Royals teaming up with NewSong for Faith & Family Day

The Kansas City Royals are stepping up to the plate again this season with their annual Faith & Family Day on Saturday, July 11. The event will start soon after the 1:10 p.m. game against the Toronto Blue Jays.

“These types of events are very important,” said Dayton Moore, Royals vice president and general manager. “If we can pour into people in a way that allows them to walk with Christ and have a faith, it’s really, really crucial.”

Rod Handley, founder of Character That Counts, agrees.

“It’s a classic win-win proposition for the local church,” he said. “I love the fact that this event unifies the Kansas City area.”

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The first thing we need is prayer, and we need people to show up for counselor training,” Dawson said. “And we need your presence here on that Saturday.”

Although the event is a couple of

Local students see God’s faithfulness amid Nepal’s earthquake

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Bethany Collier kept watch in an open field on an April midnight here, surrounded by five companions, huddled together nearby in their sleeping bags.

Participating in Midwestern College’s Fusion missions program, she and her friends arrived in Kathmandu four months earlier to multiply disciples among the women of Nepal. They never imagined that, during their trip, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake would rock the capital of Nepal.

A 4-month-old baby pulled from the rubble

KC to host Abolition Summit to do just that

Modern-day slavery is a global epidemic. Every year, millions of women and girls are exploited in the commercial sex industry. This August, a new generation of abolitionists is being called to take a stand. At its fourth annual Abolition Summit, Exodus Cry will provide “freedom fighters” from all over the world with the training, tools, and motivation to effectively combat commercial sex trafficking and exploitation.

Based in Kansas City, Exodus Cry is a Christ-centered organization committed to the abolition of commercial sexual exploitation and the restoration of victimized persons. Exodus Cry’s three-day summit will take place at the Folly Theater in downtown Kansas City on August 6–8, 2015.

In addition to becoming equipped with practical tools to fight sex trafficking, attendees will be energized through a renewed focus on the hope and healing offered through Christ. This year’s speakers include human rights advocates, abolitionists, and survivors whose diverse experiences offer unique insight into the tragedies of exploitation and the redemptive power of healing.

Benjamin Nolot is the founder and CEO of Exodus Cry. Nolot has a passion for storytelling and was the

What’s Your Summer Bucket List?

Don’t let the dog days of summer keep you cooped up! See how many of these fun things you can check off of Visit Topeka Inc.’s Summer Bucket List!

1. Cool down with a scoop of famous brown bread ice cream at the General Store at Old Prairie Town at Ward-Meade Historic Site. You won’t be able to have just one scoop.

2. Ride the train and carousel before wandering around the Topeka Zoo in Gage Park. Afterwards, stop and smell the roses at the Reinstein Rose Garden.

3. Take your cardio to the next level by climbing 296 steps to the top of the Kansas Capitol.

4. Throw your best ringers, or simply be a spectator, at the World Horseshoe Tournament July 13 - 25.

5. Grab a burger and fries at Bobbo’s - a local favorite that was featured on

Can We End Slavery in Our Time?

Last year’s summit drew over 1,000 people. The 2015 event was forced to seek larger space in downtown Kansas City.
Court Ruling Still Leaves Questions Unanswered

By Emily Belz

(WNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court on June 26 legalized same-sex marriage nationwide in a sweeping, moralizing opinion written by Justice Anthony Kennedy. He delivered the ruling softly and without much expression, but outside the courtroom, huge crowds swarmed the Supreme Court plaza in celebration, singing the national anthem. As anticipated since the high court first took up the case, the ruling was 5-4, with Kennedy joining the court’s liberal Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan. The dissenters—Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, and Samuel Alito—each penned separate dissent, each at a distance of profound frustration. Scalia opened his apologetic dissent, concurring with Roberts’ dissent, by saying, “I write separately to call attention to this court’s threat to American democracy.”

“Just who do we think we are?” Roberts asked in the courtroom. “This is a court, not a legislature.”

With soaring rhetoric, Kennedy declared in his ruling that same-sex couples have a fundamental right to marry licenses, just as opposite-sex couples do. He said marriage had evolved over time, pointing to the end of arranged marriages and coverture, where women were treated as a legal non-entity after they married.

“He has not strengthened, not weakened, the institution of marriage,” Kenned wrote.

Then he attempted to define what marriage is: “The nature of marriage is that, through its enduring bond, two persons together can find other freedoms, including freedom to develop their lives to their full potential and to engage in relationships and obligations which can be expressed privately between two people or publicly among a wider circle of family and friends.”

Kennedy emphasized several times throughout his ruling that marriage is between “two persons,” likely in response to the questions during the oral arguments about whether legalizing polygamy would necessarily follow a legalizing of gay marriage.

Though technical legal arguments were not central in Kennedy’s opinion, the legal question before the court was whether state laws defining marriage as between one man and one woman violated the 14th Amendment, which guarantees due process (the right to liberty) and equal protection. Kennedy’s ruling said the state laws violated both.

But he did not create a new “suspect class” for sexual orientation, a legal term that means he did not give sexual orientation the same protections as race or gender. He confined the ruling to say that state marriage licensing laws violated the 14th Amendment. That means, for now, the sweeping “fundamental rights” language is limited to gay couples’ interactions with the state in acquiring a marriage license.

“But the language in Kennedy’s ruling about state laws demeaning gay people could be used in other legal scenarios. He talked about state marriage laws that ‘demean’ the ‘dignity’ and ‘nobility’ of same-sex couples.

“It will be used to vilify Americans who are unwilling to assent to the new orthodoxy,” Alito wrote in his dissent. “In the course of its opinion, the majority compares traditional marriage laws to the laws that denied equal treatment for African-Americans and women. The implications of this analogy will be exploited by those who are determined to stamp out every vestige of dissent.”

In referring to those who might oppose gay marriage, Kennedy never used the word “animus,” which could be helpful to religious groups. He said those who oppose gay marriage could do so “based on decent and honorable religious or philosophical premises.” But in the next sentence he writes that when such person—albe it was “enacted” in public policy, that “demeanance or stigmatizes those whose own liberty is then denied.”

And in a later paragraph, he attempted to quell the dissenters’ concerns about religious liberty. “If I must be emphasized that religious, and those who adhere to religious doctrines, may continue to advocate with utmost, sincere conviction that, by divine precepts, same-sex marriage should not be condoned,” Kennedy wrote.

“The First Amendment ensures that religious organizations and persons are given proper protection as they seek to teach the principles that are so fulfilling and so central to their lives and faiths, and to their own deep aspirations to continue the family structure they have long revered.”

Roberts didn’t buy it.

“The majority graciously suggests that religious believers may continue to advocate ‘teach’ and ‘teach their views of marriage,’ Roberts wrote in his dissent. “The First Amendment guarantees, however, the freedom to exercise religion. Obviously, that is not a word the majority uses. Unfortunately, people of faith can take no comfort in the treatment they receive from the majority today.”

Roberts said he expects the court will soon be asked to consider cases about how religious exercise conflicts with the new “right to same-sex marriage.”

Jim Campbell, an attorney with Alliance Defending Freedom, who handles such constitutional issues, said he expects that in litigation between gay couples and religious groups, each will use different language in the Kennedy opinion. His side will point to the paragraph on religious protections, and “the other side will pull out the lofty language.”

“I don’t know how much we can get out of that paragraph,” Campbell said, referring to Kennedy’s assertion that religious organizations will still have First Amendment protections.

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Life Lessons From a Little One

by Jessica S. Hosman

I recently spent a week with two people who are lively, filled with joy and utterly carefree. Though they are both less than four feet tall and under the age of seven, I look up to their lives and glean much from both my son and niece. I’ve heard it said that as adults we can never really “be” like them. Children don’t have responsibilities and the cares that come alongside them, adults do. Therefore, it’s a privilege for an adult to experience the freedom many children live.

I open my Bible and the words of Jesus leap off of the page and into my heart, “Unless you change and become like little children…” (Matthew 18:3). Why would He share these words if we were not to pursue them? Christ came to save us from sin and darkness but He also came to give us life in abundance (John 10:10). To me that speaks of laughter, joy and a life that is free in every sense of the word, one that is not dominated by the cares of this world, but instead has released its worries and fears into the hands of He who gives us life.

When I look at our world today, it appears dark and hedged in by much trial and uncertainty. My son and niece are not unexposed to the effects of these challenges, but both remain carefree and happy; it is simply because they are young, naive and not responsible for the chaos that surrounds them. While that is a part, I believe it’s also because they choose not to focus on it. Instead, they stop along this road of life to enjoy the simple pleasures of each moment. Turning ordinary moments into memorable experiences and doing it all with a smile—Joy truly live.

Nearly bored to tears during an outdoor shopping trip, I watched as they spotted a small section of grass under a tree. Rather than just pass by and complain about the walk we were on, they seized the opportunity and turned the green carpet into a dance floor. There they danced, laughed and turned what to them was a non-pleasurable experience into one of joy. Why as adults can we not seem to do the same? If Christ told us to become like these little ones to fully experience Him – I believe it’s something that must be attainable. “Not that I have already obtained all this, but I press on…” (Philippians 3:12).

I press on to set aside my intellect, fears and every other thing I can control and place it into the hands of the One who sets me free. I press on to laugh more and worry less. In the detours of life, I will look for the field of green for which to dance and relish the moments of breath that God has blessed me to breathe. I will exhale the stress and inhale life. I will look into children’s eyes after they’ve been told to “grow up” and tell them that’s wrong. Jesus wants their hearts young. He wants our joy full. And He wants our lives free. Embrace that freedom with me today and delight in the life God wants you to live.

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Twitter: More Censorship

(WNS)—Amid the Twitter frenzy about Bruce Jenner’s gender switch, people have begun receiving messages from a Twitter bot called @shehe. The account sends an automatic reply to Twitter users who write about Jenner using a “he” pronoun. As of Wednesday morning, the account sent 2,500 tweets to users who referred to Jenner as “he” instead of “she.” The July 3 cover of Vanity Fair, featuring Jenner with the headline “Call me Caitlyn,” went viral, and Jenner’s Twitter account reached 1 million followers in four hours.

Jessica Hosman

Jessica Hosman
Jayhawk Theatre Getting Makeover

The Jayhawk Theatre Makeover has been in full swing lately.

Thanks to the many volunteers who pitched in over the last few weeks, much work has been completed at the theatre during the month of June. Paint, drywall, carpet and more have the old theatre showing new life. The original lobby and Kandy Nook have been renovated, including new carpet, counters and neon signs replicating the original design. The Jayhawk Theatre offices, restrooms and event space are being renovated as well. This will allow us to hold more events and raise funds for the eventual full-scale restoration.

A fundraiser was held on June 12, called Act One, with catering and live entertainment, making use of the new stage lighting apparatus. In addition, 43 backers of a Kickstarter campaign raised another $3,225 in June.

Loan papers have been signed for a line of credit to get started on the temporary re-roof and full engineering study. This $65,000 grant was made possible by the Heritage Trust Fund through the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office. The grant was awarded in 2012 but could not get the funding to move forward until now.

In April the Topeka City Council voted to provide $100,000 to the Jayhawk State Theatre to kickstart campaign raised another $3,225 in June.

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Chaplain’s Corner
Uncommon Prayers

Fred S. Hollomon
Chaplain Emeritus
Kansas Senate

Heavenly Father,
July Fourth is the two hundred and thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Soon afterward George Washington became the first president of the United States of America. He is known as the Father of our Country.

He added, “So help me, God!” To the inaugural oath, No doubt hoping it would help Each president’s spiritual growth!

No man we know is prefect, including Washington,

But we need to thank You, Lord, For the good things he has done.

His soldiers must not gamble Nor get drunk or curse; And if they disobeyed, O God, Their life would get much worse!

He encouraged fasting, Thanksgiving and also prayers; And today we thank You, Lord, That Washington really cared!

I Pray in the Name of Jesus Christ

AMEN

Prayers like this may be found in my Book of Uncommon Prayers at Book Browse at the Library, Waldo’s Camera Shop, the State Capital, and my Web site,的心希望.org

Spotlight shines on Kansas and Maine in ‘State of the States’

On June 6, 2015, a dedication service was held at the Heart of America Memorial Wall for the Unborn, facilitated by Christians for Life, Inc. The service was in honor of Evelyn Ibrahim, former Board Member who passed away in November 2014. Evelyn was the generous donor of the land at 1216 SE Republican Avenue for the purpose of giving a voice to the unborn through the Heart of America Memorial Wall for the Unborn.

Evelyn’s grandson, August Chapas, along with his violin teacher, Dorothy Riebig, played “The Old Rugged Cross.” A plaque was presented to Lisa Chapas, Evelyn’s daughter. The plaque will be mounted on one of the front pillars on the grounds. Friends remembered Evelyn as a person who lived out her Catholic faith steadfastly; but loved everyone regardless of their denomination.

As we hit the middle of 2015, have you evaluated whether your governor’s State of the State address at the beginning of the year is measuring up?

The American Legislative Exchange Council recently released its annual State of the States report, which looks at the fiscal outlook of all 50 states with a critical eye on the ground. Every area of expertise:

• Adoption • Foster Care
• Anxiety • Grief-Loss
• Marriage & Relationships • Depressions
• Depression • Addictions
• Grief-Loss • Foster Care

But we will have to watch out since neighboring New Hampshire has neither income nor sales taxes.

Christians For Life, Inc. Remembers the Ibrahim

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Religious Liberty is a Freedom to Enjoy

By John Potter | Military Chaplain

As July the fourth approaches, I am mindful of the freedoms we have in America. Our nation was founded on the ideas of liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Religious freedom is a large part of the liberties we enjoy.

Certain rights were held so highly by our founders that they decided to amend the Constitution and guarantee personal freedoms. The First Amendment would protect our ability to worship. “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”

The Establishment Clause prohibits Congress from creating a national religion. They cannot establish one faith for the people of America. This is how England and her colonies operated prior to the Revolution. Laws were in place to fine people who allowed a religious assembly other than the Church of England. It allowed magistrates and authorities to shutter the churches of outlying religious groups. Clergy outside the Church of England could be fined for preaching, expressing their religious views, or sharing the scriptures. Even people who allowed a religious assembly in their own home could receive a huge fine.

People during this time had little to no religious freedom. British law required citizens to attend worship services. Practicing your faith in a different manner or practicing a different faith, one not permitted by the government, could be grounds for your arrest, imprisonment, or execution. Our forefathers wanted to insure that America would not return to the ways of England by establishing a state church and punishing people for practicing their individual faith. The Free Exercise Clause reserves the right of Americans to accept religious beliefs and engage in their individual religious practices. The clause protects not just religious beliefs but actions made on behalf of those beliefs. In short, government should not prohibit people from practicing their faith.

As an American, I enjoy more religious freedom than a majority of people across the globe. I am a blessed man who can worship Christ. As a Christian, I have not been persecuted for my faith or forced to embrace another religion. My country protects me and my personal freedoms. Many Christians do not have the blessings of liberty that I know.

May God continue to bless the freedoms of our land and keep them in place, now and in generations to come.

Kansas c-eig tax could e-vape-orate the industry

By Grayson Quay | Watchdog Arena

The Kansas tax increase that passed last week includes a tax on electronic cigarettes that may cause the e-cigarette industry to go up in smoke.

The tax plan, which many Republican legislators voted for unwillingly in order to pass a $40.4 million budget deficit before drastic cuts became necessary, will generate most of its revenue from increases to sales tax and cigarette tax and from postponements of Republican Gov. Sam Brownback’s planned income tax cuts.

Near the end of the session, however, Republican state Sen. Les Donovan introduced an additional tax on electronic cigarettes. Lawmakers expect the fifty-cent per pack increase in cigarette taxes to raise $40.4 million dollars per year, while the tax on e-cigs, which is set to take effect in July 2016, will only bring in about $2 million per year, around half of one percent of the budget deficit.

Donovan introduced his amendment on June 1, day 102 of a legislative session that was supposed to last 90 days but ended up lasting a record-setting 113.

The tax he proposed, and which eventually passed, imposes an excise tax of 20 cents per milliliter on the liquid used to operate electronic cigarettes and vaping pens.

Since this liquid is usually sold in 30 milliliter bottles, the tax would cost to six dollars per bottle in addition to the 6.5 percent sales tax consumers will already be paying. Topeka vape shop kenVape sells several varieties of e-liquid, generally charging $9.95 for a 30 milliliter bottle. Once all taxes had been taken into consideration, the same bottle would cost $16.60.

Spencer Duncan, a representative of the Kansas Vapers Association, said that the eleventh-hour introduction of the electronic cigarette tax came as a surprise to him and to the industry he represents. Duncan said that most of the businesses that sell electronic cigarettes and e-liquid are small, locally owned shops that will be hit hard by the tax increase.

“Economically it’s devastating,” Duncan explained, pointing out that vape shops in Kansas City, Kan., will likely lose customers to similar establishments in Kansas City, Mo., where there is no such tax.

The American Lung Association has expressed skepticism toward claims that e-cigarettes can help smokers quit, pointing out that the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research has not approved any e-cigarette as a safe and effective method to help smokers quit.

The association also argues that claims that e-cigarettes are healthier than traditional cigarettes are difficult to verify due to the lack of FDA oversight.

Many families don’t have the advantage of this unique service. They states, “The food service program is an amazing benefit for the children and families in this community. The program was implemented for our families and it would be wonderful if we could have more families and kids participating in it. The other amazing thing about this service is that although the kids are expected to eat at the playground site and eat their lunch, we are seeing more families take advantage of the wonderful new playground amenities. Families are spending quality time with their kids while walking the Born Learning Trail and swinging with their kids. We need families to come out and participate in this service. It’s the first time we’ve had the opportunity to implement a summer food service program for the entire community of Pine Ridge and its truly an amazing thing to see.”

Efforts by all three agencies to provide community outreach and engagement is on-going, and the best way to let people know is communication through all media outlets and word of mouth from participants, according to Mr. Downing.

The program will continue through August 7, Mondays through Fridays, from 11:00 am - 1:30 pm at Echo Ridge, 2021 SE Market; and from 11:45 am - 12:15 pm at Pine Ridge, 1100 SE Highland.

Summer in Shorts Video Contest

Grab your camera and highlight your favorite things to do in the Capital City. Summer in Shorts is a creative competition that encourages people to submit short videos about their favorite events in Topeka. Make sure to tell why it’s your favorite!

Videos must be submitted to Visit Topeka Inc. by Labor Day to be considered. A selection committee will review the videos after the deadline. The top three winners will receive money for the creator AND their event. 1st Place: $250; 2nd Place: $150; 3rd Place: $50

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Court case that ruled segregation in public schools was unconstitutional by visiting the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site.

36. Explore the capital city’s railroad heritage, and feel the building rattle as trains race by on the Great Overland Station.

37. Take a peek into the past by looking at some rare Harley-Davidsons at Yesterday’s Motorcycle Museum at Historic Harley-Davidson.

38. See for yourself how beautiful the city is by taking a tour of the city’s most beautiful and famous events at Meadowlows Elementary School, Avondale East NetReach School, and the corner of Huntoon & Lane.

Summer in Shorts Video Contest

Grab your camera and highlight your favorite things to do in the Capital City. Summer in Shorts is a creative competition that encourages people to submit short videos about their favorite events in Topeka. Make sure to tell why it’s your favorite!

Videos must be submitted to Visit Topeka Inc. by Labor Day to be considered. A selection committee will review the videos after the deadline. The top three winners will receive money for the creator AND their event. 1st Place: $250; 2nd Place: $150; 3rd Place: $50

Court case that ruled segregation in public schools was unconstitutional by visiting the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site.

36. Explore the capital city’s railroad heritage, and feel the building rattle as trains race by on the Great Overland Station.

37. Take a peek into the past by looking at some rare Harley-Davidsons at Yesterday’s Motorcycle Museum at Historic Harley-Davidson.

38. See for yourself how beautiful the city is by taking a tour of the city’s most beautiful and famous events at Meadowlows Elementary School, Avondale East NetReach School, and the corner of Huntoon & Lane.
Dear Dave,

My husband and I have been following your plan. We just paid cash for our new home after selling the old one, so we're out of the Baby Steps. But we've still got about $50,000 in student loan debt hanging over our heads. We make over $100,000 a year combined, so how would you suggest handling this?

Stephanie

Dear Stephanie,

Whoa, hang on a minute! I think you're a little confused about the steps in my plan. You're not out of the Baby Steps yet. You just got Baby Step 6, which is pay off the mortgage, done ahead of hanging over our heads. We make over $100,000 a month each for blow money to be used on whatever we want. I'm upset because he spends all his eating out, then he buys other things he wants that he has no money for. Am I being too stingy?

Cheryl

Dear Cheryl,

I think you guys are handling your money poorly. You're acting like his mother instead of his wife, and he's acting like a little boy instead of a man. You don't want to give your husband an allowance and then not be happy when he spends money "he didn't have" because he went over what you dictated to him. That's a bad budget process.

The budget process, if you're not in the family, should start with you writing it all out. Then he sits down with you, has an equal say in the decisions and the two of you ok it together. He needs to understand that this is you asking him to man up and be part of the decision-making process, so that you can both be in agreement as to what's best for the family. In one sense, you may not like it at first, because right now you've got control of things. But in another sense, I'll bet you're pretty tired of carrying the weight of all the financial decision making and being the only adult in the household.

He doesn't even have to work on all that much. I want you to lay it out, but I expect him to sit down and go over it all with you. You're not asking him to be an accountant with a pocket protector, but you have every right to expect him to be in on the decisions that are made about your family and your finances.

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I'm returning to school to finish my degree this year, and I'm going to ask my boyfriend to marry me. We both have decent jobs, but I also have some previous student loans that I could put into deferment. Do you think I should pay off the debt before getting engaged?

Colton

Dear Colton,

Congrats on finding that special someone! Now, if I were in your shoes, here's the way I line up my priorities.

First, don't do any more damage where debt is concerned. I want you to pay cash for your food, lights, water, gas for your car and housing. Obviously, you have to live, but I want you to do all this without adding any new debt. The next priority would be to pay for college, and pay cash for your tuition and stuff from this point forward. Remember, no new debt!

After that, let's save up and pay cash for a nice, inexpensive ring. The student loan debt comes last through deferment. I'd really attack it with a vengeance after I was married, out of school and had an even better job and bigger income.

You're going to be a busy guy for a while, but I'll bet this lady's worthy of it. Gaining control of your finances now will be a great gift for you both when you start your new life together.

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I've been following your plan, and I have my emergency fund in place and am investing in mutual funds. Recently, a financial planner recommended bonds to me. What is your opinion on this?

Becky

Dear Becky,

I don't recommend bonds at all right now. I'm not a fan of them, and I don't own any. The bond market is almost as volatile as the stock market, and it doesn't pay nearly as much on average.

On top of all that, bond prices work at an inverse of interest rates. In other words, as interest rates rise, bond prices go down. Long-term interest rates are still really low. If you were to buy a bunch of bonds right now, and interest rates went up even one percent, you could lose a lot!

I recommend mutual funds and good growth stock mutual funds. There are always some bonds mixed in with a growth and income fund, and I'm not opposed to that to some degree, but it's not my favorite. So, if I were ever going to buy bonds — and I'm not going to — it definitely wouldn't be right now. It doesn't take much of a move in interest rates for bond prices to go down dramatically.

— Dave

Stay with the bank

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are debt-free except for our home, and we're currently putting money aside for our fully loaded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses. Currently, we have our emergency fund account in the same bank as our checking and savings accounts. Do you think we should move it to a different bank?

Steve

Dear Steve,

I wouldn't worry too much about that if I were you. The only exception to that might be if you had loans that you owed to that same bank. Then, I would probably move my emergency fund out of there just in case something went wrong with the loans.

Some commercial loan documents now give the bank the right to take money out of your account to pay the loan — without your permission. If you had a car loan, for instance, with that particular bank, I wouldn't keep a bunch of money in that bank. They normally don't do that unless you're way behind on the bill — and then it gets pretty adversarial. Sometimes there can be things like a simple clerical error, and there's no chance of that happening if the money's in another bank. But in your situation, I don't see any harm in being there.

— Dave
Charleston Killer: Another lethal mind with means and motives

HAKIM HAZIM
Founder of Relevant Now; author and co-founder of Freedomland and national security expert

Doctor: And where do you live Simon? Simon: (Demon within offender patient May Hobbsy) I live in the weak and wounded... does...

-Excerpt from the movie "Session 9."

I often reflect on the fictional entity Simon—in the movie above, Session 9, when dealing with or studying violent offenders and criminality, Simon was an evil entity that attached itself to weak and wounded individuals—eventually taking them over entirely and compelling them to kill.

Let me state for the record that as a Black man and a Christian, I believe in evil and a devil as surely as I do in Christ and angels. Let me also be clear in this regard, people don’t need the help of dark forces to kill. It’s already in our nature. To spiritualize everything would be a mistake and bad the quickest way to headlines—violence. I refuse to make this solely about race.

We should also remember the Santa Barbara Killer, Elliot Rodger and his more case of a defiant, young lethal mind with the means and motives to carry his mission. Their number is increasing, and this is much bigger than a race issue. Here’s why.

Homicidal folk are able to tell us why they chose their course action and often do. Our current explanations don’t match the diverse profiles of those who engage in these binges whether here in the states or abroad. The mentally ill Cho Seung-Hui of Virginia Tech left us his rambling reasons about the wealth and indiffERENCE of society, and former LAPD officer Christopher Dorner followed suit in a diatribe about injustice and racism. Madman Anders Breivik of Norway was calling Europe back to its racially pure heritage. Their desire did not need to be unmasked; they clearly told us why. (Although Sandy Hook perpetrator Adam Lanza gave no reason for his sadistic actions, it is clear he wanted to leave a statement and be remembered.)

...deviant killers feed off public spectacles of bloodshed. They seek to engage in acts that simultaneously traumatize and mesmerize viewers—as, while seeking to inspire or recruit those of a similar bent mind. As it is with all scientific inquiry, we now look for repeatable observable phenomena that will yield answers to driven approaches. Social science already reveals some answers and we need to heed the data. There are lethal minds among us that commit these types of crimes and the majority of the participants are young, alienated, troubled males. They are “wounded and weak” on many levels. We should start there. We need honest analysis.

Often in crises it brings out our best and brightest, but it also brings out all types sycophants and their hidden agendas. We have to guard against this, or every crisis that befalls us will be hijacked by irrational solutions. My hope is common sense and research will prevail.

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

Does America Need God?

CLINT DECKER
President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

Clay Center, Kansas – During September 1861 President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation calling for a national observance of “public humiliation, prayer and fasting.” Why? Months earlier the Union troops came under fire at Fort Sumter sending the teetering nation into a bloody civil war. Lincoln discerned the days ahead would be long, dark and critical for the future of America. He urged his fellow countrymen to offer “fervent supplications to Almighty God for the safety and welfare of these States, His blessings on their arms, and a speedy restoration of peace.”

The President knew he needed power and wisdom beyond himself. He knew only the God of heaven and earth could save his divided nation.

Lincoln’s approach to a national crisis is much different than the modern era. Today’s leaders respond to a crisis by urging citizens to “rebuild,” “not quit,” promising to “bring justice” and “whatever resources are needed!” It is a response that trusts in the people and government to overcome with no mention of the need for God or the problem of evil.

During these times it appears motivational and inspiring to urge people onward reminding them of the pioneering, self-reliant American spirit in our country’s history. Even so, it is that really our best way to respond to tragedy, natural disasters, war, crime, economic turmoil and political divisions?

One army faced great odds as they lined up for battle yet they succeeded. The spike in mass murderers. We should use these crises as opportuni ties to channel public outrage toward real solutions. The political, racial, and emotional dialogue that leads to finger pointing about the root causes of violence must be replaced with research driven approaches.

Social science already reveals some answers and we need to heed the data. There are lethal minds among us that commit these types of crimes and the majority of the participants are young, alienated, troubled males. They are “wounded and weak” on many levels. We should start there. We need honest analysis.

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

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Further Reading:
...but we have forgotten God...
-Abraham Lincoln

Hope For Today

Clint Decker is President & Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.
Same-Sex Marriage: How Did We Get Here?

By Jim Daly | Focus on the Family

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that there is a federal constitutional right to same-sex marriage. The Court’s sweeping ruling has the effect of legalizing the same-sex marriage at the federal and state levels across the entire country. The ruling effectively negates 31 state marriage amendments plus other states’ laws safeguarding man/woman marriage, and imposes a Roe v. Wade 50-state mandate, requiring every state to license and recognize same-sex marriages.

Justice Anthony Kennedy sided with the liberal wing of the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision that one-man one-woman marriage laws violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. The majority decision, written by Kennedy, held that marriage is a “fundamental right” guaranteed by the “due process” clause of the 14th and can’t be denied to same-sex couples.

Our society stopped viewing marriage as a lifelong union of a man and a woman. This definition helped protect children born from that union. Indeed, bringing children into this world has historically been understood to be a primary function of marriage. In that sense, marriage, sex and childbirth were linked in the minds of people, and were usually linked in practice. And today, as I read the 1960s, the Sexual Revolution happened. Our team here at Focus – and many others – will continue to defend and proclaim God’s design for marriage. We’ll continue to teach it to our children and live it out in our own lives. We’ll do everything we can to support and celebrate marriages in our churches, families and communities. And we’ll never stop praying that the Holy Spirit will make God’s truth evident in the culture.

Like the President and Hillary, My Views on Marriage Have Evolved

By DAVID FRENCH | National Review

I’ve evolved. In the not-so-distant past, I held a view that has since proven to be oppressive, a view of the law and culture that I now see as stifling the rights of others and damaging the fabric of our families and our democracy.

I supported same-sex marriage. The year was 2004, and I was a partner in a large national law firm. Despite being married mainly in commercial, contract litigation, I cultivated a constitutional practice and represented a number of Christian ministers. So, when the Massachusetts supreme judicial court legalized gay marriage, a number of fellow Christians asked for my thoughts. And in a June 2004 editorial published in our local newspaper, I shared them.

While I can’t find the full piece online anymore, this excerpt should give you the flavor:

“...when I first realized that marriage was a lifelong union of a man and a woman, this definition helped protect children born from that union. Indeed, bringing children into this world has historically been understood to be a primary function of marriage. In that sense, marriage, sex and childbirth were linked in the minds of people, and were usually linked in practice. And today, as I read the 1960s, the Sexual Revolution happened. The events that took place during this period helped break the “iron triangle” of marriage, sex, and childbearing, which ushered in monumental changes in our nation’s collective worldview and culture.

“...what’s the argument activists have carried out as they sought to normalize homosexuality and, more recently, the idea of same-sex “marriage” and parenting?

“...But now we’re racing off on our own cultural experiment, one that began two generations ago when baby boomers decided they needed to shed their spouses at will, and continues now with the equally radical step of redefining who a “spouse” can be and redefining marriage to center completely and totally on adult emotional contentment. And we’re racing on despite the clear record that families who maintain the traditional bond do far better — in aggregate — emotionally, socially, and economically than families who shun tradition to carve out their own definitions of ‘marriage’ and ‘family.’

In 2004, I was wrong and Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton were right. The definition of marriage should not change. In fact, Mrs. Clinton was so right, that I’ll close by quoting her: ‘I believe that marriage is not just a bond but a sacred bond between a man and a woman. It’s a fundamental bedrock principle that exists between a man and a woman, going back to the main of history as one of the founding, foundational institutions of history and humanity and civilization, and that its primary, principal role during these millennia has been the raising and socializing of children for the society into which they are to become adults. Right now, Hillary, as I once said before when I was on my own intellectual journey, the tides of history and opinion are not irreversible. It’s not inevitable that everyone will follow the Obama/Clinton path to transform the very nature of this foundational institution. People can, in fact, move back towards time-tested tradition. I’m living proof.”
Save Money on Summer Camp for the Kids

Now’s the time when parents are busy checking out summer camps for their kids to attend once school is out. There are camps focused on camping and hiking, and others focused on music, science, pre-college programs and more. The list is endless. No matter where you live, the price tag for summer camp can be steep, especially if you need it to cover the majority of the summer. But there may be ways to save. Here are a few things to consider as you research.

Get an Education

Summer camp can cost a pretty penny. If you’re looking to save, now’s the time to comparison shop. You might want to consider options other than a private camp. If you’re a member of the YMCA, for instance, look into the fee for summer camp there. Often, their programs are much more affordable than those at a private camp. If you’re not a member, chances are you can have your kids attend the camp for a slightly higher fee. Then again, it may be worthwhile to join.

The church or temple you attend might offer summer camp programs, at least for a few weeks. Boy Scout and Girl Scout camps are another great option that could save you money. For most Scout camps, your child doesn’t have to be a scout to attend. Also, contact your city’s Parks and Recreation office to see if they run, or are aware of, summer camps in the community.

Understanding Tax Breaks

Depending on your income and your circumstances, the cost of summer day camp expenses might qualify you for a tax credit. You’ll need to be working or looking for work, of course, in order to qualify for the credit. The credit applies for the care of children who are under 13 years of age, and only day camp expenses count. The cost for overnight camps and summer tutoring programs are not considered for tax purposes.

If you use a sitter at home when you work, that does qualify. When you file your taxes, you’ll need the Social Security number of the babysitter or the employer identification number for the camp.

Check with the IRS and your tax advisor for additional information and specifics related to summer day camp expenses and whether or not you can take the tax credit.

Look to Specialty Camps

There may be other ways to save on summer camp, especially if you can find a specific program to address your child’s needs or talents. Depending on the state where you live, you might find a specialty camp that offers merit-based or need-based scholarships. The first place to start is to ask your child’s guidance counselor at school for any information he or she may have.

It doesn’t hurt to ask. Do a little online digging, too. Tap into the resources at your local university or college, and find out what they offer. Most of the summer programs are for a fee, but there might be some — like camps centered around science, technology, the arts or that cater to special needs children — that do not charge fees or that offer a limited number of scholarships.

If your child has special needs, such as learning, emotional or physical disability, it pays to ask at your area school for information on any summer camp options for your child.

Pool Your Resources

If you don’t have access to a good summer camp nearby or if you don’t have one in your price range, you may want to consider hiring a babysitter for the summer. Get together with a friend or two and consider splitting the cost.

While you’ll need to do the proper vetting to find a trustworthy person, the beauty of having someone work for you is that he or she can respond to your child’s specific needs and interests. If you have a child who would prefer to head off to a park all day, then a babysitter can make sure that happens. Word of mouth is one of the best ways to find a reliable babysitter. So start now and ask around.

Ways to Vet a Summer Camp

Before sending your child off to summer camp, you’ll want to make sure the camp is a safe, fun, and nurturing place to be. If your child is enrolled in a specialized camp, such as for arts or technology, you’ll need to know that the camp really does know how to teach the subject matter. Here are a few ways to appropriately vet a camp.

A Look at the Basics

The safety of your child is paramount. Ask the camp director how the camp trains staff on issues of safety and security. Counselors should be certified in first aid and CPR.

If there’s a lake or pool at the camp, make sure they have certified lifeguards on duty. Find out if they perform background and criminal checks on the people that work there. Visit the space where the camp will be housed. Ask around among the parents in your area to see if you can get some firsthand opinions based on experience with a camp you are considering.

Checking Out the Programs

Find out about the credentials, background and work experience of the camp counselors. Are they equipped and skilled enough to teach the subject matter? Look at the number of years in operation and what the camp-to-counselor ratio is. Check online for reviews from customers. Also try to talk to someone directly who knows how the camp operates and whether kids like being there.

Source: Capital City Bank

Save $100 on Golf Camps

Lake Shawnee Junior Golf Camp

Lake Shawnee Junior Golf Camp

Session 3: Boys and Girls Ages 5-10
August 3rd-6th, 9:00 -10:30 a.m.
August 3rd-6th, 1:00 -2:30 p.m.

Vacation Bible School - June 15 – July 10, 8:30 AM, K – 5. Free Summer Food Program’s free breakfast and lunch. Games, activities, Bible lessons. Come for some or all 4 weeks!

Forest Park Retreat Center, 3158 SE 10th – (785) 234-8024
park retreat center • forestparkretreat@gmail.com

Golf Camps

Lake Shawnee Junior Golf Camp

Session 3: Boys and Girls Ages 5-10
August 3rd-6th, 9:00 -10:30 a.m.
Session 4: Boys and Girls Ages 11 & up
August 3rd-6th, 1:00 -2:30 p.m.

For more Information Call 785-267-2295

Vacation Bible School - Monday – Friday, July 6 – 10; 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Children K thru 6th Grade are welcome. There will be snacks and games daily.

For more information call 785-235-1030.
Oakland United Methodist Church
801 NE Chester, Topeka, Kansas

Vacation Bible School – “Our God is Out Of This World”
July 27-31, 9:30-11:30 AM. Ages: 4 - 12
Community Church
1819 SW 21st Street
Call: 233-3537 for registration

VBS – “Journey Off the Map” July 27th – 31st, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. nightly. There will be a class for adults also!
Come at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, July 26th, for a Kick-off Potluck Supper. Pre-register by calling 785-246-0260
Northern Hills Southern Baptist Church, 920 NW 62nd, Topeka, Kansas

VBS Dates: July 27th-30th from 6:30-8:30 pm.

YMCA offers several varieties of summer camps. Call 354-8591.

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Northern Hills Southern Baptist Church, 920 NW 62nd, Topeka, Kansas

VBS Dates: July 27th-30th from 6:30-8:30 pm.

age 4 (By May 30th, 2015) to those entering into 6th Grade in Fall
Northland Christian Church, 3012 N. Topeka Blvd. • 296-1204

Save Money on Summer Camp for the Kids

Northland Christian Church, 3102 N. Topeka Blvd. • 286-1204

ODA BIBLE SCHOOL - CAMP QUIPE 2015

Grantville United Methodist Church, Grantville, 785-246-3621

Vacation Bible School – June 15 – July 10, 8:30 AM, K – 5. Free Summer Food Program’s free breakfast and lunch. Games, activities, Bible lessons. Come for some or all 4 weeks!

Forest Park Retreat Center, 3158 SE 10th – (785) 234-8024
park retreat center • forestparkretreat@gmail.com

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New mural appears in NOTO

There's a new mural in the NOTO Arts District. A new art display has shown up on the back of a building once scheduled for demolition. Don Snethen, who owns 905 N. Kansas with his wife Edie, said the idea for a mosaic and mural on the rear wall of the building came from a workshop given by Philadelphia-based artist Isaiah Zagar.

The mural started with objects cemented to the wall, including old type-pieces of mirrors. Volunteers paid $50 for the opportunity to add colored grout and paint lines to emphasize the shapes. Some of them hope to use the left over pieces to start the process all over again on another building.

It is hoped that more businesses will begin adding art to the alley side of the buildings, and that it will become part of the monthly Art Walk, perhaps drawing food trucks to the alley area to serve the crowds.

NOTO Arts District also features First Friday Art Walk on July 10 this month due to the 4th of July holiday. Visitors can enjoy arts, antiques, fine crafts, and flea market items. It is almost impossible to see everything in the arts district in one evening and you don't have to try - the NOTO Arts District is open for Topeka's First Friday Art Walk at 10 am until 9 pm.

Topeka's First Friday Art Walk festivities start at 5 pm.
Christian life coach talks pastoring stars, creating the Hollywood Bible Study

by Brittany Youst

California Pastor Tim Storey has been called a life coach to the stars with a ministry that has led him to speak into the lives of countless celebrities including rapper Kanye West and actor Charlie Sheen, who had a highly controversial breakdown in 2011.

Storey, 54, is the pioneer of a spiritual meeting known as the Hollywood Bible Study that began in 1992 with 12 people that has grown to over 2000, but dealing with entertainers was not his original vision for his life while he was a student at South Eastern University in Florida.

"My dream was to reach all people and so when I first started [in ministry], I went on a lot of missions trips to third world countries," said Storey to The Christian Post. "And I would do motivational speaking in places like South Africa, Nigeria and some of the tougher parts of the Philippines."

Storey continued ministering in these countries well into his 20s and in 1992 he was propositioned to take on a different mission helping entertainers when actress Dyan Cannon asked him to do a Bible study in her house. From that point on, his ministry started reaching well known entertainers.

"I didn't realize that it was opening up a door to me that some 25 years later I would continue to walk through," said Storey.

Cannon's house was located in Beverly Hills and the study began with 12 people. Seven of them were well known entertainers. Although Storey did not want to disclose who those seven were, he has said in the past that some of the people he worked with early on included actor Charlton Heston and businessman Vidal Sassoon.

Shortly after these Bible studies began, agents of prominent entertainers started to contact Storey when their clients were struggling in their lives. By the end of the 1990s Storey had worked with actors Charlie Sheen and Robert Downey Jr. who have both struggled with drug abuse.

More recently, Storey said he's had "great conversations" with rapper and music producer Kanye West who is a professing Christian married to reality star Kim Kardashian. Storey said West has a persona most in the public have not seen.

"There's a side of Kanye that a lot of people don't know that I do," said Storey. "How kind he is to people. What a strong woman of God his mother was, Donda West. And so I would say I hope in the future that more people will get to know that side [of him]."

He also discussed his relationship with Charlie Sheen who had a very public breakdown after leaving his hit show "Two and a Half Men" in 2011.

"He is trying to learn about himself, he's trying to work through his own challenges, and we have amazing talks about God," said Storey. "Just like a parent or a mentor, sometimes we wish our children or our students would make different choices. And even at a faster pace. I've obviously wished that for Charlie. I'm still very hopeful that he will continue to make better choices."

Aside from one on one encounters, Storey hosts a show of entertainers at his Hollywood Bible study which he describes as a "hybrid of motivational speaking and traditional Bible study."

The gathering includes people from all faiths and is held in the homes of different stars.

"We're reaching out to all types of faiths, from Jewish people, to Muslims, to people who come from a New Age background," said Storey, who says he still includes Christian in the conversation regardless of who he is speaking to.

"I talk about a certain message and I'll say you may see things differently, but let me show you the way Christ presents this in the Bible. Because this may be a way that makes sense to you."

He says a lot of people that attend the study end up becoming Christian months after they meet him and thank him for giving them a chance to decide on their own.

The busy pastor recently had some high profile speaking engagements including being on Oprah Winfrey's Super Soul Sunday and an upcoming appearance at the Dalai Lama's 80th Birthday Celebration Summit in July, where he plans to share the story of the "God of Beyond" with those in attendance.

"The reason I would speak at the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday, I see it similar to the Apostle Paul speaking on Mars Hill," he said. "I'm going to talk about Jehovah. He thinks beyond. He dreams beyond. He creates beyond. And just like I do in the Hollywood Bible Study, I will tell them about a Jesus of Beyond."

He also spoke about Oprah inviting him to be a guest on Super Soul Sunday on her OWN channel and described the experience as something "amazing." "As much as I have been on Christian television and speaking in the largest conventions in the world, it was amazing how much positive feedback I got from being on one hour of Super Soul Sunday," continued Storey.

He revealed that after the appearance on Oprah's OWN channel, many people who he spoke with who do not attend church thanked him for explaining how he serves God in a way that they understand.

Since then, the father of two has shown no signs of slowing down. The Hollywood Bible Study has spread to different cities all over the U.S. including South Beach, Miami and Atlanta. He has also planted a new church in Yorba Linda, California that is open to the general public.

"The reason for Yorba Linda is, I had been raised in my teenage years not too far from where I was coming back full circle. After traveling the globe so many times, I wanted to find a place where I could create an oasis for people to come and learn about Jesus," said Storey.

Yorba Linda opened last month and kicked off with a special event featuring singer Smokey Robinson and R&B group All-4-One.

Storey is thankful for the opportunities he has had working with artists such as Robinson for over 25 years and understands that his path is unique and "not for everyone."

"I do believe this is the assignment for me. I'm thankful for other people that have their places in the body of Christ that I respect, just utilizing their gifts and experiences that God has allowed me to walk through," ended Story.

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South Beach, Miami and Atlanta. He has also planted a new church in Yorba Linda, California that is open to the general public.

"The reason for Yorba Linda is, I had been raised in my teenage years not too far from where I was coming back full circle. After traveling the globe so many times, I wanted to find a place where I could create an oasis for people to come and learn about Jesus," said Storey.
Simple Ways to Increase Your Home Value

If you’re a homeowner, you’re probably concerned about the value of your property, especially if you plan to sell soon. There are major things you can do to immediately improve the price of your home, whether it’s replacing a roof or updating the electrical system. Or you might opt for a bigger renovation – such as a kitchen renovation or a room addition – that’s likely to bump up your property value in a big way.

Consider the Curb Appeal

First impressions are everything. Superficial improvements might seem insignificant. But when you sell your home, prospective buyers will often get a positive or negative vibe about the property even before they walk inside. Prune back overgrown shrubs and periodically trim trees and overhanging branches. Take the time to weed and feed the lawn. Set a timer on the sprinkler and keep the grass green, especially when you put the property on the market.

Add some bright and colorful flowers in the front and backyards. In the back, be sure to put flowers along the fence line where prospective buyers will see them from the house. Updated landscaping is a quick, easy and relatively inexpensive way to add value to the property.

If you can, consider resurfacing the driveway. Or, if the driveway is badly damaged, you might need to add a new one. Repaint shutters and clean your light fixtures.

Don’t Forget the Gutters

Small improvements along the way can help avoid major problems that decrease your property value later on. Homeowners are frequently neglected by homeowners in the gutter system. Fix gutters and downspouts in early spring, early fall and probably again just before the onset of winter. Once winter hits, if there’s dirt and leaf debris left in the gutters, ice dams can cause them to break off the house. Check all of the downspouts and gutters, clean them out and replace the broken ones.

Neglected gutters or improperly placed downspouts can lead to water pooling near your home. Not only will this destroy plants and shrubbery close to the house, but the foundation also may be at risk. Over the long term, the pooling problems can result in a damp basement. Even if the gutter system is working well, you could still have drainage issues. If so, you might consider regrading the property, especially if you end up with a damp yard. Adding shrubs can also help when there’s excess water.

Do Some Upkeep

A little care and attention can go a long way to preserve and improve the value of your home. Maintenance is the key. That is, staying on top of issues as they occur – not just after. Remember to do a periodic treatment for pests, such as termites, carpenter bees and ants. While you’ll need to shell out a little cash for the exterminator, the long-term damage that pests might cause to the home can be major.

If you’ve been meaning to trash the old window, it’s time to do it. You might find there are hardwood floors underneath, and, assuming they are in reasonably good condition, they could add value to your home. You may be able to fix minor damage. Or it may be worthwhile to hire professionals for bigger jobs.

Watch the leaky pipes on sinks in the kitchen and bathrooms as well as the toilets. Slow small leaks, if ignored, can result in water damage to floors, but they are often relatively easy to fix. Also, be aware that mold is a problem that has become more prevalent, especially in energy-efficient homes. Say some experts. This is because energy-efficient homes are tight, restricting air movement and inadvertently encouraging mold growth. There are many steps you can take to control moisture in your home before mold becomes a problem. One simple way to open doors and windows when practical to increase ventilation. If you suspect you have a mold problem talk to a mold remediation professional.

Even if you’re not particularly handy, a good home repair book or video may be all you need to stay on top of minor repairs. Or ask for advice at your local home improvement store. In the long run, you’ll preserve the value of your property for years to come.

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Sometimes you can get more for your money with locally-owned businesses by having a local person to deal with when you have problems later. Jim Driggers, owner of The Computer Store, says he offers quick turn-around time on your computer repairs and the most experienced technicians in Topeka. Most big-box stores send your computer out of town for repairs, and you never even get a chance to talk directly to the technician doing the work on your computer. 

"It's the difference between getting your computer back in a few days by us or a few weeks!" Driggers said.

If you need a new computer, The Computer Store will build one for you, with a warranty, and it will be serviced locally in the store if ever necessary. They have used computers and laptops for sale also.

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

The Computer Store has been in business since 1999, and is located at 21st and Gage in Seabrook Center. You can reach them by phone at 785-267-3223, or visit their website online at www.thecomputerstoreks.com.

The Computer Store is a member of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, the Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce and the Topeka Independent Business Association.
CONCERTS
TOPEKA ACOUSTIC MUSIC JAM - First Sat. of ea. month, 6-7pm, Patton Presbyterian Ch (enter south door), 400 S.W. Washburn. Info: 294-6227 hagercocci25@gmail.com.


FIRST FRIDAY OPEN AIR CONCERT – Jul. 1, 5-9pm to Midnight in the East 300 Blocks of 18th Street. Featuring: Aaron Karmen & The One Drops (St. Louis Reggae).

BLUES CONCERTS – Fridays 6-8pm, Big ‘Uns Grill, 3120 SW 6th St. For info: 286-7570.

EVERY CONCERT in the PARK – Jul. 7, 12, 15, 19, 26, 7-9pm, Gage Park Amphitheater. Discover or re-discover that wonderful pastime of sitting under big shade trees in the cool of the summer evening just to relax. What better way to let the stresses of the day drift away than to listen to the rich sounds of the big bands. Topeka is very fortunate to have four bands whose members are some of the best musicians in Northeast Kansas. Make it a weekly experience for the whole family. Bring a blanket and a picnic dinner or sit on one of our benches...what a wonderful way to discover family fun! For info: 280-2101.

THE BLACKWOOD BROTHERS – Jul. 8, 7pm, Forest Park Retreat Center, 3528 SE 10th. The Christian Gospel Quartet will be hosting a free concert for our community. For info: 735-8204.


LADIES’ EXERCISE – 1st, 3rd and 5th Sat. of each month,beginning at 1:00pm. Contact Sheri 207-0380 or pamperedchefsheri@live.com.

MONDAY FARMER’S MARKET – Every 1st and 3rd Mon., 11am-2pm, Topeka Housing Authority, 12th and Harrison. Over 40 local vendors. The open-air market is full of fresh fruits & vegetables, herbs, arts & crafts, flowers, home-baked goods etc. For info: 229-2139.


ANNUAL SON-SHINE CARNIVAL – Jul. 11, 9am-3pm, Kansas Historical Society, 6425 SW 6th. Music, games, water slide, silent auction, prizes, cake walk and fun for all Free admissions.

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES
2015 KANSAS CONFERENCE ON POVERTY – Jul 10-12, Ramada Downtown Topeka. For info: www.kacap.org. Speakers include Tony Evans, Tommy Bowden, David Alan, Dr. Patricia and more. Info: 853-5994.

PERFECT PARTNERS SPEED NETWORKING - July 30, 4-6:30pm, Topeka Country Club, 2700 SW Buchanan St. For businesses to develop strategic alliances with professionals in the Kansas City area.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS
SUNFLOWER STATE GAMES – Jul 10-12, July 11-12, July 17-18, July 19-20, July 26-27. For info: 239-2139 or sunflowergames.com. Hosted by the Kansas Department of Commerce. Use your KC ‘PASS to browse through authentic Mexican clothing, jewelry, souvenirs and more.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PLANNING – July 28, 6-10pm at the Topeka Public Library, 310 SE.

712 & TRIB HUNT MEET & GREET – Jul 31, 5-9pm. 712 Innovations, 725 S. Kansas Ave. All business professionals are welcome! Networking, Food, Drinks! Come enjoy a networking social for all professionals, hosted by 712 Innovations and the Topeka Independent Business Association.

TOPEKA YOUTH PROJECT GOLF CLASSIC – Jul 17, Village Green. 8:30am shotgun. 4-5 registration, donuts, lunch. Follow lunch. Cash prizes! Two $500 raffle for lunch prize! Call 223-6403 to register.

MARKIN MOVES: Street Soldiers for the Volunteers of Kansas Children’s Discovery Center – Jul 18, 3pm. 4400 SW 5th. Fun Mud Run, the "Fun Mud Run" is over, all of the volunteers will get to join the Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce
Promoting and Supporting:
• Christian Businesses & Organizations
• Excellence in Products & Services
• Christian Values and Ideals

Membership open to all Christian businesses, non-profits, churches & individuals! Luncheons & Trailshwos & Some other events open to the general public!

- C5Alive POWER Luncheons - (2nd Thu. ea. mo.)
- July 9, 11:30-1, WBID Studios, 631 SW Commerce Pl (off SW 6th St, west of Wamakamer) Tour with Jim Ogle! Featured Speaker: Dr. Ronald Lee Cobb, Author & Counselor. Open to the Public! RSVP to info@c5alive.org or 664-6399.
- Aug. 13, 11:30-1 – SAVE THE DATE!
- Sep. 10, 11:30-1 – SAVE THE DATE!
- Oct. 8, 11:30-1 – Pastor’s Appreciation

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For info: for info@c5alive.org or info@c5alive.org

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FAITH OF OUR FATHERS MOVIE FOCUSES ON VIETNAM WAR HEALING

What was/is the Vietnam War for you? For many, it’s a history book chapter. For me it was a controversial conflict that divided our nation and set university campuses aflame. For my classmates, it was a history book chapter. For many, it meant tragic injury, death, bereavement, perhaps decades of stress, broken relationships, shattered dreams. Over 58,000 Americans died there.

As this nation commemorates the war’s 50th anniversary, a touching new film traces its impact on two families. Faith of our Fathers tells a moving (fictional) story of two men who, in 1997, embark on a journey to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, to discover the fathers they never knew. Guided by wartime letters from their dads – combat companions who died in Vietnam – John Paul George and Wayne Adams meet their fathers and themselves.

ODD-COUPLE ODYSSEY

Stephen Baldwin, Kevin Downes, David A.R. White, Candace Cameron Bure, Rebecca St. James and Si Robertson star. The film weaves 1969 combat drama into this odd-couple odyssey from the California burbs to rural Mississippi and beyond. John Paul (Downes) is a suburban Christian; Wayne (White) a reclusive country boy soured on religion. John Paul wonders how his father died. Wayne’s letters shed clues, but he’d prefer parts of his past remain buried.

I will concede this in the movie, the man can push beef jerky. And as both a person of faith and a Vietnam vet, Robertson contributes a personal touch to the film’s cause: "So many young men... left families behind who never got to know those great guys. This story is about... Vietnam, but it happens in all wars, and I’m proud to be part of a film that helps bring peace to people."

BRINGING PEACE

Bringing peace to troubled hearts is a film objective. Producers dedicated the film “to military service men and wom en and their families who have made the ultimate sacrifice.” They cite Jesus: “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

As illustrative examples, Downes tells of a veteran and a surviving family member whom the film helped to process war-related memories.

50TH ANNIVERSARY?

A history refresher for folks like me who might be puzzled that the war’s 50th anniversary would be happening in 2015, since US participation preceded 1965: A 2012 presidential proclamation declared a 13-year commemoration of the 50th anniversary. US Vietnam military involvement evolved in the 1950s and 1960s from advice and support to direct combat. A 2012 US Department of Defense Information Paper argues it’s impossible to fix a precise US start date, but that a July 28, 1965, LBJ press conference (“We will not surrender and we will not retreat”) “is probably the strongest contender...” if one had to choose.

The war ended in April 1973 when America pulled out, Saigon fell, and South Vietnam surrendered to the North. Alas, it still hasn’t ended for many survivors and families. Maybe Faith of our Fathers can help more move toward closure.

Rusty Wright is an author and lecturer who has spoken on six continents. He holds Bachelor of Science (psychology) and Master of Theology degrees from Duke and Oxford universities, respectively. www.RustyWright.com
Not too late to find a good read for the summer

by Dr. James Emery White

Every year, I usually give ten titles as a suggested summer reading list. These are books that either I have read, or plan to. Most are brand new. A few, here and there, may be a year or two older. Either way, they are on the top of my recommended summer reading list.

So in no particular order …

- David McCullough, The Wright Brothers. McCullough should probably be called America’s favorite historian. Before him, for me, it was Daniel Boorstin. I read everything McCullough writes. In my humble opinion, so should you.

- C.J. Sansom, Lamentation. If you haven’t become a fan of Sansom’s “Matthew Shardlake” novels, then you are in for a treat as you feast on each and every one. For those already on board, you won’t want to miss this, his latest. I know — I’ve already devoured it. But don’t start with this one if you’re new to the series – go back to the very start and begin with Deception.

- Conn Iggulden, War of the Roses: Stormbird. Historical fiction is a weakness of mine – meaning, I love it in almost every form. And Iggulden is a master. I tore through his series on Genghis Khan, then ripped through his series on Caesar. Now he takes on the War of the Roses. I’m so there. Actually, was there. Already read the first installment like devouring dessert.

- Brennan Manning, All Is Grace: A Ragamuffin Memoir. Every now and then I tell my soul that I need a good stiff dose of Manning’s work (even potentially offensive) material. Also, we’ve had a chance to share Dre Tee’s music with friends who are not Believers, but enjoy R & B and rap music. They have given it very good reviews.

For more information and booking, follow manager Río Bravo on Twitter.

“Two Keys” film speaks peace to Israel and hope to teens

What if the worldview of two teens, one Israeli and one Palestinian, collided after a horrific suicide bomb blast in Jerusalem. “Two Keys” is a short film project with local roots that sets to explore that possibility and how both lives are changed. Written by Kansas City screenwriter Laura Woodworth, the film will shoot late this summer in Kansas City and Israel if it meets an Indiegogo campaign goal of $75,000.

The award winning screenplay promotes the concept of “one new man.” Ahl, the Israeli teen, is a Messianic Jew growing up in Jerusalem. When her life becomes intertwined with a young Palestinian Muslim, she is challenged to see if her faith can bring peace. Can Jew and Gentile really become one?

“Two Keys” brings a different message than the popular Hunger Games and Divergent films which encourage young people to look inside themselves for strength. “Faith in God can make you strong. Your faith can help you overcome impossible situations,” says Woodward.

The film will direct and produce the film with her husband and co-producer, S. Alex Woodward. Katina Zinner, daughter of Academy Award-winning editor Peter Zinner, of “The Godfather” will edit the film. Read Wilson, manager of Academy Award winner Robert Duvall’s production company for 11 years is the executive producer, along with Casey Bond, known for his acting in “Moneyball” with Brad Pitt. Additionally, actor Stefano Savante, Screen Actors Guild Award nominee for his role in “Ugly Betty” and winner of the American Movie Award, will portray a Palestinian separatist.

David Woodward, known for his work on the Katina Zinner-produced “Blind Saints” and award winning television show, “The Steve and Kathy Show” is cinematographer. Most recently announced is Integrity Music artist, musician and worship leader Dustin Smith who is composer for the film.

Two Keys’ offers a message of hope to young people living in Israel as well as in Ferguson or in Baltimore. Your life matters, no matter how impossible the situation.

For more information or to donate, visit Indiegogo at http://igg.me/at/twokeysmovie.
Social Isolation

Social isolation occurs when an individual has limited contact with others and perceives that level of contact is inadequate. Social isolation can be compared/contrasted to loneliness, but it is much more broadly defined than simply feeling lonely, which can sometimes happen when an individual is with a large group of people! Social isolation often occurs in aging adults following retirement, loss of a spouse, health-related issues, and many other factors. Social isolation is linked to depression as both a risk factor and a result of depression.

So how do we combat social isolation as we Age In Place? Purpose appears to be a key aspect of battling isolation as we Age In Place? Purpose exists in various fields which rely heavily on a group of dedicated volunteers to support the work of the organization.

Working part-time can also be a wonderful way of staying connected to and engaged with the world outside your home. And the positive result of earning some extra income can assist those who may need to supplement their fixed incomes - an additional benefit.

The aspect of nurturing is a powerful force in preventing social isolation. Caring for pets, plants and kids is always a healthy endeavor which can bring much happiness and gratification.

The important thing is to find what you are passionate about and begin feeding that passion, whatever it may be. And it is never too late to start doing just that! So find your purpose in life, no matter what age, and live that authentic version of your life — indeed your own life, starting today!

Dennis is the Program Director of Live Well at Home by Brewster, an innovative, lifecare membership program designed for active, healthy adults who wish to remain in their homes as they age. Dennis has 23 years’ experience in aging services and is a LeadingAge Leadership Academy Fellow and a Certified Aging Services Professional. He holds a Master of Arts Degree from St. Louis University. For more information about Live Well at Home by Brewster, contact Dennis at 785-374-3394.

For additional information about volunteer opportunities at Brewster, please contact Maxine Gilbert at 785-374-3374.

The Best Ways to Survive a Stroke

On Feb. 13, 2011, CBS-TV reporter Serene Branson shocked Grammy Award viewers when she appeared to experience a stroke (the interruption of blood flow to the brain) on air. After Branson began to speak gibberish, paramedics on the scene checked her out and released her. She had a colleague drive her home. Fortunately, it reportedly turned out to be a complex migraine — because if it had been a stroke, “she did exactly the wrong thing by waiting and then going home. She should have gone straight to a hospital. Time saved is brain saved,” says Dr. Larry B. Goldstein, spokesperson for the American Stroke Association (ASA) and director of Duke Stroke Center, Durham, N.C. He adds that even though the paramedics “cleared her,” she still should have gone to the hospital immediately. (To be fair, the paramedics may have recommended that, but they can’t force someone.)

Stroke is the No. 4 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the United States, according to the ASA. There are two kinds of strokes: ischemic, which accounts for 87 percent and happens when a blood clot stops up a brain blood vessel or artery to the brain, and hemorrhagic, which is caused when a brain blood vessel breaks and results in bleeding inside or over the brain.

Major symptoms of a stroke:
• Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body
• Sudden confusion, or trouble speaking or understanding
• Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
• Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance, or coordination
• Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

Less frequent symptoms (but occur often in women):
• Sudden onset of nausea, and vomiting
• Brief loss of consciousness or fainting, confusion or convulsions
• Sudden hicups
• Sudden face and limb pain
• Sudden shortness of breath and chest pain

5 easy tests to assess symptoms:
• Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?
• Ask the person to raise his arms. Does one arm drift downward?
• Ask the person to say a simple sentence. Watch for garbled words and slurred speech.

If you think you or someone with you is having a stroke, here’s what to do:
• Call 9-1-1 right away. Do not “wait and see” if the symptoms subside. The sooner the patient gets medical attention, the better the outcome. “If you have a choice, wait for the paramedics rather than driving the patient yourself. Patients who are transported by EMS are evaluated much quicker than people who are driven in,” Goldstein says. (And, of course, do not drive if you are the one with the possible stroke!)
• Call even if symptoms disappear. In a transient ischemic attack, symptoms usually only last a few minutes but it is a warning that a major stroke may be coming. “The best way to treat a stroke is to never have it to begin with. This is an opportunity to try to prevent one,” Goldstein says.
• Note the time when symptoms appeared and let the paramedics know. There are time frames after which certain drugs can’t be used.
• Do not give the patient aspirin. “A stroke is a brain event, not a heart attack,” Goldstein explains. “You can’t tell what kind of stroke the person is having. If it’s hemorrhagic, aspirin will make the brain bleed worse.”
SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MEDICARE

Question: Why does Social Security produce cat videos while looking at funny cat videos?
Answer: Medicare?

Question: I will rely on Medicare when I retire. Can you explain Medicare?
Answer: Medicare?

Question: I stumbled onto your YouTube channel while looking at funny cat videos. Why does Social Security produce cat videos?
Answer: Find the right care for you

Question: I've heard you can apply online for Social Security benefits. But isn't it easier just to go into an office?
Answer: During your working years, earnings covered by Social Security are posted to your record. You earn Social Security credits based on those earnings. The amount of earnings needed for one credit rises as average earnings levels rise. In 2014, you receive one credit for each $1,200 of earnings. You can earn up to a maximum of four credits a year. Most people will need 40 credits (or 10 years of work) to be eligible for retirement benefits. Learn more by reading the online publication How You Earn Credits at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Question: I'm able to do the work you did before and that, based on your age, education, and work experience, you are unable to adjust to any other work that exists in significant numbers in the national economy. Also, your disability must last or be expected to last for at least one year. For more information, we recommend you read our publication, Disability Benefits, available online at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

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SPORTS

Safe At Home: A Partner for the Gospel

Scott Dawson

founder of the Scott Dawson Evangelistic Association and the Strength to Stand Conference movement

Scions of relationships at home, work, school and neighborhoods we are His ambassadors. Sharing the Gospel in today’s culture can be a scary challenge but can also be a great adventure.

For the past 15 years, we have found a unique partnership of sharing the Gospel with professional sporting events. Around the country I have had the privilege of sharing the greatest story ever told with America’s favorite pastime and seeing lives changed for eternity.

The secret in the effectiveness of this kind of outreach is not in the game or even the event itself but with individuals praying for friends and inviting them to the game and event. Without individuals taking advantage of this ministry outreach by inviting their friends, Safe At Home will be a fun night of baseball and Christian entertainment but will fall short of people beginning or renewing their relationship with Christ. Many times we have friends that would not be as open to accepting our invitation to a more normal church service but would be willing to come to a baseball game with the event to follow.

Our goal is to see as many individuals challenged with having a personal relationship with Christ and giving them a chance to respond. In the last three years with the Royals, we have seen tens of thousands hear how Christ loves them and wants to walk with them through life and thankfully hundreds have responded. In talking with these individuals, we find that they all have unique faith stories.

At a recent Safe At Home with the Royals one pastor wrote and told us about one of his stories. “Bryan was baptized this past Sunday. Bryan was able to share his testimony with over 60 kids at an outreach event that our church had. Bryan told the story of how he accepted Christ at the Safe At Home. His story impacted all the kids in attendance. Thank you for your service to the Kingdom. Bryan’s life is forever changed.” We love this type testimony because it shows how the ministry at the ballpark can be multiplied into other lives and outreach events.

Safe At Home gives churches a chance to grow both numerically and spiritually. We work to see that individuals who make a commitment at the event are referred to a local church for long-term follow up. This helps the church grow. Individuals have grown spiritually because they have seen their prayers answered by their friends who responded to Christ.

When I have a chance to go fishing, I want to know there are fish in the water before I go fishing. As an evangelist, I am called to be a “fisher of men” and before presenting the Gospel at an event like Safe At Home, I want to know there are fish in the pond. Please join me in prayerfully considering how to use Safe At Home as a tool to reach your family and friends for Christ. We are grateful to the Royals organization for making this event possible and for local churches embracing this kind of outreach in a serious way. Together we can have a great impact on our community for the Kingdom of Christ.

mythoughts

II Corinthians 5:18 tell us “…And God has given us the task of reconciling people to Him”. The Lord has placed us, as His followers, in strategic circles of relationships at home, work, school and neighborhoods we are His ambassadors. Sharing the Gospel in today’s culture can be a scary challenge but can also be a great adventure.

For the past 15 years, we have found a unique partnership of sharing the Gospel with professional sporting events. Around the country I have had the privilege of sharing the greatest story ever told with America’s favorite pastime and seeing lives changed for eternity.

thecheapseats

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

Last week the Kansas City Royals had seven players who were leading their position in All-Star voting. This week, four days before the voting ends, the Royals have five who are still in the lead. Kendrys Morales was passed by Nelson Cruz at DH and Mike Moustakas was overcome by Josh Donaldson, who, by the way, is having a great year.

That leaves Salvador Perez at catcher, Omar Infante at second, Alcides Escobar at short, Alex Gordon in left and Lorenzo Cain in center. Of the five, I truly believe that all of them, with the exception of Infante, deserve to be an All-Star. Now don’t start throwing rocks at me until you hear me out. If you were to look at stats alone, (pretty good way to determine one’s worthiness for the All-Star game), then you would see that Houston second baseman Jose Altuve is leading Infante in batting average (.292 vs. 237), RBIs (30 vs. 23) and stolen bases (21 vs. 1). In addition, Altuve leads in home runs (7 vs. 0), hits (83 vs. 57) and on base percentage (.336 vs. 239). Sure, the fan in me would love to see all of the Royals get voted into the All-Star game, but there is no one who can convince me that Infante is more deserving than Altuve. I use Altuve’s name because at this point he is only trailing Infante by 230,000 votes.

A lot of national media and sports fans in general have bashed Royals fans for voting for the entire team as many times as MLB.com allows. I don’t understand that at all. It seems to me that ANY team in ANY sport would love to have passionate fans who cared for their teams. Royals fans have nothing to be embarrassed about nor do they need to apologize. They worked the system and it almost backfired for Major League Baseball. I can only guess at the type of changes that would occur if the Royals did manage to get eight or nine starters in the game. Either way, it appears as though interest for the All-Star game is at an all-time high.

Speaking of James, everyone loves to draw comparisons with him and Michael Jordan as to who is/was the better player. Now, someone else has made this comparison. Yea, I think it’s très cool. The things we do to get people to talk about him again. Scottie Pippen, remember Jordan’s sidekick, has said that if anyone should be compared to James it’s him. He said they play similar styles. Well, one thing for certain, Pippen’s play worked….we are talking about him.
By Rosson Anderson
College Golf Fellowship

One day I did a keyword search on Amazon for books pertaining to “golf.” The search returned over 29,000 results. In those results, 519 pertained to coaching. Without examining each one of the coaching books individually, I assumed they all said something a little different: “hold your hands here,” “move your hips like this,” “follow through like so.” No doubt, the author and reader of these books had one thing in mind: to explore the truths of the perfect golf swing. Unfortunately, my faith can look a little like the pursuit of a perfect method to swing a club. I read, listen, and debate various sources of inspiration with the hope to find a “religion” that fits the worldview that I feel most confident expressing. No doubt, this trend comes from a current world-view called post-modernism that screams there are no “real” truths. In it, we are free to make our own decisions to the topic of “truth.”

I was reminded recently of Jesus’ dialogue with Pontius Pilate in John 18. Jesus says, “...For this purpose I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Even when I am pulled to more socially favorable beliefs, I can be comforted that real truth exists, and it is found in the re-depiction story that Jesus came to be a witness for.

Adversity and Response

If any of you are competitors in any kind of sport, then you know there will always be adversities involved in the competition. When it comes to golf, there are two different kinds of obstacles golfers might face: outside obstacles (weather, hazards, etc.) and inside obstacles (your mental approach to the game).

This is very similar to life. There are things in life that you cannot control, but there are things you can control. The outside adversities that we cannot control are things like sickness, death, other people, etc. However, what we can control is how we respond to these things. We will have inner struggles and obstacles, namely our sin.

How are we to respond to these hardships and obstacles (outside and inside)? Where do we find the contentment Paul speaks of in Philippians 4:12? Find it in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who lived a perfect life (that you and I could not live) and died a death and resurrected (that both me and you couldn’t do), so that you and I can be counted as righteous before our Heavenly Father.

Finishing Strong

When everything is on the line, when everyone is watching, when you or your team are counting on you for the next shot or the next play, it is the situation that true competitors always dream of and want to participate in. As a golfer, I dream of sinking a slick, downhill, 20-foot putt on the 18th hole at Augusta National to win the Masters Tournament by a shot. No matter the sport, we all want to finish strong. We want to always be able to look back in time and say that we did our best and put it all on the line in certain situations.

These same principles stand in life and faith. Remember what Paul said in Philippians: “He who began a good work in you will bring it completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” We must always keep this in mind, especially in hard times. God does not give up on us; however, He does allow us to go through hard times and He disciplines us, as a father disciplines His son. Don’t lose heart. God is sovereign and in control!

Always remember Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.”

New Identity, New Acceptance

By Mike Blodgett
College Golf Fellowship

As a former professional and collegiate golfer, I loved hearing someone introduce me and my accolades as I stood on the first tee. I craved the “first-tee jitters” because, for at least one moment during the day, the world stopped and all eyes were on me. I loved the thrill of trying to pull off a golf shot and receiving the applause afterwards.

In my self-absorbed, pride-filled world, my identity was encapsulated by the name on the scoreboard and the scores next to it. When I began to grasp who God was and what my position before Him was, both before and after I accepted His Son into my heart, I realized that the idol of pride ruled in my heart.

When God is put in His proper place in our lives, our hearts no longer seek admiration from others because we already know that no greater affirmation can be had than the love of God through His Son Jesus Christ. As Jesus Christ transformed my heart, I no longer needed to strive for acceptance from others and seek affirmation based off of my golf performance or how many “good” shots I hit that day.

I was accepted by God. Done. Finished. All because of Jesus dying on the cross.

It was both humbling and freeing.

Stories Are Meant to Be Told

When I played golf for the University of Pennsylvania, our team would play roughly four tournaments in the fall and five in the spring. Each season presented its own challenges, but nothing was more dynamic than the weather in the northeast. Every tournament required adequate preparation for the weather conditions.

Our life is built around meetings, events, business plans, and to-do lists—tasks that cannot be completed if we lack the tools or knowledge to execute the task in a given environment. For a golfer, the outdoors introduces a unique playing environment that we must plan for in advance.

As a Christian, we must be prepared to give an answer for the hope that we have in Christ, regardless of the circumstances or weather. The framework to communicate how our life has been changed by Jesus Christ is this: 1) Your story before knowing Christ; 2) Your story when you had an encounter with Christ; and when you placed your faith in Him; 3) Your story with Christ. Are you prepared to share with others how Jesus Christ has given you a new heart? Consider writing out your story using these three “chapters” as your guide.

Source: Sports Spectrum

Lake Shawnee’s Fourth of July Golf Tournament - July 4th. 4-Person Scramble. 8am Shotgun & 1:30pm Shotgun, $35 per person / $140 per team (DUE AT SIGN-UP). Includes Green Fees, Golf Cart, Lunch and Prizes. Entry Forms are available online at the golf shop. For information: 785-267-2295

Topeka Youth Project Golf Classic. – Jul. 17, Village Greens. 8:30am shotgun, 7-45 registration, donuts, juice. Lunch follows tournament. Cash prizes! Two $500 closest to pin prizes! Call 273-4141 to register.

Greatlife Players Open - July 5, 1:30pm, Lake Perry. 4 person scramble. $50 member, $60 non-member. 785-484-2339

Natalie Gibson Memorial Tourney – July 18, 9am shotgun. $45 per person, 4-person scramble.

Ritcare Charity Golf Tourney – Aug. 7, 12:30 Shotgun, Shawnee CC, 913 SE 29th St, 2 person scramble. $75 each. Dinner, auction followed at 5:30. For info: 295-3191

Mater Dei Irish Fest Half-Way to St. Patty’s Day Golf Tournament – Sept. 13, Lake Shawnee. For details call 232-7744 or email materdeiirishfest@gmail.com

4th Annual Shawnee County Parks & Rec Foundation Golf Tourney - Oct. 2, Lake Shawnee. 9am shotgun.

Fast Forward Golf Tourney - Topeka CC, Aug. 7, 1pm shotgun.4 person scramble. $100 each. Call 234-2844 for details.

GreatLife Golf Outing – Aug. 28, 29 & 30. Shawnee CC. Dinner and two days of golf. 925-3967 for details.

GreatLife Junior Golf - Call 554-2825 for times and locations

Peewee Junior Golf Camp and Junior Intro to Golf at Cypress Ridge – call for info 291-2670

Lake Shawnee Junior Golf Camps available on various dates. For more information Call 785-267-2295

Youth Project’s “Tee Off for Youth” 18th Annual Golf Tourney SponsoRed by Reser’s Fine Foods

Friday July 17th
7:45 am Registration, Donuts, Juice
8:30 Shotgun Start

Village Greens Golf Course - Ozawkie, KS

Two $500.00 Guaranteed Closest to the Pin Prizes!
Sponsored by Reser’s Fine Foods

Cash Prizes - 2 flights, 2 places
Men’s Longest Drive, Closest to Pin
Women’s Longest Drive, Closest to Pin

Lunch 11:30-1:30 • Awards at 1:30

Entry Fee Includes: Green Fees, Cart & Lunch
$400 = Team
$100 = Hole Sign
$425 = Team + Hole Sign
$273-4141 for registration form

Call $250 + Individual Golfer
$100 = Hole Sign

Source: Sports Spectrum
According to Collier, a 17-year-old boy, 150 of them added the girl from his family and friend, and she brought three or four new believers to the training.

“We are close to reaching the point where we could take over the tents with the help of our new believers.”

Collier said.

WEATHERING A DISASTER

On the mid-morning of April 25, Collier and his friends sat around a table in their Kathmandu apartment, chatting and passing the time. Some of their teammates had just returned from the previous evening from villages where they trained Nepalese women to share their faith. So the six of them were together that morning when an alarm sounded and when their second-story apartment began to shake, with cups on the table rattling and doors slamming.

Immediately, Collier grabbed the table, looked up at Reese and her other team members and cried out, “Earthquake!”

“We didn’t expect that,” Collier said. “So when the earthquakes came, everyone had been told to do in an earthquake went out the window, out of our minds, because it was so sudden and so scary. … Finally, we all collapsed in the hallway with our areas over one another, and we all began praying aloud.”

“It was very, very loud,” she added. “It sounded like a freight train or thunder, because of the structure in her prayers that God was in control.”

According to Reese, the thunder of the earthquake continued, it seemed, for a long time. Eventually, she alone was speaking in her prayers that God was in control.

“At that moment, I was very sure that the apartment building was going to collapse on us because we were told that that was going to happen in an earthquake,” Reese said. “I was terrified. My voice was trembling as I was speaking, but there was just an absolute sense that God was in control, and I was just waiting for it to end so I could go back to sleep.”

“I was really tired. But I was very, very thankful that we were keeping watch, because there were some strange characters walking around.”

For the next few nights, the girls set up camp in their apartment parking lot but unable to contribute to the recovery process—both because the Nepalese government wouldn’t allow citizens to do so and because Baptist Global Relief had not completed their assessment of the disaster—they soon returned to the United States a week earlier than they had expected.

RETURNING HOME

Looking back on their experiences, both Collier and Reese thanked God for the training they received through the Fusion program.

“God uses the pain of the suffering peoples of the world to bring about good in many ways,” Collier said. “It took me a long time to think well even though we were stressed out during this time, she said. “The training that we did in Fusion during the (fall 2014 semester) prepared us a lot for that. It really helped.”

At the end of May, Reese, Collier and their teammates celebrated with other Fusion participants who traveled the globe with the Gospel. The ceremony was a secret. Members of each fusion team wore the native dress of the country where they had worked, and first-time Fusion participants received a sword—reminding them of God’s peace and the Spirit’s guidance.

“April 25th is a day that will be forever etched in our memories,” Reese said. “It was a reminder of how ministry can’t always be straightforward. It’s a reminder of how God can use the unexpected to bring about good.”

ABOLITION SUMMIT

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director/producer/writer of the award-winning documentary, Nefarious: Merchant of Souls. At this year’s summit, he will talk about a society that is becoming desensitized to the needs of our fellow human beings and the ways that Christ teaches us to overcome this trend by living our lives with empathy.

“Jesus is deeply in touch with Himself and others. He is the embodiment and personification of empathy,” Nolot says. “This is the essence of Christianity. To be a presence in the world that brings freedom to the oppressed and healing to the broken.”

“Those who fight against the exploitation of humans and are motivated by the love of Christ to combat the evils of child sex trafficking, Together, they have launched restoration homes for many rescued girls through Agape International Missions. Through a variety of projects, their organization currently impacts over 10,000 people a year and has been featured in Nefarious and The CNN Freedom Project.

Another featured speaker will be Christina Rangel, founder of Extreme Love Anti-trafficking at Bethel Church in Redding, CA. Rangel and her team assist law enforcement officials with direct intervention operations in major West Coast cities and provide support to girls who have been trafficked. As a survivor of sex trafficking, Christina is passionate about the restoration of those who have suffered exploitation. “I love them right where they are at. I believe that love never fails, and it is transformation that they need,” Rangel said.

Additional speakers include Richie Cruz, a former sex buyer and the founder of Porn Scar, an organization dedicated to educating the public about the harms of pornography and equipping individuals with solutions that bring lasting freedom; Melissa Farley, Ph.D., a renowned research and clinical psychologist who has published extensive works on prostitution, trafficking, and the global sex industry; Andrew Comiskey, the founder of Desert Stream/Living Waters Ministries, an outreach that ministers to the sexually and relationally broken; and Keria Hatfield, a licensed clinical therapist with years of experience working with sexually exploited women, who has pioneered Exodus Cry’s restoration program.

Guests will also have opportunities to network with fellow abolitionists and to attend breakout sessions designed to provide practical equipping for shifting the culture, reaching the exploited, and bringing restoration.

In addition, the event will feature worship artists such as Misty Edwards, Laura Hackett Park, Jaye Thomas, Jonas Park, and Jason Upton whose inspiring works celebrate the restoration of those who have suffered. “This is a way to celebrate and remember our losses,” Nolot said. “It is out of the joy that we have in Jesus that we can do this.”

To learn more about Exodus Cry’s mission and its commitment to abolishing moved servile sexual exploitation, visit exoduscry.com.

ABOLITION SUMMIT

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“Earthquake” continued from page 1

magnitude earthquake would shake the Himalayas, shatter cities and kill more than 4,000 people.

Yet the earthquake struck on April 25, forcing Collier and her friends to sleep outdoors and take turns keeping watch that night. During her watch, Collier, a student at Midwestern, reflected on the previous day and prayed.

“That really was one of the sweetest times of prayer that I’ve ever had;” she said, “just believing in the truth that God is our refuge and we have Him all over before. Even when the earth isn’t trustworthy, God is trustworthy, always.”

Like her colleagues, Collier’s feet were firmly planted amid disaster not only because of Fusion’s intensive training, but more importantly because of her confidence that “though the mountains be shaking.”

 Бог remains faithful ( Isaiah 54:10). 

MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES

These student missionaries with the Fusion program witnessed the faithfulness of God soon after they landed in Nepal in January and began teaching Nepalese Christian women how to make disciples. By January and began teaching Nepalese Christian women how to make disciples.

According to Katlyn Reese*, a Midwestern College student and the Fusion advocate in charge of training the girls, the team’s success hinged upon these women sharing their faith.

At one of the first villages they visited, nearly 12 hours from Kathmandu, Reese doubted whether any of the women understood what they were teaching. But they returned a month later to find a surprising harvest.

“They are told how to act and things like dealing in her prayers that God was in control.

“At that moment, I was very sure that the apartment building was going to collapse on us because we were told that that was going to happen in an earthquake, ”

Reese said. “I was terrified. My voice was trembling as I was speaking, but there was just an absolute sense that God was in control, and I was just waiting for it to end so I could go back to sleep.”

“I was really tired. But I was very, very thankful that we were keeping watch, because there were some strange characters walking around.”

For the next few nights, the girls set up camp in their apartment parking lot but unable to contribute to the recovery process—both because the Nepalese government wouldn’t allow citizens to do so and because Baptist Global Relief had not completed their assessment of the disaster—they soon returned to the United States a week earlier than they had expected.

RETURNING HOME

Looking back on their experiences, both Collier and Reese thanked God for the training they received through the Fusion program.

“The goal of Fusion is to turn Christian adolescents into biblical adults,” Reese said. “Christian adolescents are told what to do. They are told how to act and things like that. But biblical adults live according to the Word and abide deeply with Jesus. … It is out of the joy that we have in Jesus that we are able to do good things and to bear good fruit.”

She added that, because of Fusion’s training for emergency situations like the Nepal earthquake, the team was able to make wise decisions even amid the chaos of the situation.

“Others who have helped us the most was being able to think clearly and think well even though we were stressed out during this time,” she said. “The training that we did in Fusion during the (fall 2014 semester) prepared us a lot for that. It really helped.”

At the end of May, Reese, Collier and their teammates celebrated with other Fusion participants who traveled the globe with the Gospel. The ceremony was a secret.

“April 25th is a day that will be forever etched in our memories,” Reese said. “It was a reminder of how ministry can’t always be straightforward. It’s a reminder of how God can use the unexpected to bring about good.”
Rides for Romania:
Car Smash, Car Show, & Cookout

Gift bags for the first 20 to register!
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Contact Darlene
Phone: 785-969-6557
Facebook: Rides for Romania

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Cost: Free entry for the public!
Date: Saturday, July 25, 2015
Time: Registration starts at 9:00 AM | Awards at 3:00 PM
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Location: Topeka First Assembly | 500 SW 27th St Topeka, KS 66611

Food: Pulled Pork, Brats, Hot Dogs, Popcorn, Baked Goods
Games: Knife Throwing, Tomahawk Throwing, Tire Throwing, Car Trivia
For the Kids: Inflatables and face painting
            Live DJ!!