used by Jesus and His followers 2,000 years ago.

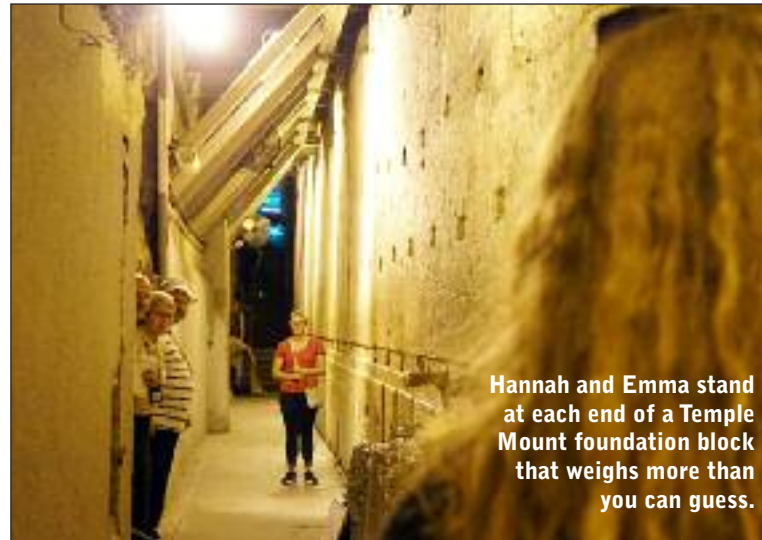
One amazing thing you’ll see is the original foundation of that Temple Wall. One block that deserves special attention is 41 feet long and weighs an estimated 570 tons—as much as two fully-loaded Boeing 747s. How it was transported from the quarry to its location still baffles modern engineers.

The Old City

For our girls, vacation also



A scale model of ancient Jerusalem during the Second Temple period.



Hannah and Emma stand at each end of a Temple Mount foundation block that weighs more than you can guess.

The Old City

For our girls, vacation also means time for shopping—looking for that perfect T-shirt as a reminder of the trip. Shopping in the Old City can be fun if you like to haggle, or dreadful if you don't. Hannah preferred to shop in a trendy store at the new Mamilla Mall. Emma, though, just loves to buy anywhere, anytime. She found the perfect Star of David necklace in the 1,900-year-old Cardo area—the Jewish Quarter known for art, jewelry and clothing.

A short walk away is The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which some believe is the site of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Christ. The Church is maintained by six Christian denominations: Greek Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic, Roman Catholic Church, Coptic, Ethiopian and Syrian Orthodox. The church's interior and worship

services reflect its caretakers' traditions and may seem foreign to Protestants. There is a beauty in the reverence of pilgrims from so many countries.

Roaming is a great method of discovering and understanding any city and its culture since the neighborhoods often reflect the history of its founding. They also often invite unexpected surprises. The Yemin Moshe area near the Montefiore Windmill, for instance, is easily spotted as seemingly out of place in Jerusalem's mostly arid landscape. The contrast between the stone buildings and the colorful plants draws visitors down its multiple alleys, offering a scenic view of the Old City wall. On another walk back to the hotel we found ourselves at the Prime Minister's house. Really—at the front drive! No blocks of concrete barriers here.

In another late night adventure, we sought out the International Christian Embassy, where I worked in the mid-80s. With a map and a few assists from the friendly locals, our mission was finally accomplished. The evening concluded with a light dinner on the balcony at the King David Hotel where I remember indulging in hard-to-find "real" American coffee with another American volunteer.

Serendipitous Opportunities

Recognizing our love of the Holy Land, our guide Moshe arranged a last-minute change in our itinerary for a tour of the yet-unfinished Friends of Zion Museum. Dear reader, listen to the suggestions of your tour guide as this was in the top three of our experiences and a definite draw for Generation Xers.

The tour opened with an impressive aerial view of modern Israel projected over a topographical model showing which Jewish tribe received the land. The museum then employs touch screens, holographic images, 3-D glasses, light effects and surround sound to tell the story of academicians, business people, military, political figures, and ordinary Christians who aided Jews throughout history and worked toward Israel's rebirth.

The museum uses these high-tech tools in spectacular fashion at the conclusion of the presentation, when many Christians who aided the Jewish people during the Holocaust are introduced. We were then



asked to hold out our cupped hands. Suddenly, projected onto our palms, was the image and name of a person saved by these individuals. It was a heart-stopping moment as the display showed us that we each hold the fate of an individual in our hands. Hannah and Emma were deeply moved by the presentation and vowed to return on future trips.

INTO THE WILDERNESS

By Anita Widaman

Our departure from Jerusalem was bittersweet. We had much more to experience as we headed for the wilderness of En Gedi passing the caves where the Dead Sea scrolls were found (some tours stop here). At En Gedi 3,000 years ago, David and his men hid from Saul.

The Ein Gedi Nature Reserve is a breathtaking spot to hike, leading guests to waterfalls, a 5,000 year-old

Nearby at the En Gedi Kibbutz a world-renowned botanical garden is uniquely situated among residential homes, a spa, boutique guest houses and other buildings. About 900 species of plants grow in the garden, including plants native to the region and beyond. I was drawn to a section dedicated to plants mentioned in the Bible, such as myrrh and frankincense. One eye-catching plant was the *Adansonia Digitata*, also called



Hold on to your hats! A jeep ride through the Negev Desert will delight the kids.



The Baobab tree is a sight to see!

Bronze Age temple, springs, caves, local wildlife such as ibex (a wild goat), and pools of water that tempt visitors into a refreshing dip before heading back to the reserve's visitor center. (Don't worry, in the desert air, you'll be dry before you return!) College students in shorts as well as orthodox elementary students in dark, long sleeve dress are not afraid to jump in! It is truly an oasis of lush vegetation, a stark contrast to the desert and Dead Sea not far away.

The Baobab, a huge African tree. It takes seven people or more to embrace its trunk.

While not featured on every tour, Masada (see our September article) is better known to Jews than Christians as the last stand of Jews for freedom after the destruction of the Temple. Atop a dry desert plateau, Herod had constructed his winter home—an amazing palace and fortress.

While important to the Jewish



David would have bathed in this water fall.

faith, Masada defines the beginning of the Christian faith as a movement apart from Judaism. Until the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D., followers of Jesus were still considered a Jewish sect and many believers still considered themselves Jewish. When Rome destroyed

Jerusalem and the Temple, soldiers dispersed or killed Jewish and Gentile followers of Jesus. It was at this time that the center of Christianity moved away from Jerusalem and began to develop its own identity.

We left Masada and reached Ein Bokek, a therapeutic beach and resort area on the Dead Sea — earth's lowest elevation on land at 1,407-feet below sea level. The oxygen-rich environment, in addition to mineral-rich mud and a unique composition of salts and minerals in the water, as well as bromide in the air draw tourists worldwide for the therapeutic benefits.

Most places we stayed,

whether a kibbutz guest hotel or boutique hotel, offered spa services.

The Rimonim Royale Hotel, featured 50 different health and beauty treatments. We joined other tourists relaxing on the beach, slathering each other with mud, and floating in the water, which is a unique experience as it is nine times saltier than the ocean, making it nearly impossible to sink!

The next morning, the tour turned adventurous as we experienced the Judean Desert from an



Looking into a desert cave where it is 45 degrees.

open jeep. Heading south, we weaved through and over canyons, plateaus, steep cliffs, and the “moon crater” landscape with our good-natured Bedouin guide.

“Opah! Opah!” shouted our Bedouin guide. It roughly translates to the cowboy cry of “Yippee-ki-yay!” It echoed through the canyons. Dwight, Hannah, and Emma were smiling with upmost delight, as I held on tightly to the jeep’s roll bar, wondering why we didn’t have crash helmets.

The driver would often pull to an abrupt stop to show us desert animals, plants, and even a cave that was as cool as the inside of our refrigerator at home. We ended at Mount Sodom, which is almost entirely made of salt. The area is the biblical location of Sodom and Gomorrah where Lot and his wife lived (Gen. 19) and where remnants of sulfur can still be found on the ground.

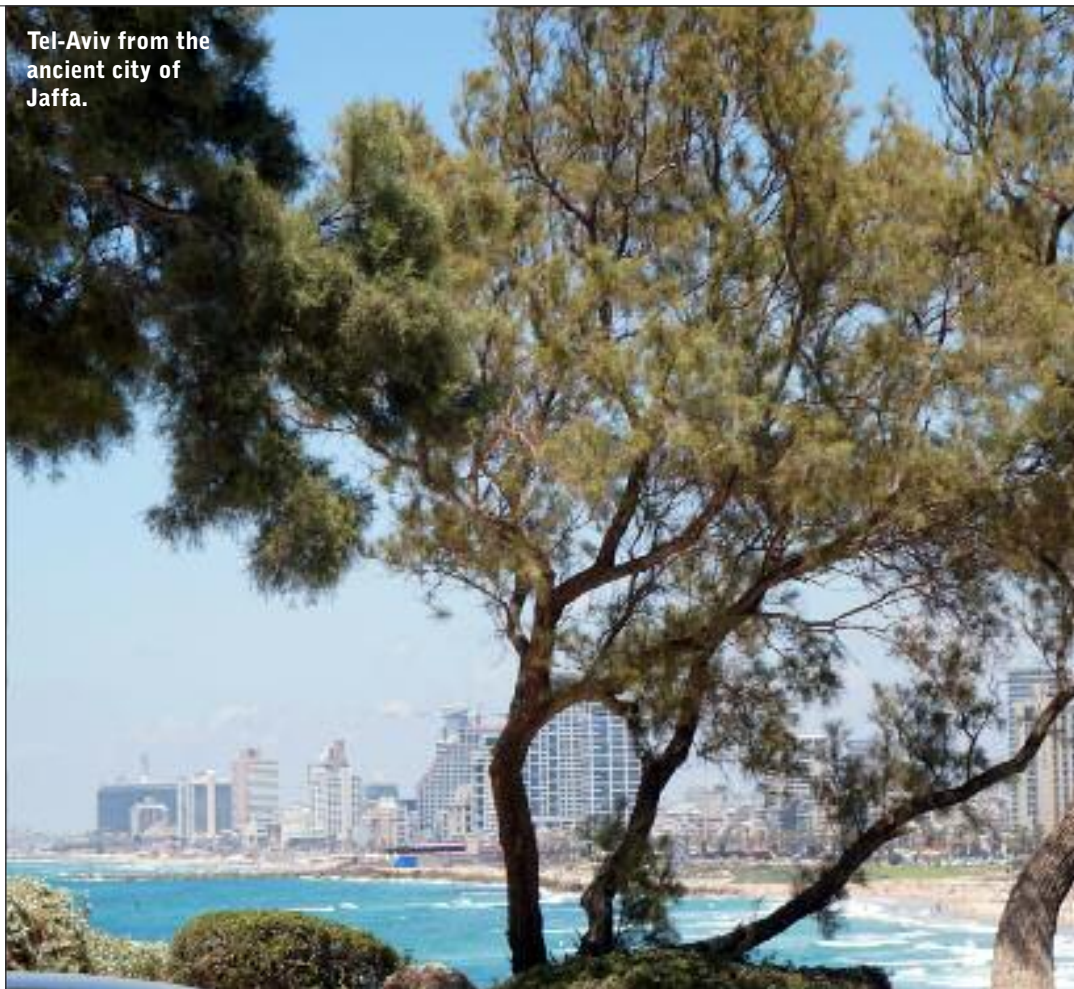
After a fun and wind-blown day in the desert, we returned to the hotel to clean up and pack for a late check-out.

On our way to back to Jaffa and Tel-Aviv for the final few days of our tour, we stopped at Beit Guvrin National Park, the site of the Bell Caves. The highest point of the Park is Tel Maresha, which 2 Chronicles 11:5–8 records was fortified by King Rehoboam of Judah to help repel an Egyptian attack. The man-made attraction is a series of 80 large caves connected by passageways that were quarried to extract lime for cement. The process created a bell shape in the rock. Christians are thought to have used this place as refuge because, visible on the north wall, is an early design of a cross.



Moshe explains a model of Masada.

Tel-Aviv from the ancient city of Jaffa.



BACK TO WHERE WE BEGAN

By Dwight Widaman

Jaffa, a Mediterranean seaport, is the oldest continuously inhabited city in Israel. The name appears many times in the Bible. From here, Jonah embarked to Tarnish, King Kiram of Tyra sent logs for the Temple to the port, Peter had a vision of the “pure and impure” and Tabitha was brought back to life.

The modern metropolis of Tel-Aviv began as a suburb of Jaffa in 1909. Today, they’ve merged and the short walk from one to the other is easy via a promenade and park that allows pedestrians to view fishermen and colorful, bobbing boats in the port.

We started the day in Jaffa, meandering its old streets and noticing its cosmopolitan mixture of Arab, Christian, and Jewish citizens.

As we wandered through the alleys, we found one-of-a-kind clothing, jewelry, crafts and fine art. Some of the artists’ shops were their homes. Tel-Aviv is Israel’s fashion capital and the small boutiques of Jaffa confirmed this. The girls and Anita browsed the racks and found edgy designs that were fun to try on. I, meanwhile, searched for a small art print, which we collect from countries where we have traveled. Ice cream parlors were common and came in handy when we were exhausted.

Nearby was the Jaffa Flea Market, which offered antiques, as well as castoffs. Its organization made no sense, which contributed to its beauty. The presence of “classic



Dr. Shakshuka prepares a special meal for us at his restaurant on our last evening.

British” furniture prompted me to wonder, “When did it get off the boat?” I could only imagine the history these time worn pieces had seen! The Old Turkish Railway Station and the Tel-Aviv Port, previously in disrepair, are now hot spots where hip, young Israelis and tourists eat, shop and people watch.

Our leisurely wandering continued, and we returned to the Carmel Market we had visited our first night. Now, with more time and fresh perspective, we perused a plethora of fruits, vegetables, flowers, pastries, household items—and the only Dr. Pepper we saw available for purchase the entire trip. Vendors’ stalls also overflowed with exotic spices.

The real reason we ended our tour in Tel Aviv, instead of Jerusalem, was to plan a day on the beach and

enjoy the beautiful sky and gentle waves. Joggers appeared on the promenade in the morning and volleyball games continued late into the night. Sunbathers were present from sunup to sundown.

The beachfront provides all the

services guests need: changing areas, umbrella rentals, café, and bicycles for rent. A section along the 8.7 miles of beach reserved for the religiously observant, offered gender-specific swimming on designated days.

We concluded the day at Jaffa, where we began our first night, this time meeting with our host from the Ministry of Tourism at a restaurant, Dr. Shakshuka, where the owner cooked shakshuka, a traditional egg dish. (The recipe can be found on our website.)

After dinner, we headed directly to the airport for our flight home.

Although it was sad to leave, the girls quickly extended their trip on their home turf by sharing their experiences with their friends. Hannah had previously introduced her friends to Israeli food several years earlier and every year they request an “Israeli dinner.” The tradition continued late this summer, allowing friends of both girls to attend before leaving for college. Along with the hummus, pita, and falafel, the main course was shakshuka—made with our own fresh tomatoes, peppers and garlic. It was my first attempt at making the dish — and everyone asked for seconds!

Along with the food made from exotic spices, our young adult guests asked thoughtful questions and eagerly absorbed our Holy Land experiences, including our love for Israel and the Jewish people.

Shalom, Israel

We live in a world where knowledge is often gained only from a Facebook post or out-of-context words scrolling across the bottom of the television screen. Our experience in Israel allowed our daughters to dig deeper and learn about their faith by walking the Holy Land, talking to its citizens and joining in their daily life and celebrations.

On their college campuses this fall their new knowledge has empowered them with the courage to defend Israel and the Jewish people. They have also learned the great debt we all owe Judaism as the bedrock of the Christian faith.

Shalom.

[Editor’s Note: Next month we conclude with our third and final installment explaining how to make your journey to Israel a reality.]



Sad to say “Goodbye”... at the airport for our return home.

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the events calendar

Compiled by Anita Widaman

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

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



OCT 23 7:00 P.M. THE BROTHERHOOD TOUR FEATURING ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND. FIRST BAPTIST RAYTOWN, 10500 E. 350 HWY., RAYTOWN, MO. DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 P.M.

CONCERTS

CHARLES DAVID SMART. October 2, 7:30-9:30 pm. Homer's Coffeehouse, 7126 W 80th St., Overland Park, KS. 913-381-6022.

SERYN AND D. CLEA IN CONCERT. October 5, 7:30 pm. FireEscape Coffee House, 126 W. Main, Chanute, KS 66720. Adults \$10, students \$5, all ages show. Two great bands - SERYN from Nashville and D. Clea from Springfield, MO - folk, alternative. Seating is limited. Tickets online at www.attendstar.com. 620-431-5815.

THE KING'S HERALDS. October 5, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church, 215 Jefferson, Kearney, MO. 816-628-5583.

THIS HOPE. 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. October 11, 6:00 pm. Red Bridge Baptist Church, 4901 E. Red Bridge Rd., Kansas City, MO 64137. 816-761-1194.

TIM HAWKINS LIVE. October 11, 6:30 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO 64138. 816-353-1994.

NICOLE NORDEMAN. October 18, 6:00 pm. Woodcrest Chapel, 2201 W Nifong, Columbia, MO 65203. 573-445-1131.

THRIVE TOUR 2015, CASTING CROWNS. October 22, 7:00 pm. St. Joseph Civic Arena, 100 N. 4th St., St. Joseph, MO. 855-443-8499.

PLUMB AND RAPTURE RUCKUS "EXHALE

TOUR." October 23, 7:30 pm. FireEscape Coffeehouse, 126 W. Main, Chanute, KS 66720. VIP \$25 early Meet and Greet with the bands at 6:30 pm with cookies and coffee. Two great bands, Plumb and Rapture Ruckus. General admission at 7:30 - all ages welcome-SRO. 620-431-5815.

THE BROTHERHOOD TOUR. October 23, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Featuring Ernie Haase & Signature Sound and The Booth Brothers. Call 1-800-965-9324.

GREG LOGINS AND REVIVAL. October 24, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church, 215 Jefferson, Kearney, MO. 816-628-5583.

EVERY CHILD IS BEAUTIFUL TOUR. October 25, 7:00 pm. New Life Assembly of God Church, 801 SW 1st St., Oak Grove, MO 64075. Featuring Kutless, Mark Schultz, Rush of Fools, David Dunn, and Natasha Owens. 816-690-3514.

GREATER THAN TOUR. October 29, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO 64138. Featuring MercyMe, Phil Wickham, Tim Timmons, and John Lynch. 1-800-965-9324.

EVENING OF THANKSGIVING & PRAISE. November 7, 6:00 pm. Central Baptist Church, 904 Wheat Rd., Winfield, KS. Doors open at 5:00 pm, concert starts at 6:00 pm. Featuring the Armouraires Quartet with their very special guests Gold City and Wilburn & Wilburn. 316-807-0121.

WE BELIEVE...GOD'S NOT DEAD TOUR. November 12, 7:00 pm. Memorial Hall, 600 N 7th, Kansas City, KS 66101. Featuring Newsboys, Hawk Nelson, and Ryan Stevenson. www.shoforconcerts.com

TED PEARCE WORSHIP CONCERT. Nov. 14, 7:30. Or HaOlam, 7029 W 74th Street, OPKS. 913-383-8448AN EVENING WITH CASTING CROWNS. November 20, 7:00 pm. Topeka Performing Arts Center, Topeka, KS. Special guest Lauren Daigle.

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 & October, 7pm. 310 Randolph Rd, Claycomo, MO. Gospel music sing. 816-452-4426.

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

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

PARADISE BAPTIST CHURCH. SECOND SUNDAY, 6

p.m. Pot luck dinner at 5 p.m. Paradise Missouri. 816-591-1020.

CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

FEAST OF SUKKOT 2015. Through October 5. Tabernacles in Kansas City, MO. info@sukkotkc.org.

FUSION YOUTH WEEKEND. October 2 & 3, 5:30 pm. Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 5001 N. Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64118. Fusion Youth Weekend is for high school students from 9th-12th grade and their Youth leaders. This weekend will primarily focus on how we can be reaching the

■ calendar continued on next page

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lost around us while having the Gospel as our motivating factor!

WOMEN OF FAITH LOVED SIMULCAST. October 2 & 3. Tiffany Fellowship, 7315 NE Barry Rd., Kansas City, MO 64153. Featuring Patsy Clairmont, Jen Hatmaker, Nicole Johnson, Marilyn Meberg, Sandi Patty, Luci Swindoll, and Korie Robertson. 816-741-9449.

PURSUING THE COMMON GOOD OF THE CITY. October 2 & 3. Christ Community Brookside Church, 400 W. 67th St., Kansas City, MO 64113. Move beyond individual contribution, and engage together in a conversation on how to best collaborate as neighbors for the flourishing of Kansas City. cg2015@madetoflourish.org.

PRAISE HIM 2015. October 3, 4:30 pm Fellowship Tail-Gating; 6:30 pm Childcare check-in; 7:00 pm Praise Him 2015 Begins. Victory Ministry & Sports Complex, 3405 S. Hammons Blvd., Joplin, MO 64804. 100 worshipers from 100 churches, worship

teams, orchestra, and choir collaboration. Multi-generational, multi-denominational and regional worship event with the goal of gathering a truly representative group of the body of God in the four-state region. 417-206-6886.

2015 FALL HOLY DAYS AT OR HAOLAM. October 3, 10:00 am Sukkot (outside, parking lot to north, weather permitting/carry-in meal); October 10, 10:00 am Simkhat Torah Shabbat service; October 17, 10:00 am Messiah's Birthday Celebration. Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation, 7029 W. 74th St., Overland Park, KS. 913-383-8448.

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

DESIGNED FOR LIFE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. October 8-October 10. JQH Arena, 685 S. John Q. Hammons Pkwy., Springfield, MO. Special speakers Kari Jobe, Robert Madu, Holly Wagner, Julia A'Bell,

Debbie Lindell. Organized by James River Church. 417-581-5433.

BRANSON FALL SPECTACULAR WEEKEND EVENT. October 9, 10, 11. 2820 W. Hwy. 76, Branson, MO 65652. Sponsored by Midwest Christian Singles. 417-297-0062.

5TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. October 9 & 10. DoubleTree, 10100 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66210. Trinity members \$50/non member \$60, includes dinner, breakfast, lunch and conference materials Cost of Greater book in addition. Guest speaker Bishop Frank Anthone White. Sponsored by Trinity Temple Church of God in Christ.

GOOD NEWS CLUB TRAINING. October 10, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Shawnee Bible Church, 12921 W. 61st St., Shawnee, KS. Sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship. 816-358-1138.

CHRONIC DISEASE SELF-MANAGEMENT. October 12, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm (five following Mondays, 1:30-4:00 pm). Jewish Community Center, Boardroom, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS. Free workshop series. Course topics include: how to manage fatigue & pain; how to deal with anger & depression; how to maintain good nutrition & exercise; and decision-making & problem-solving skills.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ADULT RETREAT. October 12-14. Windermere Camp, 1650 Koehler Dr., Roach, MO 65787. Speakers: Dr. Bing Bayer & Dr. Randy Fullerton. Worship Leaders: Aaron Allison. 800-346-2215.

R.A.D.I.C.A.L. DIVORCE RECOVERY FOR WOMEN. October 13. Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd., Room 236, Kansas City, MO 64114. The 10-week course is \$85. Regardless of



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6:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. THE CRAZY HAIR TOUR AT COLONIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 9500 WORNALL ROAD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64114.

where you are on the divorce journey, this life-changing group helps you take stock of where you are now, and gives you the tools to get where you want to be. You will find connections, support and practical strategies to make that vision a reality. angedw920@gmail.com, 816-941-4911.

WRITE ABOUT JESUS. October 15-17. First Baptist Church-Harvester, 4075 Old Hwy. 94, St. Charles, MO 63304. Our mission is to equip and inspire the Christian songwriting community. 314-346-1275.

TODD WHITE CONFERENCE AT VICTORY. October 16, 6:00 pm & October 17, 8:00-11:30 am & 1:00-3:00 pm. Victory Ministry & Sports Complex, 3405 S. Hammons Blvd., Joplin, MO 64804.

FREE WORKSHOP: HALT TEEN DATING ABUSE & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. October 17, 8:30 am. Leawood Baptist Church, 8200 State Line Rd., Leawood, KS 66206. Free tickets but donations are accepted. Interactive workshop signs of teen dating abuse and domestic violence, ways to initiate conversations, safety for victims and helpers (including a Safety Plan template), how bullying relates to abusers, and Susan's personal story of living with a terrorist. 25% of donations goes to metro KC area domestic violence shelters and are greatly appreciated by all.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD. October 23-October 25. Are you or someone you love suffering heartbreak after abortion? Take courage, and consider attending a local Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. Women and men of all ages are welcome. The retreat offers a beautiful opportunity to experienced hope and healing. Healing the pain of abortion...one weekend at a time. www.rachelsvineyard.org, 816-591-3804.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING. October 23, 6:00-9:00 pm & October 24, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Heart of America Bible College, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. Total cost including course material \$200. Limited. Earn 3 credit hours of Bible College Credit for attending and completing homework. 816-356-6380.

ALLIANCE FOR LIFE CONFERENCE 2015. October 25-27. Chateau on the Lake, Branson, MO. Networking to create a culture of life. 816-806-4168.

FOR WE LIVE BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT. October 27, 9:30 am. Peace Lutheran Church, 8240 Blue Ridge Blvd., Raytown, MO 64138. Cost is \$5, luncheon is provided. Speaker Carol Crawford. Sponsored by The Lutheran Women's Missionary League Missouri District Kansas City South Zone 2015 Rally. Her son, Mike, was born with multiple disabilities including cerebral palsy and visual impairment. 816-353-3813.

AVOID PROBATE. October 27, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center. 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

SPIRIT OF HEALTH SEMINARS. October. 5901 Main St., Grandview, MO. Mondays, 11am on-going-Healing by Design Series (A-Z through every disease condition from a Biblical viewpoint). Thursdays, 11am on-going - Herbal Remedies Series. Wednesdays, 6pm through November 11th - Partnering With God Series. First Saturday of each month is Tea Time with Vaughn. 816-492-5648 or visit www.spiritofhealthkc.com

3 DAY CONVENTION WITH EVANGELIST PAT SCHATZLINE. Oct. 30 & 31, 7 p.m.; Nov. 1, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. First Love Ministries Church 4747 Hadley Ave.,

■ calendar continued on next page

Huzzah & Cheers for 39 Years!

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Renaissance Festival

NEW Wizard's Flight School Zip Line
NEW Craft Beer Pub and Daily Tastings
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HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Benefiting the Northland Senior Citizen Christmas Day Dinner

There will be local vendors showcasing Jewelry, scarves, handbags, Christian woodcarvings, paintings, metal and stained glass plus great gifts and more. Lots of vendors to choose from!

Saturday, Oct. 17 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Open Door Bible Baptist Church
4300 NE Parvin Rd. • Kansas City

Holiday Market
Saturday, November 14 • 9am-3pm

Come shop one of our many vendors! Original creations, apparel, gifts, candles, home décor, beauty products, jewelry, baby items, and more! Visit the Holmeswood Café and enjoy musical entertainment throughout the day! Booth space is still available. If you are interested, please visit www.holmeswood.org or call 816-942-1729.

Holmeswood Baptist Church • 9700 Holmes Road, South Kansas City, Missouri
For more information, please visit www.holmeswood.org or call 816-942-1729

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Kansas City's Home for Christian Music

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CHECK CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 22 FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS

OPKS. 913-403-9644. President of Remnant Ministries International. Free.

2015 DAY OF PRAYER. November 1. This year we ask you to please join with thousands of Christians across the globe on Sunday, November 1, 2015 to pray for refugees, internal displaced people, the Middle Eastern Church and the role SAT-7 plays in sharing God's love and encouraging those affected by these events. www.sat7.org/day-of-prayer.

RECONCILIATION WEEKEND. November 6-8. Sponsored by If Not For Grace. A three-day, two-night retreat where abortion wounded women and men will experience unconditional love, grace and forgiveness. Permission is afforded to grieve the lost child or children and work through the shame of the regretted choice to abort. info@infgr.org

THE CRAZY HAIR TOUR. November 7, 6:30-9:00 PM. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Road, KC, MO 64114. A popular mother daughter stage show helps moms cultivate God crazy daughters who embrace inner beauty, biblical modesty, and vibrant purity. They also equip tweens (8-12 year olds) and their moms to understand Biblical values with contemporary relevance. (816) 942-3272

ON THE FRONTLINES 2015. November 12-14. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64063. Speakers: Patricia King, Dr. Clarice Fluit, Carol Koch & worship with Julie Meyer. The heart of Women on the Frontlines is to create an Encounter Zone for hungry believers to receive powerful impartation from those who have gone before. It has become a place of encounter that has left thousands of men & women's lives changed. 816-524-6120.

BUILDING A GROWING MARRIAGE SEMINAR. November 13-15. Fort Osage Church of Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. A low-key weekend seminar to help improve our marital relationships. 816-796-5879.

TED PEARCE MARCH OF REMEMBRANCE PRESENTATION. Nov. 14, 10 a.m. Or HaOlam, 7029 W 74th Street, OPKS. Ted will speak in the morning service on the concept of presenting a local march. 1:30 p.m. A Q & A will be presented on the nuts and bolts of doing a local march. Proposed date April 2016. 913-383-8448.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

NEW PASTOR ANNOUNCEMENT. We Welcome and celebrate the election as our Pastor, Dr. Lindy Reed and his family to Calvary Baptist Church Blue Springs, MO.

RED BRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH 50 YEARS JOY IN THE JOURNEY. Red Bridge Baptist Church, 4901 E. Red Bridge, Kansas City, MO. 50th anniversary celebration. God's people at RBBC invite you to celebrate during the month of October. Special events include

tion/Installation Service). 785-969-4090.

TEAM XTREME. October 3, 7:00 pm. Santa Fe Trail Middle School; October 10, 7:00 pm. Olathe South High School; October 11, 7:00 pm. Pleasant Ridge Middle School; October 14, 7:00 pm. Ottawa Municipal Auditorium; October 17, 7:00 pm. Olathe East High School. www.teamxtre.

WALK, RALLY, AND LIFE CHAIN. October 4, 1:50 pm. Frederick Boulevard Baptist Church, 3.7 miles; October 4, 2:15 pm. MWSU Spring Sports Complex, 2.2 miles; October 4, 2:40 pm. East Hills Library, 1 mile. Choose the starting point that best suits your walking ability and join together as the walk comes to you. Finish at Bishop LeBlond High School Stadium for rally at 3:30 pm. St. Joseph, MO. 816-387-8090.

LIFE CHAIN EVENT. October 4, 2:00 pm. Bishop LeBlond, St. Joseph, MO. These 2 events will be occurring simultaneously. The Life Chain will provide Pro-Life non-walkers and disabled to participate in this event by praying and with signs in front of Bishop LeBlond H.S. and attend Rally. 816-387-8090.

MISSOURI LIFE CHAIN. October 4, 2:00-3:00 pm. State Hwy. 7 at State Hwy 40, Blue Springs, MO. Alice Goergen 816-224-6768; October 4, 2:00-3:30 pm. 24 Hwy at N Noland Rd., Independence, MO. Steve & Ellen Bishop 816-650-3588; October 4, 2:00-3:00 pm. Barry Rd. at NW Waukomis Dr./Green Hills Rd., Kansas City North, MO. Adrianna Parman 512-638-6612; October 4, 1:30-2:30 pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 95th St at Wornall Rd., Kansas City South, MO. Beth Sykora 816-353-4113 and Annie Fowler; October 4, 2:00-3:00 pm. Second St. at Mason St., Odessa, MO. Sandy Lockhart 816-230-7898; October 4, 1:30-2:30 pm. Meet at Our Lady of Lourdes at 1:00 pm. E. Gregory Blvd., Raytown, MO. Priscilla Moran 816-332-2007; October 4, 2:00-3:00 pm. 36th St. at Frederick Blvd., St. Joseph, MO. William Werner 816-324-1306; October 4, 2:00-3:00 pm. 416 NW Missouri Hwy. 13, Warrensburg, MO. Tom Fitzpatrick 660-238-5140. For additional information call 717-602-7789.

KANSAS LIFE CHAIN. October 4, 2:00-3:00 pm. Hwy 59 at 10th St., Atchison, KS. James Gales; October 4, 1:30-2:30 pm. Parallel Pkwy. at Village West Pkwy, Kansas City, KS. Kim Wetzel-Williams 913-334-4264; October 4, 1:30-2:30 pm. 95th St. from Quivira to State Line Rd., Kansas City, KS. Mary Kay Culp 913-642-5433 and Hannah Bishop 913-642-5433; October 4, 12:30-2:00 pm. Iowa St. at 23rd St., Lawrence, KS. Jennifer Meitl Conrad 785-766-6189; October 4, 2:30-3:30 pm. 4th St. Trafficway from Limit St. to Thorn-

ton St., Leavenworth, KS. Laurie Hable 913-727-2742; October 4, 2:00-3:00 pm. Main St. at 5th St. west of courthouse, Ottawa, KS. Bequi Hicks 785-418-5652; October 4, 1:30-2:30 pm. 95th St. from Quivira to State Line Rd., Overland Park, KS. Mary Kay Culp 913-642-5433 and Hannah Bishop 913-642-5433; October 4, 2:00-3:30 pm. 21st St. at Washburn Ave, 21st St. at Wanamaker Rd., 29th St. at California, Ave. Sue Laird 785-379-9669. For additional information please call 316-788-3593.

LYDIA'S MARKET 2015. October 8, 5:00 pm. Painted Hills Golf Club, 7101 Parallel Pkwy., Kansas City, KS 66112. "Fun" Raising Event for In The World Ministries and Kansas City Rescue Mission Women's Center. Evening of shopping, giving, and sharing. Special vendors, silent auction, gift drawings, and great food. "Giving has never been so much fun!" 913-209-8492

2015 GOLF TOURNAMENT RACHEL HOUSE. October 9. Staley Farms Golf Club, 10310 N. Olive Ave., Kansas City, MO. Together we are making a difference two lives at a time. 816-875-1055.

LOVE'S OUTREACH COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION. October 10, 10:00-11:00 am. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO 64082. Sponsored by Church on the Rock Outreach Center. Free food for families in need. Valid ID and proof of residency needed to participate. Free and open to the public. 816-246-7625.

ANIMAL BEST FRIENDS CHILI SUPPER. October 10, 6:00 pm. St. Mary's Catholic Church, 600 Liberty, Independence, MO 64050. Animals Best Friends is sponsoring a chili supper/bingo/raffle to help with expenses for care of the animals. 816-254-8664.

PARKING LOT SALE. October 10, 8:00 am. Heart of

America Christian Fellowship, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. Parking Lot Sale: clothing, toys, antiques, computer technology, tools, fine arts, etc. 816-356-6380.

FIELDS OF FAITH. October 14, 6:00 pm. Eklund Field, Pleasant Hill, MO 64080. 816-540-5872.

6TH ANNUAL FALL CRAFT FAIR. October 17, 9:00 am. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. Do you make crafts? Want to participate? office@fortosagechurch.org to download an application. Come check out the items offered this year! 816-982-1343

NORTHLAND SENIOR CITIZEN CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER. October 17, 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Open Door Bible Baptist Church, 4300 NE Parvin Rd., Kansas City, MO 64117. There will be local vendors showcasing Jewelry, scarves, hand-bags, Christian woodcarvings, unique paintings, metal and stain glass items. Plus a wide variety of handcrafted gifts and many more vendors to choose from, for that perfect gift.

WOUNDED WARRIOR CAMP BENEFIT. October 10, 8:30 AM - 5 PM. Pleasant Hill Pet & Livestock Center, 1007 High St. Pleasant Hill, MO. Fish Fry Fundraiser with all proceeds going to benefit Camp Valor from 12 PM - 1:30 PM. Other activities. Pumpkin patch and decoration from 1 PM - 3 PM.

KANSAS CITY METRO MEN'S CHORUS CEF FUNDRAISER. October 17, 2015. 7:00-8:30 pm. Greater KC Chinese Christian Church, 5316 Quivira Rd, Shawnee, KS 66216. A free will offering will be taken for the Child Evangelism Fellowship. 816-358-1138.

■ calendar continued on next page

Exclusive Seminar for Teachers, Counselors, Pastors and Those Who Want to Help

Drug & Alcohol Addiction Counseling Training

Friday, Oct. 23rd, 6 PM & Saturday, Oct. 24, 9 AM – 5 PM

Alcohol & substance abuse impacts the physical, mental, spiritual, emotional, and relational life of not only the abuser, but also his family and friends. Recovery is a complex process, but this course provides powerful, practical, Biblical-based guidance.

Taught by Dr. R. H. Strelluf, you will learn:

- How addiction affects the body
- How the body responds to addiction
- How to recognize drug & alcohol abuse
- How to intervene in dangerous situations

Heart of America Christian College

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For info contact us at 816-356-6380.
www.heartofamericaministries.com

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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

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- must complete training and licensing process (offered at no charge through MBCH Children & Family Ministries)

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



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TRIVIA NIGHT. October 23, 600 NW 110th Terr., Kansas City, MO. A full table is \$80, or you can buy tickets for \$10 each. There will be seven rounds of trivia questions with entertainment by the ACT One kids and wonderful homemade desserts to bid on!

AMERICA'S PRO-LIFE HALF MARATHON/5K. October 24, Katy Trail State Park, Jefferson City, MO. Hosted by Vitae & LIFE Runners 573-634-4316.

BOOLIEVERS TRUNK OR TREAT. October 25, 5:00 pm. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 5901 E. 135th St., Grandview, MO 64030. Hot dogs, chips, and soda/water will be available for sell. \$2 for a meal or \$1 each. An outreach event to serve our community and provide a safe evening of Halloween fun for kids and families! Our parking lot will be chock full of delightfully decorated cars with lots of goodies in the trunks. Kids and parents are invited to make their way around our Trunk-or-Treat zone to enjoy free treats, games, and fun! 816-763-3211.

WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINES ISRAEL TOUR. October 28-November 7. Hosted by Patricia King with Katie Souza, Joan Hunter, Carol Koch and others. 816-524-6120.

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE ANNUAL BANQUET. October 29, 6:00 pm. Adam's Mark, 9103 E. 39th St., Kansas City, MO 64133. Tickets on sale now for \$40. Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be the guest speaker at the Annual Benefit Dinner for Missouri Right to Life. 816-353-4113.

TRUNK OR TREAT. October 30, 5:30 pm. Crossroads Christian Church, 5855 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS 66217. You're invited to a FREE event on Friday, October 30 from 5:30-7:30 pm for a trunk or treat with candy, s'mores and a giant slide! Put on your costume and join us for this free event! Everyone in the community is invited to a great evening of fun, candy and s'mores as we kick off the beginning of the Fall season. Visit crossroads-christian.org for details. 913-962-9966.

THE MARKET AND COOKIE CAFÉ-HOME DÉCOR, ARTISAN EXTRAVAGANZA. October 30, 10:00 am-8:00 pm; October 31, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Central Church of the Nazarene, 12600 W. 87th St. Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66215. Free admission, hot cider, and coffee. Home décor, artisan extravaganza, and cookie café. 913-541-2600.

HALLILIJAH PARTY. October 31, 2:00-4:30 pm. Heart of America Christian Fellowship, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. For all kids ages 3-12 years. Fun-food-inspiration. Dress code: come dressed as a bible character. 816-356-6380.

TRUNK OR TREAT. October 31, 7:00-8:30 pm. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO 64082. Free for all kids through age 12. Free games, candy and fun! Safe Halloween alternative. 816-246-7625.

TRUNK OR TREAT. October 31, 6:00 pm. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. Annual Trunk or Treat on the park-

ing lot of the church! Lots of candy! 816-796-5879.

NOAH'S ARK HARVEST PARTY. October 31, 6:00 pm. Pisgah Baptist Church, 112 Pisgah Drive, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. Free concessions, free admission. Costume contest, inflatable, obstacle course, carnival games, prizes, candy. 816-630-5121.

BLUE SPRINGS MO IMPACTING THE GLOBE. November 7, 8:00 am. Cordill-Mason Elementary School, 4001 SW Christiansen Dr., Blue Springs, MO 64014. The Blue Springs community is partnering with ImpactLives, a non-profit organization, to prepare more than a quarter of a million meals to be distributed through sustainable humanitarian efforts in the Dominican Republic and possibly other 3rd world countries. 816-519-0085.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS AND VENDORS! HOLMESWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH 44th ANNUAL HOLIDAY MARKET. November 14, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Holmeswood Baptist Church, 9700 Holmeswood Rd., Kansas City, MO 64131. Proceeds from booth

rentals benefits youth missions. Booth space available ... for more information, and to download registration forms www.holmeswood.org. 816-942-1729.

HOLIDAY GIFT AND CRAFT FAIR. November 14, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 1433 NW R.D. Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64015. Free admission. Vendors, hand-crafted items, home-made tasty treats, "Flea Market" items, Christmas Decorations, Raffle. 925-784-2430.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COLLECTION WEEK. Nov. 16 - 23.

THE SWEET LIFE COMEDY TOUR, TWO DESSERT THEATER COMEDY EVENTS. November 14, 4:00 pm. Bethany Lutheran Church, Stilwell Campus. November 14, 7:00 pm. Bethany Lutheran Church, Overland Park Campus. Tickets just \$10. 913-648-2228.

FINE ARTS

THE MIRACLE WORKER. Through October 25. The Coterie Theatre, 2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-474-6552.

TOM SAWYER. October 1, 7:00 pm; October 2, 7:00 pm; October 3, 2:00 & 7:00 pm; October 4, 2:00 pm. School Day Performances: October 1, 10:00 am; October 2, 10:00 am. Bell Cultural Events Center Mid-America Nazarene, 2030 E. College Way, Olathe, KS 66062. Sponsored by CYT. www.cytkc.org

TIN PAN ALLEY. October 2-November 1. Quality Hill Playhouse, 303 W. 10th St., Kansas City, MO. A salute to America's popular music composers who promoted their sheet music by the way of "song pluggers" in New York City's Tin Pan Alley. 816-421-1700.

KRISTIN CHENOWETH WITH THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY. October 3, 8:00 pm. Helzberg Hall, 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO. Benefit concert for arts education. 816-994-7222.

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS. October 8-11. Liberty Chapel at Calvary Bible College, 15790 Elmwood, Kansas City, MO 64147. Presented by Calvary Bible College. Come join a delightful celebration of family-its goodness, its commitment, its strength, and its love. 816-425-6129.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS. October 9-18, 7:30 pm Friday & Saturday, 2:00 pm Sunday. Kauffman Center for Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Presented by Kansas City Ballet. A lavish combination of action, romance and comedy as the musketeers set out to protect the honor of Queen Anne. 816-931-2232.

AMERICAN EPICS: THOMAS HART BENTON AND HOLLYWOOD. October 10. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64111. This first major Benton exhibition in more than 25 years reveals the fascinating but overlooked relationship between Benton's art, movie making and visual storytelling. Nearly 100 works and complementary film clips highlight the cinematic, composition and technical underpinnings of Benton's art. 816-751-1321.

THE SCOLA CANTORUM AND WILLIAM JEWELL CHOIR. October 12, 7:30 pm. Visitation Catholic Church, 5141 Main St., Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by Greater Kansas City AGO.

THE WOMEN OF LOCKERBIE. October 15, 16, 17, 18. MCC-Longview, Cultural Art Center, Lee's Summit, MO. Presented by Lee's Summit Community Theatre. www.summittheatre.org 816-463-2654

MULAN JR. October 15, 7:00 pm; October 16, 7:00 pm; October 17, 2:00 & 7:00 pm; October 18, 2:00 pm. School Day Performances: October 15, 10:00 am; October 16, 10:00 pm. Goppert Theater Avila University, 11901 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64105. Sponsored by CYT. www.cytkc.org.

AMAZING ADVENTURES OF WILLY THE WOOLY. October 17, 11:00 am & 2:00 pm. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO 64052. A Variety of puppet type and an original score tell the lively escapades of a woolly mammoth and his Ice Age friends. 816-833-9777.

OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO. October 18, 3:00 pm. Park Hill South High School, 4500 NW Riverpark Dr., Riverside, MO 64150. Sponsored by Northland Symphony Orchestra. The Northland Symphony Orchestra will be traveling through America. They will perform Candide's Overture by Bernstein, Suite No. 2 in E Minor, Op. 48 by MacDowell, and the Grand Canyon Suite by Grofé. 816-945-2436.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT. October 18, 7:00 pm. Colonial Hills Community of Christ Church, 3539 SW Hwy. 7, Blue Spring, MO 64015. 816-355-0114. October 24, 7:00 pm. Nativity of Mary Catholic Parish, 10017 E. 36th Terr., Independence, MO 64052. 816-355-0114. Sponsored by Jacomo Chorale. Concert of 50's and 60's music.

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OCT. 9-18, 2015
KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

OCTOBER 9-18 7:30 PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2:00 PM SUNDAY. AT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS, 1601 BROADWAY BLVD., KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. November 7, 12, 14, 19, 21 at 7:30 pm.; November 8, 15, 22 at 2:00 pm. White Theatre, The Jewish Community Center, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS 66211. 913-327-8054

MARY POPPINS. November 12, 7:00 pm; November 13, 7:00 pm; November 14, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; November 15, 2:00 pm; November 19, 7:00 pm; November 20, 7:00 pm; November 21, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; November 22, 2:00 pm. School Day Performances: November 13, 10:00 am; November 20, 10:00 am. Bell Cultural Events Center, MidAmerica Nazarene, 2030 E. College Way, Olathe, KS 66062. Sponsored by CYT. www.cytkc.org

PETER PAN. November 19, 7:00 pm; November 20, 10:00 am & 7:00 pm; November 21, 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm. Northland Mission Auditorium, 600 NW 110th Terr., Kansas City, MO. Presented by Act One. 816-734-2000.

FAMILY OUTINGS

RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL. Open weekends plus Columbus Day Through October 18, 10:00 am-7:00 pm. 633 N 130th St., Bonner Springs, KS. 913-721-2110. KCRenFest.com.

SHUCKS MAZE. Through November 1: Fridays 6:00-10:00 pm, Saturdays 12:00-10:00 pm, Sundays 12:00-6:00 pm. 291 Hwy., Lee's Summit, MO. Corn maze, pumpkin patch, barrel train, corn cannon, hay mountain, hayrides, concessions, picnic area, hay jump. 816-600-0024.

SKILLBUILDERS. Through November 24. Various locations. Sponsored by Crossroads Hospice, Kansas City Hospice, Crossroads Hospice Charitable Foundation, Johnson County Parks & Rec 50+ Program. Education and support for widows, widowers and caregivers. 913-648-1520.

WATERFIRE KANSAS CITY. October 3, 7:00-10:00 pm (Rain date October 4). Brushcreek Plaza, Kansas City, MO. Bring a picnic, dine with some of your Plaza restaurants, enjoy the fire performance and musical accompaniment.

SCHEELS KIDS KLUB, HOW SCHEELS FUDGE IS MADE. October 5, 6:00 pm. SCHEELS, 6503 W. 135th St., Overland Park, KS 66223. Learn how SCHEELS fudge is made and get a treat to take home!

VIP BENEFIT FOR TWO KEYS FILM PROJECT. October 10, 7:00-9:00 pm. Lakewood Oaks Golf Club, 651, NE Saint Andrews Circle, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. This evening includes: silent auction, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, Hollywood red carpet fun and photos. A reading of the award winning short screenplay, Two

Keys. Reservations requested.

KANSAS CITY'S 18TH & VINE JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL. October 10, 1:00 pm-12:00 am. American Jazz Museum, 1616 E. 18th St., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-474-8463.

CIVIL WAR BATTLE. October 10, 9:00 am-5:00 pm; October 11, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Shoal Creek, 7000 Northeast Barry Rd., Kansas City, MO 64156. Public Admission fee \$10 per car. 816-792-2655.

PUMPKINS AND MUMS FALL FESTIVAL. October 17, 10:00-4:00 pm. Historic Downtown Excelsior Springs. Crafters, vendors, artist, children activities. 816-637-2811.

TRUEX LECTURE. Oct. 28, 7:30 PM. Yates-Gill College Union Rm. 221-222, 500 College Hill, Liberty, MO. Jason W. Best '90 will make his return to William Jewell College to deliver a lecture as part of the Everett P. Truex Economic and Financial Forum. (816) 415.5223

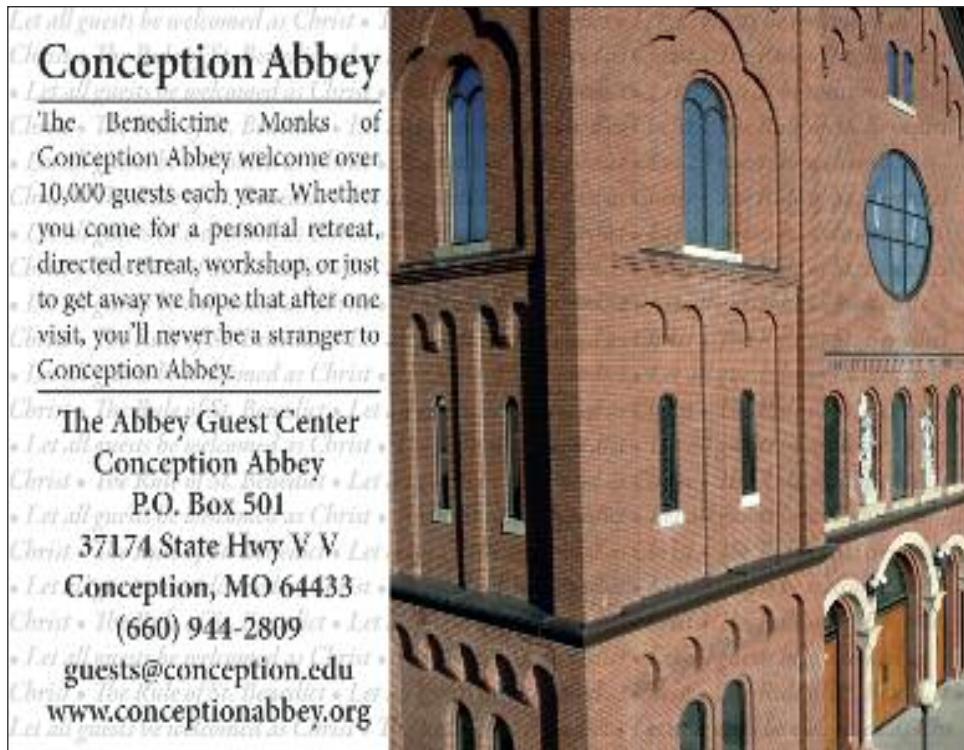
DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE. October 29, 7:00 pm. Kauffman Center for Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Presented by Kansas City Symphony. Starring legendary leading man John Barrymore in the notorious title roles, this eerie screen adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale is a perfectly fun and ghoulish way to spend a spooky night. 816-471-0400.

CAFFEINE CRAWL KANSAS CITY. NOVEMBER 6-8, 8:30 am. Multiple Cafes, Kansas City, MO. Join us for the 40th Caffeine Crawl in the city that started it all-Kansas City! Choose one (or more) of 11 tours through 21 of KC's best coffee, tea and chocolate shops for a caffeinated weekend to remember. Explore the KC specialty beverage scene like never before by bike, car, or bus, with multiple time options to fit your schedule. Tickets available at www.caffeinecrawl.com.

GREAT PUMPKIN SMASH. November 7, 10:00 am-3:30 pm. Kansas City Zoo, 6800 Zoo Dr., Kansas City, MO 64132. Our animals are getting into the post Halloween enrichment at the Great Pumpkin Smash. Watch them crush, kick, bounce and play with big orange pumpkins. 816-595-1234.

BEST LITTLE ART AND CRAFT SHOW IN INDEPENDENCE. Nov. 20 & 21. Roger Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion, Independence, MO. 816-325-7370. Nov. 20 & 21. Roger Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion, Independence, MO. 816-325-7370.

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Behind every big, breaking news story that flashes across your TV screen, there are real people whose lives will be forever changed.

In 2005, Ashley Smith became one of those people when she went out for cigarettes and wound up as the hostage of a man wanted for multiple murders. Based on her real-life ordeal, *Captive* is a story of second chances, purpose, and hope.

Having lost custody of her 5-year-old daughter, Ashley (Kate Mara, *We Are Marshall*) is trying to clean up her act. She has a job and a new apartment; she's even going to Celebrate Recovery meetings. But the lure of "ice" (crystal meth) is so strong it will take something big to break its hold... something like Brian Nichols (David Oyelowo, *Selma*), a desperate man on a killing spree who decides to hole up in Ashley's apartment with her inside.

Mara nicely captures the just-barely-functioning Ashley. The difficulty of leading a drug-addled life shows in her vacant stare and the visible effort it takes her to slog through everyday tasks.

Her stillness has a palpable presence, like

film411

STARS: Cast: Kate Mara, David Oyelowo, Michael K. Williams, Mimi Rogers, Leonor Varela, Jessica Oyelowo
RUN TIME: 97 minutes
GENRE: Crime, Drama, Thriller
RATING: PG-13

a cornered animal trying to be invisible. The only bright spots are when her genuine love for her daughter periodically breaks through the fog in Ashley's brain.

It's clear from the beginning that Ashley's real enemy is not the fugitive in her apartment; it's the addiction in her body and spirit.

Oyelowo is surprisingly likeable as Nichols, who fights his way out of the Fulton County courthouse, leaving a trail of bodies in his wake. Sure, he'll shoot you as soon as look at you, but Nichols doesn't come off so much "evil" as "terrifyingly unclear on the concept."

He's a man on a mission and if people would just get out of his way, all would be well... at least, from his standpoint. Through all of Nichols's moods—and they are many—Oyelowo remains imminently watchable.

The story isn't solely focused on these two, which is a good thing; the pace is slow enough as it is, and some of their conversations are overly full of long, painful pauses. After Nichols eludes capture at the courthouse, the police just about shut down Atlanta in their effort to find the fugitive. As the detective in charge of the case, Michael K. Williams (*The Road*) tries his best but can't quite match Oyelowo's intensity. In the end, just as in real life, Rick Warren's book *The Purpose Driven Life* has more to do with the resolution than the police.

From a filmmaking perspective, *Captive* is a mixed bag. Nichols's courthouse activities are shown in a way that get the point across with just enough violence to be effective without being gratuitous. That's a nice touch.

Not so nice is the picture quality—the camera is often shaky. It's not clear if this is meant to communicate the main characters' fragile emotional states or if it's just sloppy camera work, but the result is distracting.

From a storytelling angle, best-selling author Dr. Henry Cloud said it best when he described *Captive* as showing "faith as it works in real life... no sugar coating, no platitudes."

MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE!



He's right: It's not sappy, there's no schmaltzy music or 'heavenly' lighting, and the story does not end with everything tied up in a pretty Christian bow. It's too real for that.

This is unvarnished truth about drug addiction, life and death situations, and the power of God to work through anyone and anything... even through a murderer and an

unwanted book.

If you stick around after the film ends, you'll find a glimpse of the real-life Ashley with Rick Warren and Oprah Winfrey. There's also some "where are they now" info and photos of Nichols' victims. The movie's official site offers free resources including a discussion guide in both youth and adult versions.



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Are Christian movies and TV preaching to the choir?

Yes, says new Lifeway study

by **Cathy Lynn Grossman**

All the preaching, teaching, music and entertainment beamed by Christian TV and radio is primarily consumed by evangelicals and weekly churchgoers — the folks most often found in the pews. Meanwhile, 2 in 3 Americans are tuned out, a new survey finds.

But Ed Stetzer, executive director of Nashville-based LifeWay Research, which released the data Wednesday (Feb. 25), sees good news in the numbers.

"Most people would be surprised that 1 in 3 of their neighbors is watching Christian TV. Do 1 in 3 watch the nightly news? I don't think so. It's an overlooked segment of society that is larger than most people think," he said.

A look at online use found that 1 in 4 Americans say they watch or listen to Christian programming every week on their computer, phone or tablet.

Fewer than 3 in 10 unchurched people — people who don't attend worship services — are in the Christian media audience, yet Stetzer still strikes a positive note.

"Even if they rarely or never attend a worship service, they may still be people of faith. For some people, Christian media is their church," he said.

Among those few who said they turn to Christian media sometimes, many said they only tuned in on religious holidays.

That may be good news for NBC, which has timed the release of its "A.D." miniseries — sequel to Mark Burnett and Roma Downey's series "The Bible" — for Easter.

Stetzer is scheduled to present the find-



Willie Robertson and wife Korie, in their cameo role in the movie "God's Not Dead."

ings this month to the National Religious Broadcasters, which sponsored the research. It is based on an online survey of 2,252 U.S. adults and a phone survey of 1,009. The margin of error on the Internet portion of the results is plus or minus 2.9 percentage points; on the phone portion, plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

Among the phone survey highlights:

- 67 percent of Americans never or rarely watch Christian-based programming on television. Those who do watch at least sometimes are overwhelmingly self-identified evangelicals (69 percent) and weekly churchgoers (62 percent).

- 71 percent never or rarely listen to Christian radio. Those who do are similar to the Christian TV crowd — 67 percent are evangelicals and 57 percent are weekly churchgoers.

- 84 percent of Americans never or rarely listen to Christian-themed podcasts. Books and movies fared slightly better: 33 percent said they at least sometimes read Christian-based books. And 40 percent re-

"Most people would be surprised that 1 in 3 of their neighbors is watching Christian TV. Do 1 in 3 watch the nightly news? I don't think so. It's an overlooked segment of society that is larger than most people think."

Ed Stetzer

port seeing a Christian movie in the last year.

Stetzer found it "fascinating" that 14 percent of people are using podcasts, "a medium that didn't exist 10 years ago."

upcomingmusicreleases

October 2, 2015

Jim Brady Trio - Live At Daywind Studios
Manafest - Reborn

October 9, 2015

Laura Story - God With Us (Christmas album)

Michael English - Worship

October 16, 2015

Israel & New Breed - Covered: Alive In Asia (DVD)

Jenny & Tyler - Of This I'm Sure

Stryper - Fallen

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Travis Greene - The Hill

November 13, 2015

Kutless - Surrender

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Plenty of music to help things warm up this fall



D.C. JEANES
Metro Voice
music critic

musicscene

I had an opportunity to visit Nehemiah Fest a few weeks back and see some of the local talent sharing God's love. It was truly surprising to see and



hear the variety of musical styles playing throughout the park, during the three days. Bearing Armor, a band with a legend all to themselves, played their brand of folk rock perfectly, while Break the Fall performed a loud and rocking show of their own. There were rap and R & B artists, solo folk singers, as well as Alex Sons and his band performing their own brand of worship. Unashamed visited the KC area from Springfield and said they'd plan on coming to perform in our neck of the woods, again, and 9th Hour (fronted by David Lin, the man behind Nehemiah Fest) are another local gem to check out

If you get a chance, look these folks up on Facebook and see if you couldn't get out to see them perform live! The



“Overcome what life throws at you. The whole concept of what we are doing; we are ambassadors of joy.”
Ernie Haase

Christian music scene is truly alive and well and could use more support. Also check out Nehemiah Fest and see if and how you could get involved with this KC ministry; next year's festival is closer than you think.

In other local music news, Ernie Haase and Signature Sound will be gracing our city on Friday, Oct. 23. Headlining their Brotherhood Tour with special guests the Booth Brothers, Metro Voice got a chance to talk with Ernie about the tour, the Booth Brothers and trusting God through the good and the not-so-good.

“I've known the Booth Brothers [Ronnie and Michael] a long time,” he said, “they used to come and see me perform with the Cathedrals.” After getting



to know the brothers better, as both friends and artists, Ernie says he realized “we actually enjoy working together.”

“We've got something the world needs,” Ernie says of the two groups touring together, referring to the way the world seems to be spinning out of control, “a sense of brotherhood. This is the essence of the tour.”

At one point during the performance, the two ensembles “grab acoustic instruments” and perform together. “A lot of laughter, humor, and,” of course, “thick rich harmonies.”

Haase mentioned God's hand in all of life's trials, including a newborn for one of the singers, and health concerns for the fathers of two other performers. He says they are hoping to bring a light to the day to day struggles for their fans.

“Turn up the music, dance,” He says of the show, emphasizing allowing God's glory to “overcome what life throws at you. The whole concept of what we are doing; we are ambassadors of joy!”

For more information, please visit Ernie Haase and Signature Sound at www.erniehaase.com and the Booth Brothers/Southern Gospel Trio at boothbrothers.com.

Book sheds new light to understand liberals and conservatives

by **Dr. R.B.A. DiMuccio**

Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt has cracked the code on why it's so hard for liberals and conservatives to find common ground. That's a big deal. But an even more important benefit of his book, “The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion,” is its value in helping conservatives understand liberals, and vice versa.

Haidt's book and the body of work it encompasses are all that's good and noble about true social science. In seeking to understand the roots of moral reasoning, it integrates a huge swathe of disciplines, is meticulously empirical, and leads the researcher to unavoidable but surprising conclusions. Haidt explains the gist of his research in a fascinating talk and in many online lectures. For our purposes here, the argument rests on two fundamental findings.

The first element of Haidt's “moral foundations theory” is that the vast majority of moral reasoning rests on six foundations:

- Care/Harm
- Fairness/Cheating
- Liberty/Oppression
- Loyalty/Betrayal
- Authority/Subversion
- Sanctity/Degradation

The resulting “moral foundations” continuum aligns left to right (liberal to conservative) in political ideologies. To illustrate, think of Care/Harm as cherishing and protecting the oppressed and think of Fairness/Cheating as rendering justice according to shared rules or values. These are the most “liberal” of Haidt's moral pillars. The rightmost two pillars—Authority/Subversion and Sanctity/Degradation—emphasize obeying tradition and legitimate authority and holding transcendent categories of behavior or belief as sacrosanct (or abhorrent).

These foundations help us categorize people based on their most essential moral beliefs. Those who tend to see morality mostly through the prisms of Care/Harm and Fairness/Cheating are “liberal.”

If your moral compass tends more toward Authority/Subversion and Sanctity/Degradation, you are “conservative.” Simple enough.

But Haidt's second major discovery is far more consequential: the concept of “the conservative advantage.” Based on painstaking cross-cultural social-psychological experimentation, Haidt establishes that the moral foundations of liberals and conservatives are not just different, they are dramatically unequal. The liberal moral matrix rests essentially entirely on the left-most

■ See BOOK page 29

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(from left) Jim Daly, Focus On The Family; Chuck Swindoll, Insight For Living; John MacArthur, Grace To You; Jesse Hunt, Hope in the Night; Alister Begg, Turn For Life; Tony Evans, The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans; James MacDonald, Walk in the Word; David Jeremiah, Turning Point; Adrian Rogers, Live With Faith; Crawford Little, Legacy Ministries; And More! Visit BBN Online for Program Schedule

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newsbriefs

Sister wives star cites gay marriage ruling in defense of polygamy

(WNS)--The polygamous family starring in the hit TLC reality show *Sister Wives* believes the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage gives them grounds to live their lifestyle unpunished, according to an appeal filed last month. Kody Brown and his four wives—Meri Brown, Janelle Brown, Christine Brown, and Robyn Sullivan—filed documents with the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in early September arguing the state has no right to interfere with consensual adult relationships. The filing cites the landmark *Obergefell v. Hodges* case.

Disney Star Dean Jones remembered for his faith and films

(WNS)--Dean Jones, beloved star of nearly a dozen Disney films, died of complications from Parkinson's disease. He was 84. Jones' appearances in light-hearted films like *That Darn Cat!* and *The Love Bug* won audiences' hearts, but off-screen, the actor struggled with depression and "miserable moods." During one dark episode in 1973, he fell on his knees and asked God to take away his depression, his wife recalled. "He told me that in an instant it was gone, and he felt peace and joy flood into his heart," Lory Patrick told *People* magazine in 1991. Jones was outspoken about his faith and had a passion for persecuted Christians. In 1998, he founded the Christian Rescue Committee (now known as the Christian Rescue Fund) to help believers around the world. The first group he helped were jailed in Saudi Arabia after being caught holding a prayer meeting, Jones told *ChristianCinema.com* in 2009. Jones leaves behind Patrick, his wife of 42 years, three children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



BOOK

continued from page 28

foundations; the conservative moral foundation—though slanted to the right—rests upon all six.

This is a stunning finding with enormous implications. The first is that conservatives can relate to the moral thinking of liberals, but the converse is not true at all. Haidt, who is liberal himself, elegantly explains how and why conservatives will view liberals as merely misguided while liberals tend to view conservatives as incomprehensible, insane, immoral, etc.

Another implication is that liberal prescriptions tend to be incredibly single-minded as compared to those of conservatives. Haidt uses the metaphor of a bee hive to illustrate. A liberal, finding a bee in the hive suffering from injustice, is motivated more or less exclusively by the desire to get justice for the bee. A conservative, being partially driven by the Care/Harm foundation, also desires to alleviate the injustice, but tries to find a solution that also contemplates the survival of the hive itself.

Liberals seek to create justice and equity; whether doing so harms core institutions simply doesn't enter into their moral reasoning. Conservatives, in contrast to their typical caricature, do care about justice and fairness, they merely cherish vital institutions relatively more. If there's a conflict, conservatives will err toward protecting institutions.

And this is precisely why the "conservative advantage" is a far bigger deal than Jonathan Haidt had likely envisioned. Everyone cares about suffering and injustice.

But most everyone (except liberals) also believes that maintaining core societal



foundations is a legitimate, reasonable moral value.

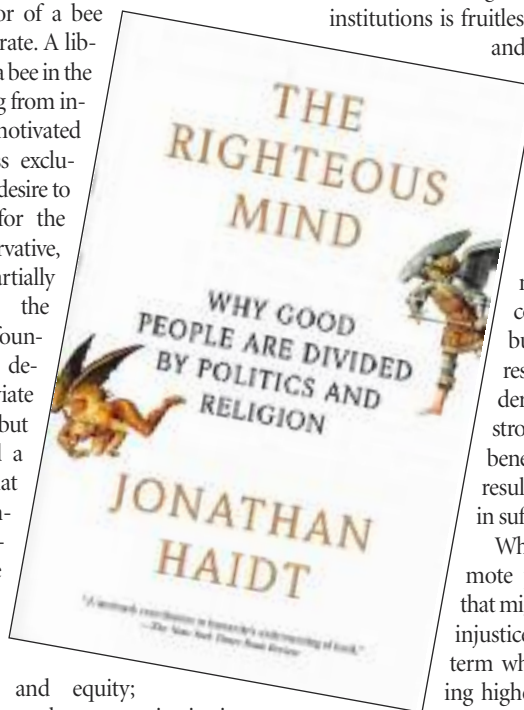
Sadly, "The Righteous Mind" proves irrefutably that trying to explain to liberals that their solutions might undermine vital institutions is fruitless. They cannot and will not relate,

or even concede that such concerns fall into the realm of moral reasoning. The good news is that a coalition can be built among the rest of us who understand that destroying the hive to benefit the lone bee results inescapably in suffering for all.

When liberals promote public policies that might help resolve injustices in the short-term while undermining higher-order values (the family, the rule of

law, separation of powers, religious liberty), conservatives must thoroughly articulate the long-term consequences to the vast majority of people whose moral foundations span more than the left-most side of the continuum.

Plenty of examples exist. Aid to families with dependent children might have provided relief for many single mothers, but also arguably helped destroy the very notion of "family" in the same precincts. Sanctuary cities protect illegal immigrants but make a mockery of the rule of law and increase risks to all.



HUD's "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" proposal may increase diversity in certain neighborhoods, but with what impact on foundational notions of individual liberty and property? Or, consider the current debate over same-sex marriage. Is there a way to find fairness and justice for the fraction of homosexuals who want to have legal unions in a way that doesn't do harm to the very institution of traditional marriage? This concern, an overriding one for conservatives, is incomprehensible to most liberals and very likely considered "hate" by many.

Against this vexing backdrop, the "conservative advantage" provides a modicum of hope and help.

The alternative is to stay silent and allow our proverbial bee hives to be weakened into oblivion. As Haidt so thoroughly demonstrates, only the truly liberal few live in blissful indifference toward that eventuality.

VAUGHN

continued from page 12

Peter is actually quoting straight from the Old Testament here. Guess where? Leviticus 11. So yes, you are made in God's image (Genesis 1:27), He is Holy and He desires us to be Holy also. We need to be taking our bodies seriously and thinking about what goes into the body, your temple (1 Corinthians 6:19), because the Living God dwells there!

I would encourage anyone reading this to watch our free on-line video series called "Partnering with God" as well as "Foundation of Creation" where we go into this in much more detail.

It really matters how we live and yes, what we eat. God is clear on what to eat in Genesis 1:29 (every seed-bearing plant for food), and Leviticus 11 (clean and unclean meats).

If you are struggling with your health or just want to be healthier by believing, trusting and following God, then give this a try.

You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Choosing God is ALWAYS a win-win scenario!

—Vaughn Lawrence is a natural health care practitioner, herbalist and owner of *Spirit of Health* who lives by their motto: "We Love God. We Love People. We Love Health. www.spiritofhealthkc.com.

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REMEMBRANCE

continued from page 1

in the morning Shabbat service at OrHaOlam on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 10 a.m., have lunch, then hold a Q&A “nuts and bolts” briefing about the spring event at 1:30 p.m. A worship concert follows at 7:30 p.m. Saturday evening.

The idea for a worldwide event began with a pastor in Tubigen, Germany. Jobst Bittner invited Pearce to play at the "Road to Jerusalem" conference held at Bittner's church—TOS Church in Tübingen. In WWII this church had been surrounded by nine Nazi labor camps where Jews were killed by exhaustion and hard labor before the order for liquidation came. From the Badten-Wittenberg area in southwestern Germany, Jews were forced to walk for 180 miles along the Schwabian Alps in the winter of 1944 with nothing more than

“I immediately recognized that this vision was much larger than these humble saints themselves realized.”

— *Ted Pearce*



ragged prison clothes that left them exposed to extreme temperatures. They were

marched to the notorious Dachau concentration camp outside of Munich.

“Pastor Bittner, and several of his church leaders, wanted to walk and pray along those same paths in the Schwabian Alps as a repentance event for their local region,” explains Pearce. “At a small Wednesday night gathering where I was to lead worship, they gave me the honor of announcing this initiative to the entire church. I immediately recognized that this vision was much larger than these humble saints themselves realized, and urged the people of TOS Church to invite all nations who had collaborated with their fathers, and those who allowed the Nazi genocide to succeed through their own personal indifference, to walk with these descendants of the perpetrators.”

Pearce says his friend and co-writer, Rabbi Michael Stepakoff, suggested that Holocaust survivor Rose Price might be willing to join them and Bittner's staff gratefully asked her to join them, and

began planning for a 180-mile walk across southern Germany. They arrived at Dachau in April of 2007. Since then, cities around the world have joined together to hold marches of their own.

Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld, of OrHaOlam is passionate about the effort and working to draw in local Christians who love Israel.

"That effort began an avalanche of work to make this commemoration a world-wide event, culminating this coming April," Says Wolkenfeld. "Or HaOlam is very excited about sponsoring the 58th American city to have such a march."

 more**information**

For more information email
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www.marchofremembrance.org
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■ CRAZY HAIR

continued from page 5

(typically ages 8-12). It comes to Kansas City Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Road. The two-and-a-half hour event features a fun fashion show that demonstrates modesty, incredible balloon sculptures, bouncing beach ball competitions, mother/daughter conversation time and colorful confetti cannons and comes with a crazy proposal to get crazy. "It's normal for a girl to be boy-crazy and be obsessed with fashion and beauty, but those crowd-pleasing choices have risks, so let's get crazy! The Secret Keeper Girl Crazy Hair Tour helps moms cultivate God-crazy Daughters, who embrace inner beauty, biblical

modesty, and vibrant purity," reads a poster for the new event.

The tour appeared in approximately 66 cities during its debut year, with seventy-six stops completed in the 2014 tour season. Over 36,000 attended last year's Secret Keeper Girl Tour.

Dannah Gresh has sold nearly a million and a half copies of her books – including *Six Ways To Keep The Little In Your Girl* and *Six Ways To Keep The Good In Your Boy*. Dannah recently released *Raising Body Confident Daughters* and *It's Great To Be a Girl*, which gives moms everything they need to help their daughter become body-confident rather than body-conscious.

For more information, visit www.secretkeepergirl.com or call the church at 816-942-3272.

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5 things evangelicals can learn from Pope Francis



CARRIE DEDRICK

ChristianHeadlines.com
Editor

viewpoint

Pope Francis is the man at the head of 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide. He is the spiritual leader of the Catholic Church, and has variety of religious and political duties, including but not limited to, meeting with the leaders of over 100 countries, appointing new bishops, conducting liturgies, and holding general audiences with thousands of Catholics.

Though having a Pope is a foreign idea to Evangelicals, there is much that we can learn from Pope Francis.

1. Be humble. Pope Francis' humble nature has turned heads, as he chooses to live more simply than past popes. In Vatican City, Pope Francis usually rides in your everyday Ford Focus, instead of using a custom-built "Popemobile" with bullet-proof glass. When Pope arrived in the United States, he chose to ride in a small Fiat over a luxurious limo.

After Pope Francis addressed Congress, he was invited to dine with Congressmen and women, but declined the invitation to serve and eat with Washington D.C.'s homeless population instead. He shows us that we are not to pursue money or prestige. Instead, we should embrace humility and strive to live more like Jesus.

2. Treat everyone with respect. The Pope has made multiple comments about demonstrating love and respect to everyone. Gay or straight, Christian or non-Christian, child or adult, sick or healthy, wealthy or poor, Pope Francis says everyone deserves to be treated like a person and has demonstrated this himself.



Pope Francis has hugged people with diseases, kissed the feet of teenagers in a juvenile detention center, allowed a child to sit in his chair while he spoke to a crowd, and made a personal phone call to comfort a rape victim. The pontiff goes out of his way to show people that they are important to him and to God. All Christians should be sending this message.

3. Give without expecting anything in return. Pope Francis shows us how to give freely and expect nothing in return. Last year, the Pope auctioned off his Harley Davidson motorcycle to fund a soup kitchen. He also started a campaign to install showers in the Vatican for homeless people to use. The showers opened in February, along with weekly professional haircuts.

Pope Francis gives these services to people who cannot give him anything in return except their gratitude. Many Christians give to the poor, but we need to remember to give cheerfully, remembering that we are commanded to do so in scripture (2 Corinthians 9:7).

4. Promote peace. The Pope has called on Christians to be peacemakers, and said that prayer is a vessel for peace. The pontiff also spoke against the Syrian civil war, saying that using violence only sparks further violence.

On World Peace Day this year, Pope Francis dedicated the day to a different kind of peace -- the fight against human trafficking and slavery. He is committed to ending human ownership, an issue that all Christians should stand firmly against.

5. Don't fear change. The pontiff does not seem to fear our shifting cultural landscape regarding technology. While some Christian leaders debate how much technology churches should use, Pope Francis has called the internet "a gift from God" for all the potential it has to help others. He also does not hesitate to connect with young Catholics by posing for selfies.

However, Pope Francis warns that while technology can be used for good, it can also distance us from our neighbors.

Though Evangelicals and Catholics disagree on some aspects of Christianity, we can agree to apply these five lessons in our own lives. Humility, respectfulness, willingness to give, peacefulness, and embracing change can translate across all denominations of Christianity.

There are no atheists



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

Clay Center, Kan. – What is an atheist? This may sound like a simple question, but there are different answers within the expanding atheistic community.

Atheism is growing in the United States and for decades has had a firm hold on entire nations through communistic based governments like China and North Korea.

As best I can tell, only once in the Scriptures does God address atheism directly saying, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God' (Psalm 14:1). Otherwise, the Scriptures do not devote much time to it, because God does not see atheism as His biggest concern. The Ten Commandments show the focus of His concern when He says, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).

God assume two things. We will either worship Him or something else. Nowhere does He assume we will worship at the altar of nothing. Since an atheist would admittedly not worship any god then let us ask "What is a god?"

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines a god as "A person or thing of supreme value." I argue this is what atheists are unto themselves. Since they have nothing



to exalt outside of themselves they become their own god thinking more highly of themselves than they should. They worship the god of themselves and are their own living and breathing idol they bow down to.

Atheists build a box around them-

selves keeping God out with only themselves inside. Their means of living is purely self-sufficient, cutting off all the blessings and beauty of the one true God only doing, controlling and becoming what they can manage. It is like they say, "All I want. All I need is right here in this box."

God the Creator who made us (including all the atheists) put a natural desire within us to seek and know Him. When atheists put a box around themselves, it instinctively sets off a divine internal restlessness.

I challenge every atheist to open the box, step out and seek his or her Creator. You were made to know Him. There is no reason to fear. God loves you and seeks your best for His glory. May Jesus be your hope for today.

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



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The March of Remembrance is a powerful and well-received event that believers have held to honor the Jewish community, commemorating the Holocaust (marchofremembrance.org). It's been held annually since 2007 on or near Yom HaShoah (Day of Holocaust Remembrance) to "honor, educate, remember and engage". The March of Remembrance seeks to honor Holocaust survivors and their families, educate the public about the reality of the Holocaust, remember the tragic consequences of silence, and engage people in battling indifference and prejudice. We choose that day as a clear stance against anti-Semitism and as a powerful symbol of what happens when people remain silent about abuse, prejudice and righteousness. The March of Remembrance is a sister to the March of Life across Europe.

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 Our Plans for
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Saturday, Nov. 14
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 Ted Pearce at our
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 Lunch 12:00 Noon
 Q & A 1:30 P.M.



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